



# NEWSLETTER

## AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 No. 7

[www.stthomasmorefir.com](http://www.stthomasmorefir.com)



*Our Virtues and Values for this term are  
"Attentive & Discerning"*

### CATHOLIC LIFE:



Advent is a time of preparation. We prepare our hearts, minds, and homes to celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation when Christ came to us as a baby and to be ready to greet Christ when He comes again in glory.

Our school mission of 'learning, loving and living together with Christ' teaches and challenges our children to listen to the Word, reflect on its meaning and use it to guide our actions to be disciples of Christ; willing and ready to be His hands and feet on earth and to bring His message to all.

The Bible readings, on the first Sunday of Advent, pointed us towards a vision of eternal peace in God's kingdom and a reminder that we do not know the day or the hour of the Lord's return. Jesus urges us to "stay awake" and "stand ready" to expect the coming of the Son of Man.

During Advent we will be encouraging them to spend extra time in prayer, to think of those less fortunate, to reflect on how they may become closer to Christ, to give thanks for the gift of God made man and for all those who are less fortunate than them.

We encourage you to light a candle, stay up late or rise early to pray together as a family this Advent. There are many reflections, prayers and activities online to inspire you. We would love to hear how the children are preparing themselves this Advent.

*Learning, loving and living together with Christ*

### CHANGE TO SICKNESS ABSENCE

We have been advised from Public Health England that there has been an increase in sickness and diarrhoea in the general community. Therefore, until we advise otherwise if your child is suffering with these symptoms they need to be kept off school for a clear 48 hours. Our usual policy is a clear 24 hours.

### FACEBOOK

Please visit our new Facebook page   
<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreCatholicFirstSchool/>

### CHRISTMAS SHOP

Our Christmas Surprise shop is opening its doors. Children will be able to choose a special present for an adult in their life - have it wrapped, labelled and ready to place under your Christmas tree. Gifts are priced at £3, £4 or £5 and the reply slip and money can be bought into school in a named envelope. The gifts are suitable for parents, carers and grandparents. 

### 'A MIDWIFE CRISIS'

Please remember to complete your request for tickets for the Reception and Key Stage 1 production. 3 tickets per family. **The performances are for adults only.** If you require another letter please contact the school office. Tickets for the Tuesday performance are nearly sold out. 

### KEY STAGE 1 – SNOWDOME TRIP

Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) Winter Wonderland trip to the Snowdome Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December. Please ensure you have returned your child's permission slip and £4.00 contribution. A final arrangements letter will be sent out beforehand.

### WOODROW COMMUNITY CAROLS

The Community Carols is being held this year on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 3.45pm in Woodrow Library. Families are invited to come along to sing carols and Christmas songs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 

### CHRISTMAS MASS LED BY KEY STAGE 2

Key Stage 2 will lead Mass with Fr Tony on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 9.10 am, all are very welcome to join us to reflect on the Christmas message.

### CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

We will hold Carols Around the Christmas Tree on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at pm. All are very welcome to join us.

### READING CHALLENGE

Please remember to keep reading and return your Reading Challenge leaflet to school by **11<sup>th</sup> December**. For younger children it is about sharing books and reading to the children.



### ADMISSIONS FOR 2020

Please pass onto anyone you know who has a child due to start school next September.

**First School (Reception)** - If you have a child born between **1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016** you need to apply for a place at a first school.

Applications for both first and middle schools have to be made on-line. **Closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

**Middle School** – Year 4 children have been given a pack with information about applying for their middle school place. Closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

If you are applying for a Catholic First or Middle school, proof of baptism needs to be handed in to the school as soon as possible.

### TOUCHSTONES LANTERN WALK

Touchstones Bereavement Support have organised a lantern walk on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at Morton Stanley Park, Redditch. Walking starts at 5.45pm – with lantern collection from 5.20pm. Lanterns are £5.00 each or you can bring your own. A lovely family occasion open to everyone, to remember loved ones who have died. Father Christmas will be arriving at 6.30pm. You can turn up on the night or they would prefer to know if you plan to come along.

Please contact Rob 07491 968 695 or email [rob@touchstones-support.org.uk](mailto:rob@touchstones-support.org.uk)

### ST AUGUSTINES PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts Department at St Augustine's are performing 'Grease' the musical on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the Artrix Theatre. If you would like to book tickets please go to:

<https://www.artrix.co.uk/whats-on/all-shows/grease-sapa-youth-theatre>

### ATTENDANCE Our target is 96%

Percentage attendance in classes  
25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November:

St Francis	96.1%
St Lucy	95.5%
St Faustina	98.0%
St Thomas	96.4%
St Bernadette	95.3%
St Martin	94.3%
St Teresa	98.6%
St John Bosco	97.9%

**STAR CLASS: St Faustina 99.3%** 

**Whole school attendance for the week: 96.5% - well done.**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

[www.stthomasmorefirst.com](http://www.stthomasmorefirst.com)



Monday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	9.10am	School Mass led by St Faustina
Tuesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	1.45pm	'A Midwife Crisis' – Rec & KS1 production
Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	9.30am	'A Midwife Crisis' – Rec & KS1 production
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	9.30am	'A Midwife Crisis' – Rec & KS1 production
Friday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	All day	Key Stage 1 – Visit to SnowDome Winter Wonderland
Monday	16 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	9.10am	School Christmas Mass – KS2, All welcome
Monday	16 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	3.45pm	Christmas Community Carols – Woodrow Library
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	12.00pm	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	1.45pm	Carols Around the Christmas Tree
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	3.00pm	School Closes – Christmas Holiday
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	8.40am	School Opens to Pupils – Spring Term

A printed list of the term dates for 2019/20 is available from the school office