Thank you to all of the family members who attended last week's Christmas performances from Y1 & Y2 “Whoops a Daisy Angel” and Reception's First Nativity. The children were wonderful. Thank you also to the staff who worked tirelessly with the children to practise and hone the final effort.

I am sure that everyone is looking forward to a restful Christmas. On behalf of all of the staff at St Thomas More Primary, I should like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May Jesus' peace and hope be with you and your families now and in the days ahead. May his love warm your heart and bring you safely back to school in January.

St Thomas More Comprehensive placed the following note in their newsletter at the weekend: "The autumn term Governing Body meeting was held on 4 December 2019. An officer from the Diocese attended the meeting and informed Governors that the partnership between St Thomas More Secondary, St Thomas More Primary and Holy Family Primary will be ending.”

Further updates to follow when details have been finalised by the Diocese.

Please see attached letter from Craig Cabell, Chair of Governors.

Our school raised £329.27 for the Royal British legion poppy appeal. Thank you to all of you for supporting such an important charity. A big thank you to the Y6 students who were so helpful selling poppies and snap bands during November.

**Christmas Fayre**

Thank you for all those who ran stalls or visited our fayre. Thank you especially to the PTA for organising. I know that there were some challenges on the evening and that the PTA appreciate support and feedback to further improve their events.
Sports day 2020
I would like to provide early notification that our sports day will be held at Sutcliffe Park Sports Centre on **Wednesday 17th June 2020**. More details will be released nearer the time, but we hope that families will be able join their children in a picnic in the park after the event. There will be no clubs or extended school that afternoon so please make a note in your calendar. The parents’ race will still be on but this time on a real track.

Reception Class
After Christmas, Miss Bone will be on a six week secondment to Holy Family Primary. We will introduce Miss Pacek on the first day back as she will be covering Miss Bone during this period.

**YEAR 1 – “HANDA’S SURPRISE”**

We have been reading ‘Handa’s Surprise’. It is a book set in a village in Kenya. As a result, we looked at fruit grown in Kenya and tasted them. In groups, we then chose our favourite fruits and made smoothies. Mr Jamieson tried them and enjoyed them very much. More photographs can be found on our website.

**FOODBANK MISSION 3**

The School Council would like to say a big thank you for all your kind donations to help the Greenwich Foodbank Charity. Our food donations were collected by some volunteers from The Greenwich Foodbank and will now go on to help others in need during this Christmas period.

Share the light of Jesus, by learning together and loving others
CYCLE/SCOOTER HELMET COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners of the cycle/scooter helmet competition. I think you would agree, their designs are incredible. Well done to everyone else who took in the competition.

Daniel, Reception
Alexander, Year 3
Goda, Year 4

POPPY APPEAL 2019

The Royal British Legion have advised that St Thomas More Catholic Primary school raised £329.27 for this year’s Poppy Appeal!

Please see below a photo from our Remembrance Day Assembly.

Thank you to all our families for your generosity

Share the light of Jesus, by learning together and loving others
GARDENING CLUB

Well done to our Gardening Club, who have been extremely busy planting lots of bulbs during the months of October and November, and keeping the school garden weed free. We'd like to say a big thank you to Mr Laufs (father of Ben in Reception Class), who works at Millbrook Garden Centre and donated a huge bag of bulbs. We are all looking forward to seeing the lovely flowers they will produce during the spring. During September, we had a really successful harvest where the team picked potatoes, onions, tomatoes and runner beans and these were then cooked by Chief Giuseppe for all to enjoy! Mr Laufs also very kindly donated the beautiful Christmas tree that is in our School Hall.

MEET THE JTA’s

Meet our new Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTAs) Sophie, Oscar and Assunta. They started their role this term and we wish them all the best in their duties.
YEAR 2 TRIP TO THE LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Year 2 had a great trip to the London Transport Museum on 3rd December. The children, staff and parent/carers that helped on the day, said what a great time they all had!!

YEAR 6 KEY STAGE 2 SATS WILL COMMENCE ON MONDAY 11TH MAY 2020

We would like to remind you to avoid booking appointments or taking your child out of school during school time throughout the lead up to SATS and during SATS week.

WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND CELEBRATIONS WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER

Wednesday 18th will be a non-uniform day and our Christmas Jumper Day. We ask for a donation of £1 per child in aid of “Save the Children” charity.

If your child is in Years 3 – 6 and would normally have packed lunch, please see the slip below ONLY if you would like them to have the Christmas lunch.

Children in Reception to Year 2 do not pay for school meals, but please kindly complete the slip below if they would normally have packed lunch and you would like them to have the Christmas lunch.

**PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO NORMALLY HAVE SCHOOL MEALS DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE A SLIP**
**HOPSCOTCH BREAKFAST & AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS**

Payment for Hopscotch Club sessions should be made in **advance** for the week ahead via your child's School Money online account. Breakfast Club is £5 per session and Afterschool Club is £10 per session.

The Hopscotch Clubs are very popular and are full on a number of days. To avoid disappointment, please be aware that unless you have accessed your children's online account to book sessions in **advance**, a place cannot be automatically guaranteed.

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**LATE PROCEDURE**

If your child is late getting to school in the morning for any reason, Parents/Carers are required to bring the children in via the School Office and ensure that the Late Arrival Register is signed.

At the end of the school day, if children are collected late they may automatically be put into our Hopscotch Afterschool Club. This will then incur a charge of £10 per child.

Please try to avoid being late as it is embarrassing for the children.

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**SAFEGUARDING NOTICE**

Child Protection at St Thomas More Primary School

Please note, if you have any safeguarding concerns regarding any child at St Thomas More Primary School please report your concern immediately to one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) at the school.

**The Designated Safeguarding Leads are:**
- Mr G Jamieson, Head of School
- Mrs L Collins, Deputy Head Teacher
- Mrs S Barnes, Assistant Head Teacher

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**PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION**

We often have prescription medicines brought into school that need to be administered during school hours. Please be aware that the medicine must be dropped off to The School Office and a form then needs to be completed advising of dosage and permission to administer the medicine etc. Medicine can only be collected from The School Office by an adult, for safeguarding, medicines cannot be return via children's book bags.

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**HOPSCOTCH AFTER SCHOOL CLUB FINISH TIME**

**REMINDER**: Children should be collected from Hopscotch After School Club by 5.50 pm which is when the club finishes. There have been several occasions recently when parents/carers have collected children late. If you are delayed for any reason please telephone the Club mobile to let us know. A late payment fee of £10.00 per child for every 15 minutes will be charged if you collect your child after the Club has finished. You may also be asked to make a contribution towards any extra staff salary costs incurred.

The last Hopscotch Breakfast Club before the Christmas break will be on Thursday 19th December with the final Hopscotch Afternoon Club being Wednesday 18th December due to school finishing at 1 pm on Thursday 19th December.
SCHOOL MEALS

School meals should be paid for in advance for the week ahead. The charge is £2.30 per day (£11.50 per week). Please access your child’s online cashless account to make payments.

If you would prefer your child to have a packed lunch, you must notify the office in advance and children can only change at the end of a half term. If notification is not received you will incur charges of £2.30 per day.

MOBILE PHONES

Students are not allowed mobile phones in school under any circumstances. By carrying a phone to and from school they present themselves as a target.

AFTER SCHOOL EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Parents/Carers are reminded that these clubs all finish at 4.30 pm. Please ensure that children are collected promptly at that time. Children not collected, will automatically go into the schools Hopscotch Afterschool Club and a charge of £10 will be incurred.

***REMINDER***

Following serious concerns from parents, please can we remind Parents / Carers that all varieties of nuts and sesame seeds are discouraged in school i.e. in packed lunches or in birthday treats/gifts. This is due to some of our children having very severe allergies. If you are bringing food/treats in to give to any child, other than your own, please bring in via the School Office and not directly to the children. Please do not give treats to children, other than your own, after school in case of unknown allergies.

PARENTS/CARERS

Please advise the School Office of any changes to your contact details & ensure that you complete a new form.
WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM

As the weather is now starting to turn colder, parents/carers are reminded that all children should now be wearing the school’s winter uniform. Please see below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grey Trousers</td>
<td>Navy Skirt or Pinafore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Shirt</td>
<td>White Blouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Jumper</td>
<td>Navy Cardigan or Jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Tie</td>
<td>Red Tie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey or Black Socks</td>
<td>White or Navy Blue Socks / Navy Blue Tights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Shoes - <strong>No Boots or Trainers</strong></td>
<td>Black Shoes - <strong>No Boots or Trainers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark Blue / Navy Blue Overcoat</td>
<td>Dark Blue / Navy Blue Overcoat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NO JEWELLERY IS TO BE WORN INCLUDING EARRINGS**

**ALL CHILDREN – WINTER PE KIT**

Children may wear a plain navy blue track suit– no fashion logos - when outside with trainers or plimsolls. Not to be worn once inside or as part of the main school uniform.
### KEY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th December : 2 pm</td>
<td>Juniors (Years 3-6 ONLY) Christmas Performance at SS Thomas More &amp; John Fisher Church&lt;br&gt;After which, students will be dismissed directly from church if parents are there to collect – <strong>please see attached slip</strong> (siblings can be collected from school after the performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th December</td>
<td>Christmas Dinner &amp; Celebrations – <strong>please see attached slip</strong>&lt;br&gt;Non uniform – CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY - £1 donation in aid of Save the Children Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th December</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF TERM – 1 PM FINISH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th December</td>
<td>INSET DAY : NO ATTENDANCE FOR PUPILS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6th January 2020</td>
<td>SCHOOL RE-OPENS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 10th January</td>
<td>9 am Epiphany Mass at SS Thomas More &amp; John Fisher – children to go directly to church at 8.50 am for the service to start promptly at 9 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15th January</td>
<td>DEADLINE FOR PARENTS TO APPLY FOR PLACES IN RECEPTION CLASS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>PTA Easter Event – Easter Bonnet/Easter Egg Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 5th June</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th July</td>
<td>PTA Annual Summer BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th June 2020</td>
<td>DATE FOR YOUR DIARY : EARLY NOTICE OF SPORTS DAY TO BE HELD AT SUTCLIFFE PARK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yours sincerely

Mr G Jamieson<br>Head of School

Share the light of Jesus, by learning together and loving others
The PTA would like to thank all families who were involved, supported and participated in the school’s Christmas Fayre enjoyed by all and £1000 raised for the benefit of our children. There was a
Dear Parents/Carers of Children in ALL CLASSES

The PTA has been working very hard in raising funds for the benefit of your children.

The funds raised are generally used for at least one trip per class per year or an additional benefit of similar monetary value. However, during the last school year in addition to paying for the school trips (entry fees and transport) for each class, amongst other things, the PTA funded the Panto theatre performance for the whole school, the Science day for the whole school, bought the guitars for the school and the chess trophies. The PTA regularly fund ongoing matters, such as the Top Table weekly celebrations and the Christmas crackers and decorations for our whole school Christmas lunch to name but a few.

The Core Committee work very hard to achieve this and are not able to continue to do so without the commitment and support from the school and the parents/carers. We are currently in the process of seeking charitable status, following which, when successful, further benefits of greater scope may be attained for the school itself and for the children.

Some of the Core Committee members are looking to step down and therefore the Committee, as well as looking to expand the numbers of the Committee members, are looking to fill the roles of Co-Chair, Co-Treasurer and Co-Secretary. In terms of expansion, the PTA are looking for a wider pool of people to be called upon for any assistance for the organising of the events as well also looking for someone with web developing/web design skills.

The PTA are also looking for a minimum of two Class Representatives per class to act as a single point of contact, assist with events and ensure information is efficiently communicated.

Please let the school know by completing and returning the slip below containing your (not your child’s) details and the roles that you are able to contribute with. Alternatively, please e-mail the PTA at stmprimarypta@gmail.com.

Remember, no contribution is too small and rolling stone gathers no moss!

X______________________________

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Child’s Name __________________________ Year Group ______________________

Parent/Carers Name __________________________ (please print)

Contact number __________________________ Email address __________________

Please indicate below ✓

I would like to help with PTA Events ☐ I am unable to help with PTA Events ☐
TERM DATES 2019/2020

Spring Term 2020*

Term 3  Monday 6 January – Friday 14 February 2020
Half Term Holiday  Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February 2020
Term 4  Monday 24 February – Friday 3 April 2020 (1pm finish)
Easter Holiday  Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April 2020

Friday 14 February 2020 INSET DAY (No attendance for students)

Summer Term 2020

Term 5  Monday 20 April – Friday 22 May 2020

**May Day**  **Friday 8th May 2020**

Half Term Holiday  Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May 2020
Term 6  Monday 1 June – Friday 17 July 2020 (1pm finish)

*Twilight Sessions  9th September – Staff Training  
6th November – Staff Training

Share the light of Jesus, by learning together and loving others
Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we embrace the festive season, it is fair to say that this year has been a Dickensian best of time, worst of times.

I wish to encourage parents to be involved in as many of the activities in our school and local parish over the festive period. For nearly 20 years I have attended the school nativities and the 6 o'clock Mass on Christmas Eve at our local church. These events, alongside others, really enhance the magical flavour of Christmas and remind us what the event truly means despite the commercial excess that surrounds us in society.

Year 6 will be looking towards ending their time with us in 2020 and then transition to secondary school in September. Not all students will be wishing to go forward to St Thomas More Comprehensive (STMC), but it is important to try and encourage a continuation of our students’ faith into the next phase of their educational journey. And although no special arrangement is in place to guarantee transition to STMC, we have never encountered many problems when placing our pupils there. We continue to look towards STMC as the natural choice.

On a more poignant note, I regret to inform you of the passing of former student Stacey Camilleri. Stacey passed earlier this year, shortly before her 22nd birthday. She was a popular student at St Thomas More Primary, always sunny and polite. This is a very difficult thing for me to write about, as my eldest daughter Samantha was a very good friend of Stacey’s. They grew up together. Stacey has been very much in our thoughts and prayers as a school. She enjoyed her time at St Thomas More Primary, and it is right that we acknowledge her and pray for her and her dear family at this time.

Our school has had a very good 2019 and I expect the momentum to continue into 2020. I would like to thank all the staff and teachers for all their hard work, and parents and students for their continued support and enthusiasm. My most sincere best wishes to you all.

Love, light and peace.

Craig Cabell
Chair of Governors