It seems that this half term has passed very quickly! The school survived the windy weather and it already appears lighter in the evening. Year 5 and Year 3 performed very impressive Sharing Assemblies. We were all impressed with the quality of both and enjoyed the humour in Y3’s 10 commandments scene! We look forward to the other class assemblies after the half term break.

We would like to congratulate Miss O’Brien who is moving on to accept a promotion at Holy Family Primary School. After 7 years of service to our school community, as a Class Teacher and SENDCO, we wish her and her family every success in her new venture and I am sure we will still see her on occasion, as she is working so close by. I would like to congratulate Mrs Barnes who has been appointed as our new SENDCO and will take up the role after the Easter break. Mrs Barnes will still remain one of our Class Teachers and will also be guiding our staff to provide the best support we can for all of our children.

I would like to remind parents and children about World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. There will be a range of activities in the day to celebrate books and our love of reading. Hopefully this gives everyone enough time to make or borrow outfits for the children to dress up as a book character alongside the staff. Please do not worry about being too creative with the outfits, it is real pleasure to see the range of colour and inspiration of book choice.

It is so impressive that St Thomas More students make the most of their time at school. It is very warming to find that ex-students still value their experience in our community. Please see below an email recently received by the school:

"Dear Principal, I write to recall my time at your school in the late 1940s. I recall the headmistress was Ms Walsh and our main teacher was Mr Peter Patrick Mahony. It is with very fond memories that I recall the wonderful lessons that I learned, in not only the three R's but history made so real with stories that even now, in my eighties, I remember them so well. Of course there were other practical subjects such as sewing and there was singing and dancing. All part of a good education. At the Eleven Plus Examination I obtained a Scholarship and went to St Joseph's Academy Blackheath. My family returned to Ireland in 1952 and I subsequently qualified as an Architect. I was in Private Practice for 25 years before joining the Local Authority where I spent a further 20 years. I was retired from there at age 65 and opened another Private Practice for a further 10 years. I am happily married with 5 children all of them with College degrees. We also have 5 Grandchildren. I recall that the Parish Priest's name was Fr McKeon with whom I served Mass as an altar boy. (The mass was in Latin then) I have now retired, but I will always remember my happy days at your school. I attribute the strength in my Faith to those early days in Christian love. Thank you for reading this missive and to your predecessors who formed so much of my early life. Yours Sincerely Victor Kevin Barry"
Since Christmas several children spoke to me about charity and the school council have been an important voice. We have been so proud of the children's effort and commitment to raising funds for the animals in Australia affected by the fires and floods. Thank you also to our families for being so generous. So far with a dress down day, cake and drinks sales and the staff riding across Kangaroo Island we have raised: £1,289.00. We still have class activities including the Year 1 “Koala for a Day” dress up to account for. So please check the website for updates. Year 3 are planning a sale of pre-loved items, so we are asking for donations of good quality/condition toys and books or any other items that the children would be interested in buying. Items can be brought in during first couple of weeks back after half term.

**WOW BADGE COMPETITION**

Would you like to win the WOW badge competition? Would you like your drawing to be made into 400,000 badges? The WOW badge competition is now open and the theme this year is “Wonders of the World”. Please see the letter sent out on 7th February for full details. The deadline is 12 pm on Thursday 27th February. From Mrs Dada & the JTA’s

Good Luck!
CAFOD – 9th MARCH

CAFOD will be visiting the school for assembly and workshops with Year 2 & Year 4. The focus is on our environment following the Pope’s encyclo “Laudato Si”.

Sharing Assemblies

Thursday Mornings at 10.10 am (exc Year 6 Stations of the Cross)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th February</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th February</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th March</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd April</td>
<td>Year 6 Stations of the Cross : 10 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 30th April</td>
<td>Reception Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parents/Carers of children in the above specified years are welcome to attend

Year 6 & Year 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.
**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.

**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.

**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

**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.

**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.
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

All extra-curricular clubs will restart on Monday 24th February following the half term break.

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.

MESSAGE FROM MR BULLOCK REGARDING SCHOOL BAND CLUB

The School Band Club held on Thursdays after school will be postponed until further notice. Seeing the children develop as musicians and as a team has made the whole school very proud and in particular, classmates and families. We were all thrilled by the End of Term performance before Christmas.

The School Band Club will likely return with positive modifications and parents/carers will be notified of dates once this has been confirmed.
Tuesday 11th February saw the final session of our Chess Club.

As such, would any of our school community – parents/carers – be prepared to volunteer and run a club for our children? This can take place before, after or during school. It could be another chess club, computers skills (such as coding) or perhaps something more diverse such as origami, knitting or even something musical? There must be many talents within our community that would benefit our children.

Please forward any details/interest to the School Office.

***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.

YEAR 1 TRIP TO CHRIST CHURCH – ELTHAM – 30TH JANUARY

On Thursday 30th January, Year 1 went to Christ Church in Eltham to baptise babies (plastic ones!). In class, we are studying 'Families and Celebrations' in Religious Education. One of the key celebrations we focus on is baptism. We have spoken about the sacrament of baptism and explored further the key elements. We were put in groups and each had a special role of a parent or Godparent. On the trip, we attended mass then the baptisms took place. We told the Priest the baby's name, made promises, read bidding prayers, wrapped the baby in a white garment to show the change and lit a candle. Each baby was baptised with holy water and received oil on its chest and crown. All babies have been successfully baptised as Catholics and were very well behaved with no crying! Thank you to the parents who supported our trip and well done to the class for behaving so wonderfully on the day.

PARENTS/CARERS

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

Share the light of Jesus, by learning together and loving others
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14th February</td>
<td>INSET DAY: No attendance for Pupils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17th – Friday 21st February</td>
<td>FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 24th February</td>
<td>School Re-Opens following Half Term Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th February</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday – Service in School at 2 pm with Fr Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th February</td>
<td>Year 6 trip to SS Thomas More &amp; John Fisher Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5th March</td>
<td>World Book Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th March</td>
<td>Parent/Carers Meetings with Class Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 24th March</td>
<td>Tempest Class Photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>PTA Easter Event – Easter Bonnet/Easter Egg Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6th – Friday 17th April</td>
<td>Easter Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20th April</td>
<td>School Re-Opens following Easter Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8th May</td>
<td>May Day Bank Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11th – Friday 15th May</td>
<td>Year 6 &amp; Year 2 SATS week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 5th June</td>
<td>School Disco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th June 2020</td>
<td>DATE FOR YOUR DIARY : EARLY NOTICE OF SPORTS DAY TO BE HELD AT SUTCLIFFE PARK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd July</td>
<td>PTA Annual Summer BBQ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yours sincerely

Mr G Jamieson
Head of School
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

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

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