

Meet the Teacher and Open Afternoon

Thank you so much to all who attended the Meet the Teacher open afternoon the children enjoyed the visits to school.

As always we appreciate your support.



Free School Meals

As I shared on the last Newsletter children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive universal free school meals (UFSM) this is separate to being eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) via a benefits check.

If you are eligible, school receives further funds to support your child. Unfortunately Rochdale no longer accept paper versions, please use the link to check if you are eligible is at the end of the newsletter.

We are happy to help anyone struggling to check eligibility.

Adult Behaviour and politeness

Sadly, I am repeating the message from earlier newsletters, unfortunately there continues to be a number of incidents whereby staff have not been treated with respect from some adults within our school community, however it helps our children if we model appropriate behaviour at all times.

Please be mindful when communicating with members of staff either in person, on the phone or by email as dis-respect will not be accepted.



At St Thomas More Primary School
we promote mutual respect.

Any confrontational or abusive
behaviour from adults will not be
tolerated on our premises – anybody
behaving in such a way will be asked
to leave.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sponsored Read & Competitions

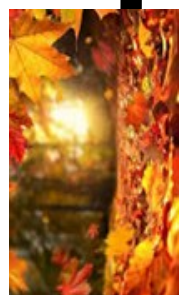
Hopefully the children have shared with you a few things that school are participating in:

- sponsored read
- Poetry competition
- BBC 500 Words

The children have been sharing their ideas in school, I hope they are sharing them with their family.

Thought for the term...

Love one another, as I have loved you.



Arbor APP

Earlier in the year we changed our register system to Arbor, this system has a number of additional functions including messaging, emails and payment which have started to utilise.

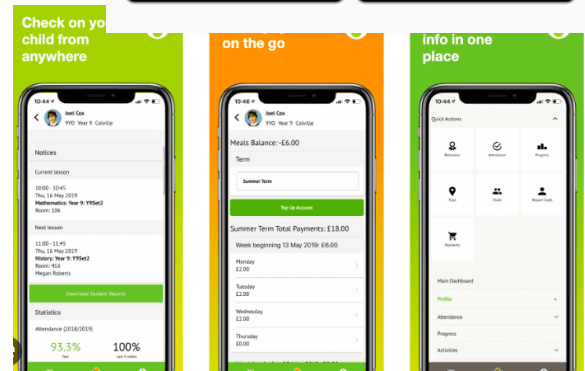
We have sent the link for the Arbor APP, it has been lovely to see your engagement. It gives you access to your child's information and the ability to update school of any changes GP information, phone numbers and addresses. These changes need to be verified in school, sometimes we will need to contact you to provide evidence, particularly change of addresses which will require evidence before verifying, if information does not change it may not have been verified.

Please download the app from Apple Pay or Google Play



This is an example what the APP looks like

Consent forms, payments and communications will be moving to Arbor.



Uniform reminders

It has been lovely to see the children so smart as we return to school this year. Just a few reminders from our Uniform Policy.

Jewellery is not permitted to be worn in school for health & safety reasons. We have had a number of instances when earrings have got caught on jumpers, other children and adults. It is possible to buy plastic spacers for earring holes which will ensure the spaces stay for earrings to wear.

Girls

- Navy pinafore dress or skirt or grey trousers or skorts
- Royal blue polo shirt
- Navy V-neck sweatshirt or cardigan
- Light blue gingham dresses, skirts or shorts for summer
Shorts worn under dresses and skirts are acceptable.
- White socks or navy tights
- Black shoes

Boys

- Grey trousers or grey smart shorts
- Royal blue polo shirt
- Navy V-neck sweatshirt
- Grey socks
- Black shoes





Thank you for your prayers for our community and continuous support.
 Mrs Butterworth
 Headteacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Information

Wednesday 8th Oct

9:00 – 11:30 EYFS parents meetings

Thursday 9th Oct

3:30 – 6:30 EYFS parents meetings

Friday 10th October

Hello Yellow Day

Monday 20th Oct

Individual photos

Friday 24th Oct

FINISH FOR HALF TERM BREAK

Monday 3rd November

SCHOOL REOPENS



MISSION STATEMENT

As servants of God, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. through his love, we guide each member of our family on their own spiritual journey to achieve and grow.

We love, we learn, we live with Christ.

Free school meals

Please use the link below to check eligibility

<https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/benefits-money/free-school-meals>

Eligibility for free school meals

The eligibility criteria for free school meals depends on which year group your child is in.

Nursery students

To be eligible for free school meals:

- Your child must attend a Rochdale Borough Council maintained nursery.
- Your child must receive education before and after lunch.

You must also receive one of the qualifying benefits listed below.

All children over the age of 3 receive 15 hours of nursery a week for free, starting from the term following their third birthday.

Reception, year 1 and year 2 students

You don't have to apply for free school meals for children in reception, year 1 and year 2.

All children in these year groups get a free meal at lunchtime, under the government's Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme. These are provided at all schools, academies, free schools and pupil referral units maintained by Rochdale Borough Council.

However, if your child is in a key stage 1 group and you get one of the qualifying benefits listed below, you can help your school get extra funding if you make a claim for free school meals.

Year 3-year 11 students

To be eligible for free school meals:

- You, as the parent or guardian, must receive Child Benefit for the child you are responsible for.
- You must also receive one of the qualifying benefits listed below.

Qualifying benefits for free school meals

These are the qualifying benefits for free school meals:

- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (IBJSA).
- An income-related employment and support allowance.
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit - provided you aren't entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an income that doesn't exceed the current year's level.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Working Tax Credit during the 4 weeks immediately after your employment finished.

Universal Credit: your child is only eligible for free school meals under Universal Credit if you and your partner have net earnings of less than £7,400 per year.

If your income changes

If you receive free school meals and start earning more than the allowed amount, your children can still get free meals until the end of the 2025-2026 school year. This is called Transitional Protection. Transitional Protection only applies to the children you applied for before you started earning more than the allowed amount. If you have younger children who started school after your income went up, they won't be entitled to free meals.

From the end of the 2025-2026 school year, the government will end this protection for means tested free school meals and you will only be entitled to free meals if you meet the eligibility criteria.

From the start of the 2026-2027 school year, the government will introduce new eligibility criteria, meaning that all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive a free meal. The government have told us they will issue further guidance before September 2026.

Free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

The Department for Education has permanently extended free school meal eligibility to children in all households with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

The eligible groups include, but may not be limited to children of:

- Zambrano carers
- Families who have no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- Families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- A subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Chen carers
- Families holding a British National (Overseas) passport
- Spousal visa holders
- Work visa holders
- Student visa holders
- Those with no immigration status

Income thresholds for families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

To be eligible for free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds, your annual household income must be under:

- £22,700 for families with 1 child
- £26,300 for families with 2 or more children
- You must also not have more than £16,000 in capital and savings.

You may need to provide full bank and building society statements, showing all transactions for the last 2 months for all accounts held, whether in the UK or your home country.