



# NEWSLETTER

## AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

No 5 - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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



*Our Virtues and Values for this term are  
"Curious & Active"*

### Catholic Life



On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October the children from St Martin de Porres went to Mass with Fr Tony, which was streamed live into all the classrooms. After Mass the Year 4 children who have been preparing for their First Holy Communion were able to take the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. A big thank you to Fr Tony and Fr Jason who came into school to enable the children to do this. Please keep them and their families in your prayers as they continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion on 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November at Mount Carmel Parish Church.



Over the last two weeks our Gospel assemblies have helped us focus on how we can be active in carrying out the Gospel values in line with this half term's Virtues and Values. The children are presented with awards and flowers to go onto our Values Tree in the hall in their weekly Virtues and Values assemblies.

### NEW INTAKE 2021

If you or anyone you know has a child due to start school in September 2021, please take a look at our brilliant induction video on the school website. <https://www.stthomasmorefirst.com/reception-2021-intake/>

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME TO SELF ISOLATE IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD NEEDS TO GET A COVID TEST. ONCE YOU HAVE THE RESULTS AND IF THEY ARE NEGATIVE YOUR CHILD CAN RETURN TO SCHOOL.**

**PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL TO INFORM US OF TEST RESULTS.**

**Please note: The law has changed and anyone testing positive MUST isolate for 14 days.**

### PARENT/CARER ESAFETY SESSION

Lourdes IT are running an online E-safety session for parents and carers next **Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at 6.30pm**. A link to the session can be found by visiting [www.lourdesit.org.uk/esafety](http://www.lourdesit.org.uk/esafety) or via our school website [www.stthomasmorefirst.com](http://www.stthomasmorefirst.com). This is a free live event that you do not need to sign up for. No software is required and can be viewed on any internet enabled device.

As it is likely that bubbles or schools may have to close due to the pandemic, it is more important than ever that families have practical advice on how to keep their child safe online.



### PARENTS' EVENING – AUTUMN TERM 2020

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to invite you into school to meet your child's class teacher. We are also aware that our current 'collect and go' arrangements mean you have had little opportunity to hold informal discussions with your child's teacher. With this in mind, Governors have agreed to the following arrangements: We will be holding two evenings of meetings using Microsoft "Teams" to allow you to have a ten minute talk with your child's teacher about how they have settled in, their work and to answer any questions you may have. You do not need to have "Teams" we will send you a link which you click on and the teacher will admit you to the meeting at your appointed time. Appointment slots will be done through a booking system at the school office via email or telephone. Please be aware the two dates are:

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Both evenings will run from 3.30 to 6.30 pm.**

A separate letter will be sent out to you.



### CAFOD & TRUSSELL TRUST

Thank you very much for the kind donations of non-perishable items for the Trussell Trust Redditch Food Bank. Our items will go to families within our community who are vulnerable and in need of help at the present time.

Fantastic effort from all at St Thomas More, taking part in the sponsored walk for CAFOD. So far, we have raised an amazing **£738.63**. Please ensure all sponsor money is in school by **21<sup>st</sup> October**. Thank you.



## **DRINKS BOTTLES**

Please be reminded that our water fountains are out of use at the present time. Please send your child into school with an extra drink if you feel they need it, especially on PE days.



## **WOODROW LIBRARY**

Woodrow Library is open for all to use. Their opening times are:  
Monday 9.00am – 1.00pm.  
Thursday & Friday 1.00pm – 5.00pm.

## **SAINT AUGUSTINE'S OPEN EVENING VIDEO**

Please find links below to the St Augustine's video for new intake 2021 and their virtual open day on the school website.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7ThrRf8FA&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.st-augustines.worcs.sch.uk/page/?title=Y9+Open+Evening+%28virtual%29+01%2E10%2E20&pid=106>

## **ESCOOTER – REDDITCH**

As you may be aware a trial of Bird E scooters has been launched in Redditch. Information about the scheme can be found on our website [www.stthomasmorefirst.com](http://www.stthomasmorefirst.com) under "Communication" then "Letters".



## **CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER**

The children's designs have been sent home today. By placing an order, you will be supporting our school. The deadline for orders is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Payment is by cash or cheque payable to "Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Mac".



## **COLOURING COMPETITION**

The PCSO Policing team are running a competition to design a face mask. The competition is open to children aged 5+ and the winning design will be made up into a mask, for you, the Policing team and Head Teacher. Please include your child's name, age and school on the entry. Closing date has been extended to **6<sup>th</sup> November 2020**. If you require a mask template please contact the school office.



## **PARENTPAY**

Thank you to everyone who completed the online form to update their email address for the main parent/carer contact. ParentPay will be our new way of communicating to parents, ordering and paying for school meals, trips and visits. Many of you will be familiar with the system if you have older siblings at other schools within the Multi-Academy. This will mean you do not need to create a new account just simply add a new child. Please look out for your activation letter. We plan to go 'live' on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

## **Admissions**

Middle School – Year 4 children have been given a pack with information about applying for their middle school place.

First School (Reception) - If you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 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 '21. Parents & Carers will be advised of the outcome on the National Offer Day on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

If you wish to apply for a school place mid-year, please follow the link below for the latest guidance.

[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20099/school\\_admissions/706/in-year\\_applications;](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20099/school_admissions/706/in-year_applications;)

## **PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY**

We have a vacancy at our school for a Parent Governor. A further letter will be sent out to parents and carers.

## **WEDNESDAY WORD**

Please see the link below to the Wednesday Word for this week, next and over half term. You can also view this resource on our school website [www.stthomasmorefirst.com](http://www.stthomasmorefirst.com)

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/holiday-special?pid=MTA101634&v=7.7>

*Learning, loving and living together with Christ*



**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Catholic Multi-Academy

