



Saint Thomas More R.C. Primary School

Headteacher, Joanne Butterworth, Deputy Headteacher: Anna Quigg
Assistant Headteacher: Sarah Cassidy

June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the week we celebrate our feast day, we are reminded that St Thomas More served Henry VIII as his high chancellor, but when the King wanted to break with the Catholic Church Thomas chose to be God's servant above the King.

His legacy serves as a road map for the whole community of St Thomas More school. We are custodians of his example.

Over the past few years school has been through challenges and changes, in particular the pandemic, these have tested us all in many ways.

Our children and families are still recovering from this difficult time. All covid restrictions for schools were only removed in March 2022...time seems to have played a great many tricks over the last few years.

There are going to be a number of changes in September, some due to staffing changes and some because, as a staff we are always reflecting and considering what works well, what needs to change and what needs to be stopped.

Since the pandemic we have noticed there is a reduction in resilience of our children, and recognised the difficulties they face with social interactions, particularly at break and lunchtimes. There have been a number of efforts made to improve their experience, with this in mind we have sourced Opal play to work with staff, parents, governors and children to establish play skills that will support them in life, the project builds on many of the skills developed in Forest Schools. Please look at their Twitter feed here https://twitter.com/OPAL_CIC.

Mrs Cassidy will be further supporting this project by updating our Behaviour Policy to encourage our children to make the appropriate choices that meet our Catholic ethos.

Attendance and Lateness

I am sure you are aware that the government are very keen to improve attendance Nationally, this work is being supported by Rochdale LA, consequently we have regular visits from the Education Welfare Officer (EWO). She is particularly looking at lateness and holidays during term time.

The gates are opened at 8:30am and the first bell goes at 8:40am, there are early morning activities to be completed up to the next bell at 8:50am. Once the gates are closed, children are to be signed in on the Inventory system at the Main Entrance. This information is fed into the registers and the LA pull this as data for the visits from the EWO.

I realise that some children struggle in a morning and we have systems and support for them in school, if your child is struggling please let us know so we can support you and them.

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 and learning journey to achieve and grow.

We love, we learn, we live with Christ.

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



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Our EWO is aware that one of the aspects that affect our attendance are families taking holidays during term time, as per our holiday form that **MUST** be signed for all holidays - all holidays during term time are **unauthorised** **and** that absences of 5 school days or more will result in a fine from the **Local Authority**.

Budget and Annex Club

As I have explained in the past Mellors, our lunch providers, invoice school weekly. Due to lunches debts not being cleared it is having a detrimental effect on our budget for school. PLEASE pay the £12:50 promptly each week.

Annex – from September we will have an online booking and payment system. Details to follow before the summer holiday.

Dates and Open Day

Thursday 22nd June – St Thomas More Feast Day

Monday 10th July – Open Day 9am-10am and 2pm-3pm This is an opportunity to visit your child's class and for them to share their learning for the year.

Teaching Staff for September 2023

Miss O'Donnell has been successful in a new role and is joining St Marys, Langley. After 15 years at our school we wish her well in her new role for September. Also, Miss Parkinson has also been successful in a new role for September in a school closer to home and nearer to Harry's nursery. We wish her luck in her new school. The recruitment process has begun but is not yet completed, however I wanted to share with you the details already determined for Autumn term.

Teaching staff September 2023	
<u>Early Years Lead – Miss Barran</u>	<u>Lower Key Stage 2 Lead – Miss Hughes</u>
<u>Nursery</u> Miss Byrne <u>Reception</u> Miss Barran Miss Saunders	Miss Hughes Miss Newton To be appointed
<u>Key Stage 1 Lead – Mrs Craven</u>	<u>Upper Key Stage 2 Lead - Mrs Cassidy</u>
Mrs Craven Miss Winnard Miss Harrison	Mrs Cassidy Mrs Hickman Miss McBride

As we move into September we are excited by the changes in school and hope to support our children to learn to build a community for the future.

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Butterworth

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