



ST THOMAS MORE  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

## **St. Thomas More Primary School Newsletter**

### **Welcome back**

Welcome back to school after our half term break. We have an exciting half term planned in the busy lead up to Christmas and are looking forward to sharing this special time with the children.

### **Pupil representatives**

Before half term, each class voted for representatives to form our 'Pupil Task Force'. This team of children will be listening to the ideas of their fellow classmates and putting them forward in our meetings so that we can continue to develop our school. Not only this, but they will have special responsibilities around developing key aspects of social, emotional and mental wellbeing across school working alongside the Head Start team.

In Y6, we now have a head boy and girl, along with their deputies, a chaplain and a number of prefects who have been amazing so far in their new roles. They really are leading by example!

We are also proud to have our fantastic 'Sports Crew' who are eager to support and lead in PE across school, as well as our amazing librarians who are working hard to maintain our lovely reading space.

### **School Start to the Day**

'Schools in' started today to provide support with childcare for our families from 8am. If you are interested in a place, please contact the school office for registration forms. We have a limited number of spaces for this service and currently have a waiting list. Parents/carers will then be notified when a space is available.

8:30am Breakfast club – any children coming to school for 8:30am breakfast club must come in via the main entrance and should be accompanied by an adult until the door opens. Children will put their coats away and be asked to go to the dining hall.

*Live as God calls you*

Executive Headteacher: Mrs E King

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Erith Grove, Easterside, Middlesbrough, TS4 3QH

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Any children arriving at school after 8:40am should be accompanied by an adult to the classroom doors which will be opened at this time. Please remember that the school bell goes at 8:55am and your child will be marked late if they arrive after this time.

## **Attendance Week**

### **Every school day counts at St. Thomas More's**

- Pupils with good attendance records generally achieve higher academic success and enjoy school more.
- Having a good education will help to give your child the best possible start in life.
- Regular school attendance patterns encourage the development of other responsible patterns of behaviour.

At Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust schools, the target for attendance is 97%. Every week in assembly, we look at our attendance for each class and as a whole school. Our current whole school attendance is **93.5%** which needs to improve in order to meet our target.

During the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> November, we will hold a special attendance week. The children are challenged to be in school every day and on time. The winning class will win a fantastic prize and there may be some spot prizes available on mystery days but you must be in school to be in with a chance of winning!

Please continue to support us with getting the most out of your child's education by making sure they are in school every day. If your child is ill, or cannot attend for whatever reason, please ring the school office first thing on a morning to let us know.

## **Parents Evening**

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported us with parents evening in October. We had 80% of parents attending which was fantastic with alternative arrangements being made for those parents who could not attend on those dates.

We appreciate your feedback from the evening and have listened to your suggestions for improvement. Feedback overall was very positive with many comments on the good organisation, high quality teacher feedback and pupil satisfaction. Our fantastic Y6 prefects who led the evening were especially celebrated in parents' comments and did a great job, well done!

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One suggestion for development was to allow parents to see their child's books during the evening. We will arrange to share books during our Spring parents evening when more work will be available, however in the meantime if you would like to see your child's work at any point then please speak to your child's class teacher who can arrange this for you.

If you were not able to attend parents' evening and would like to make an appointment to discuss their progress, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a convenient time.

### **Calendar Dates**

Please find attached an updated calendar for important events this half term which will also be available on our website.

### **Netflix**

As shared on our Facebook page before half term, there have been reports of children watching age inappropriate series / films recently (namely 'Squid Games- which is rated 15).

Please find below the Netflix NOS parental guide for parental settings on children's Netflix devices.

Top tips for parents;

- Control what content your children can watch. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means that children only have access to TV shows and movies which have been carefully selected for kids. The look and feel of the app is simpler and children can't access any account settings
- If your child is a little older, parents can create a separate profile to their own and set a maturity rating that means children will see only TV shows and movies that is that rating. The three categories of rating for the UK are kids (all, U, PG), teens (12, Guidance, Teen) and adult (15, 18, mature, adult). You can also block specific TV shows and movies from individual profiles which means they don't show up in the browse or search results.
- Parents can review the TV shows and films that have been watched on each profile under their account. If your child seems upset or shocked by something (like squid games) they have seen or if you are concerned about anything they've viewed, try to

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talk to them about it and have an open and honest conversation to help understand any concerns.

- It's important to keep your own account secure so that children can't freely switch between profiles and potentially access more adult-themed content or change access levels. Parents can set-up a Profile Lock PIN which means only they can access their own and everyone else's Netflix account.
- Given that Netflix doesn't use 2-factor authentication, the need for a unique username and strong password is even more important. Try to use a different password to ones you've used before and use a mixture of numbers, letters (uppercase and lowercase) and symbols, with a minimum of 8 characters.
- Always log out when not using your account so that if your device is lost or stolen, your account remains inaccessible

For more information on our activities and learning in school, please visit our school website at [www.stm.npcat.org.uk](http://www.stm.npcat.org.uk) or visit our Facebook page - St Thomas More Middlesbrough

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Grainger and Mrs King

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