

Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Senior Leadership Team
Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg

OPAL Newsletter Autumn 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been great to see everyone settling back into our lunchtime routines this half term. We are now getting prepared for our winter playtimes and with the help of our fantastic Year 6 lunchtime leaders, have some exciting plans for the next term.

Sports

Through our pupil voice, we recognise that lots of children have various interests in different sports. With the help of the Y6 Leaders, there will be a different sport on offer each lunchtime. Children will need a pass for this and there will be a rotation of year groups and sports throughout half term.

Forest School Activities

There will be a range of activities for the children to enjoy on the field which will involve various Forest School activities, for example: bug hotels, digging, mud kitchen, shelters or making creations out of the natural environment.

Construction

Our much-loved construction area will be open to children to explore and build.

Painting and Creative Activities

Water painting and other creative activities will be available on the playground – including role play, music and small world.

Lunchtime Clubs

Our Y6 Leaders will be running some different lunchtime clubs which will have different focuses throughout the half term. Information will be shared with children each week.

Winter OPAL Kit

We have discussed with the children the importance of being sensible and safe in the areas and around the playground. This includes ensuring they have the correct kit in school. For children to access all of the activities discussed, they must have the following kit in school:

- Wellies/spare of change of shoes
- Spare change of clothes and socks (in case of any falls/slips where children need to get changed)
- Waterproof coat

Each child has their own bag with their name on for their kit. If your child still has things in school from last year and they are still suitable they can remain in school. **Children who do not have the above kit in school will not be able to play on the grass and will only be able to access the playground activities**.

Evesham Road, Alkrington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1PY.
Tel: 0161 643 7132, Email: Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk



Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Senior Leadership Team
Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg

How can you help?

We are always looking for donations of items which will enhance their experience of playtimes. If you are having a clear out or have access to things we could use, please think of us!

We are currently looking for donations of the following:

- Tarp sheets
- Aprons for painting
- Paint brushes
- Footballs/Basketballs/Tennis balls/soft balls for catch
- Mud kitchen accessories (old pans/spoons/kitchen utensils)
- Crates/Pallets
- Lego
- Small World
- Chalk

We know how much our children love their playtimes and we recognise it is such an important part of their school day. Our aim is that by responding where we can to our pupil voice and ensuring that all our children have the right kit in school, we can provide playtimes that all children can enjoy.

Thank you for continued support,

Mrs Bargh
OPAL Play Lead

Evesham Road, Alkrington, Middleton, Manchester, M24 1PY.
Tel: 0161 643 7132, Email: Office@stthomasmorerc.rochdale.sch.uk