



MORE NEWS 5th September 2025



# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## Together We Begin a New Chapter

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*It has been so lovely welcoming back children and families and meeting our new families this week. All seem to be settling into their new classroom routine and the school has had a lovely calm and purposeful feel. Our assembly on Wednesday celebrated how we were one big family of Saint Thomas More school, **Learning and Growing as God's Holy People** trying to be the best version of ourselves every day. Each class, child, member of staff and parent/carer has an important part to play in this. We prayed that together with God's help we would have a successful year ahead.*

*A very warm welcome to all our new children in Nursery and Reception as they begin as this exciting journey with us.*

*We welcome all our new staff as they join us this academic year:*

*Miss Dixon - Y5,*

*Miss Groom - Y1 and Y2,*

*Miss Wilding Teaching assistant - Y1, and*

*Miss Miah our new Higher Level Teaching Assistant.*

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## Canonisation of Carlo Acutis - 7th September 2025

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*Today in our morning assembly we found about the inspirational young man Carlo Acutis who was born in 1991 and died in 2006 aged 15. On Sunday he will be canonised as the first Millennial Saint. At such a young age he is a total inspiration to all young people and how anything is possible no matter how short our life may be. We will be naming our computing room 'Saint Carlo Acutis room' this year as he used technology to evangelise and spread his 5 steps to becoming a saint:*

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- 1. Frequent receiving of the Eucharist at mass*
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2. Eucharistic Adoration- spending time before the blessed sacrament in Jesus' presence

3. Spiritual guidance and regular Confession

4. Devotion to Our Blessed Mother and the Saints

5. Charity- giving to others in time and resources.

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It is worth looking up his short life. Here is a [link](#) to a documentary released by EWTN.

"If we go out in the sun, we get a suntan...but when we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints."

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## Meet the teacher meetings

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*These will be held on:*

***Tuesday 16th September***

*Year 1,3 and 5 at 5pm and*

*Year 2 and 4 at 5:30pm*

***Thursday 18th September***

Year 6 at 5:30pm.

*This gives you a chance to experience your child's classroom and meet their teacher and hear about the year ahead. It is a valuable opportunity for us all to share vital information.*

*We apologise as we have had to change the date shared in the last newsletter due to a Chrome Book training for staff by the MAC on 17th September. Sorry for any inconvenience.*

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## **Animaphonics / Reading Books Reception, Year 1 and 2**

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*We are very excited to begin our new Phonics Scheme and it won't be long until we do so. Over the next two weeks children will be taking part in baseline assessment so we can ensure full coverage of the Phonics phases. During this time, the children will not be bring home a phonics reading book. Don't forget the local library is open should you wish to choose a book with your child.*

*Please keep an eye out for an email with further information on our new scheme and a parent/carer workshop.*

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## OPAL- Outdoor Play And Learning



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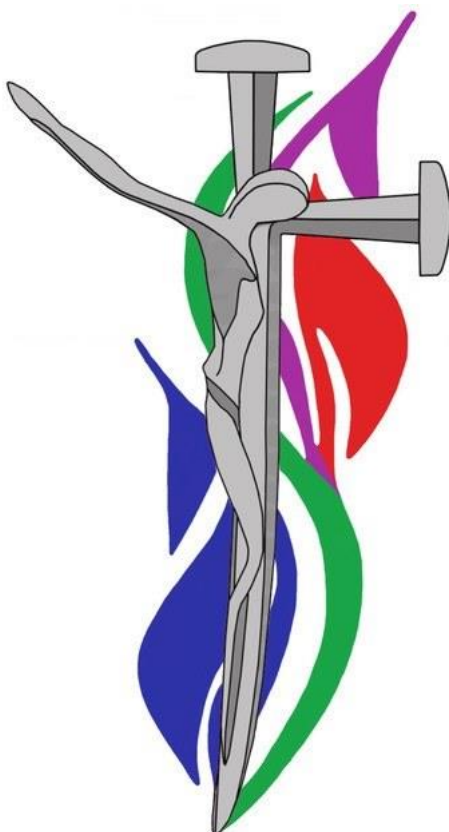
*Children will be going out in all weathers, including rain. As the saying goes "there is no such thing as bad weather- just bad clothing!". Can children please come to school with a suitable labelled coat for rain. If you are clearing out coats that no longer fit and would like to donate them to school we would be grateful to receive them as spare for each class in case anyone forgets to bring a coat. You could handover them over to the school office.*

*Please can you be sending labelled wellies in with your child as they will be accessing all parts of the grounds in all weathers.*

### ***Dates for your diary:***

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- Friday 3rd October 1:30pm-4:30pm Parent/Carer Big Build*
  - Sunday 12th October 10am - 4pm Community Big Build - all family members, Parishioners, members of the public and volunteers.*
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## School Mass times



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*On **Thursday 11th September 10am**, there will be the whole school mass (year 1 to 6) to mark the start of the new academic year that will be led by Year 4. During this mass, all staff will make promises for the year ahead. You all are welcome to join us.*

### ***Sunday 14th September 9am Parish Mass - Exaltation of the Holy Cross***

*All schools in our Holy Cross MAC are being asked to attend their school's parish mass to celebrate this wonderful feast. Pupils from Saint Thomas More and Bishop Ullathorne are expected to attend the 9am Mass to acknowledge the wider Holy Cross Catholic MAC that we belong to. It would be lovely to see as many families as possible there especially those new to our school. There will be the usual 'Little Church' provided for children of primary school age to attend during the mass in the Margaret Rope Room (MRR). Children are invited at the beginning of mass to gather around the altar to leave and then re-join the congregation at the offertory. This way they experience a liturgy more appropriate for their age.*

*A reminder weekend Mass times are:*

## **Saturday**

*5:00pm - Vigil Saint Thomas More*

## **Sunday**

*9:00am - Saint Thomas More (includes Little Church)*

*11:00am - Saint Joseph the Worker*

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## **New Catering Company**

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*We are pleased to welcome ABM Catering Ltd as our new school meal provider for the 2025–2026 academic year. The new Autumn weekly menu has been sent to all via email and is also available on our website. Including in that email was a letter from the company and a link to the Special Diet Request Form. Please submit any special diet requests directly to the company as mentioned in the letter, as soon as possible so that all children can be catered for appropriately.*

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## **Writing Competition**

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*In the summer term, writers from Year 4 entered a Young Writers competition: Monster Mini Tales - Fabulous Stories. Children were invited to write a mini story about a monster in only*

*100 words - quite a challenge!! The prize was some goodies and to be a published author in a collection of stories from the winners. We are delighted that Isabella and Nevaeh's entries were chosen as winners and that we now have two published authors in year 5!*

*A copy of the book will be proudly displayed in our library.*

*Well done girls!*

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## **School Car Park Incident**

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*During our first week back, there was an incident in the school car park where one vehicle came into contact with another. If this involved your car, we kindly ask that you contact the school office at your earliest convenience.*

*If any parents or carers witnessed the incident, we would also be grateful if you could share any details with the office to help us resolve the matter.*

*We kindly request all using the school car park to be careful and considerate towards other people and vehicles.*

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

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## **UPCOMING PARENT SCHOOL TOUR**

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*We warmly invite prospective parents to join our next Parent Tour scheduled on **Tuesday, 23 September at 9am**. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore our school, meet our dedicated staff, and see our learning environment in action. The tour will provide insight into our values, curriculum, and the supportive community we offer. To book your place, please contact the school office on 0247 684 9910 or email [stm-admin@hccmac.co.uk](mailto:stm-admin@hccmac.co.uk).*

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## **School Uniform**

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**UNIFORM - SEPTEMBER 2025**

We thank you for sending your children back to school in correct uniform- they are looking so smart. Saint Thomas More has always had high standards of uniform which we expect to maintain. Not only do we look great and make a positive impression with visitors or when out of school- if we look smart, we think smart and allows all to be treated equally. Please adhere to our uniform policy going forward. Children should not be wearing jewellery except discreet religious jewellery and simple earrings. Nail varnish is also not allowed. If children come to school with nail varnish they will be asked to remove it ready for the next day otherwise we will provide nail varnish remover in school. Again, thank you for your support.

Please note PE uniform is plain hoodies and bottoms- a small logo is permitted.

The uniform supplier for jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts and red ties is 'Andy Blair Uniform Supplies', Coundon or Cat Balou in The Burgess, Coventry City Centre. Uniform can also be purchased from the school using the electronic ordering and payment system.

<b>Girls</b>		<b>Boys</b>	
<b>Summer to October half-term</b>	<b>Easter to Oct. half-term to Easter</b>	<b>Summer to Easter to October half-term</b>	<b>Winter to October half-term to Easter</b>
Blue/white-check gingham dress or playsuit	White shirt with suitable collar to take a tie.	Pale blue school polo shirt with crest or generic pale blue polo shirt	White shirt and red tie
Pale blue school polo shirt with crest or generic pale blue polo shirt and grey skirt/pinafore/shorts/trousers.	Red tie	Grey shorts or trousers	Royal blue V neck jumper with school logo
Royal blue cardigan or royal blue V neck jumper with school crest.	Royal blue cardigan or royal blue V neck jumper with school crest	Black shoes/ (blue/brown/black) closed-toe sandals (not trainers or shoes with a sports logo)	Grey socks, grey school trousers (long or short)
Black flat shoes/ dark (blue/brown/black) closed-toe sandals	Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers	Grey socks	Black shoes (not trainers)
White/grey socks	Grey or White socks, grey tights; black, flat shoes	<b>All children may wear their white shirt and red tie all year round if parents so choose.</b>	

**All items of clothing must be clearly named to enable lost items to be returned to the correct owner.**

**The PE uniform consists of:**

- Blue T shirt with school logo or pale blue plain t-shirt and black shorts
- Appropriate trainers. At times children will use bare feet to perform.

During the winter months, children from Year 1 upwards are encouraged to wear the following for outdoor PE lessons:

- A plain black or navy tracksuit consisting of joggers/ sweatshirt/hoodie
- Sports appropriate trainers. If laced please encourage your child to fasten these independently.

Children wear their PE uniform to school and throughout the day on the days their class has PE.

### **Hair and make-up**

Long hair should be tied back. No fashion colours for hair (unless agreed for fun or charity events). Hair should be kept in place with small hairbands and accessories in school colours. Nail varnish and acrylic/gel nails are not permitted. Nail varnish will be removed if children come to school wearing it. If a child comes to school with acrylic nails they may be unable to take part in a range of social and academic activities for the safety of themselves and their peers and parents will be telephoned and asked to have the acrylics removed without delay. No make-up should be worn.

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### ***PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS***

*To help track personal items and reduce lost property, we kindly ask all parents to clearly label **ALL** of their child's belongings - all uniform items, cardigans, jumpers, PE kits, shoes, lunch boxes, water bottles and everything else!*

*Named items are much easier to return to their rightful owner. Two jumpers were left on the playground on Thurs-one named and one not. The named one was returned to the owner. Uniform is too expensive to lose.*

*Thank you for your support!*

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### **Parent Teacher Family Association (PTFA)**

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*All parents are invited to join the friendly PTFA by scanning the QR code attached. Parents meet half termly to talk about ideas and events to raise money for the school. Our meetings are very informal and last for about an hour. We are always looking for new members to join us to help out with fundraising ideas. So if you have any ideas and would like to be part of the PTFA please come along to our next meeting.*

*We raise money for regular projects and events with the support of school staff, parents and children; all have been great successes.*

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## STM PTFA PRESENTS



**FOR FULL DETAILS & TO SIGN UP  
SCAN / PRESS THE QR CODE**

**£1 month  
11 draws a year  
Sept-July  
Allocated number  
No number limit  
Must be aged 16+**



**WINNER**  
**1st prize £50  
2nd prize £10  
3rd prize £5  
Amazon e-Gift  
Voucher**

**ANY QUERIES EMAIL  
[stm-ptfa@hccmac.co.uk](mailto:stm-ptfa@hccmac.co.uk)**

## ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT!

*As you are aware attendance is crucial. This year we are wanting to improve every child's attendance by at least 1% if their attendance last year was lower than 95%. This will be monitored closely. We aim to achieve 95% or more each year. We monitor all pupils' attendance and will contact you (often by letter and text message) if their attendance is getting lower than we'd expect or your child has had low attendance in the past. Please don't be offended - we have a duty to keep you informed of things that can affect your child's progress and/or wellbeing.*

*Lastly, please remember that term-time holidays **will not be authorised** and, in many cases, will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) being issued.*

**Whole school attendance so far this year is 89.66%**

*Attendance this week is as follows:*

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- Year 1 - 96.55
  - Year 2 - 100%
  - Year 3 - 95.7%
  - Year 4 - 96.88%
  - Year 5 - 91.67%
  - Year 6 - 93.33%
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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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### **SEPTEMBER**

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- *Thurs 11 Sept - Whole School Mass at 10am*
  - *Sun 14 Sept - Holy Cross Feast Day- Whole School Mass at 9am*
  - *Tue 16 Sept (Revised dated) - Meet the Teacher at 5pm for Y1, Y3 and Y5; and 5:30pm for Y2 and Y4*
  - *Thurs 18 Sept - Meet the Teacher at 5:30pm for Y6*
  - *Tues 23 Sept - Prospective Parent Tour of School from 9 to 9:30 am*
  - *Thurs 25 Sept - Bishop Ullathorne Open Evening- a must for Y6 parents and pupils*
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### **OCTOBER**

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- *Thurs 2 Oct - Stories of Hope and Home coming to school to speak to all year groups*
    - *Thurs 2 Oct - Year 5 visit to Holy Family Church 'Fan the Flame' gathering*
  - *Fri 3 Oct - Big Build Afternoon from 1:30pm-4:30pm. Parents/ Carers invited into school to help prepare for OPAL*
    - *Sun 12 Oct - Community OPAL Building Day 10am - 4pm*
      - ***Half Term Break (27 to 31 Oct)***
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### **NOVEMBER**

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- *Fri 14 Nov - INSET DAY (School closed for students)*
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### **DECEMBER**

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- *TERM BREAK (22 Dec to 2 Jan)*
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### **FEBRUARY 2026**

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- *Half Term Break (16 to 20 Feb)*
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### **MARCH**

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- *TERM BREAK (30 Mar to 10 Apr)*
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### **JULY**

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- *Fri 03 July- INSET DAY (School closed for students)*
  - *Mon 20 Jul - INSET DAY (School closed for students)*
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