Happy New Year to all of our families and our local community. We hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed being able to spend time with family.

We welcome in a new decade with hope and desire for a peaceful loving year where our children continue to grow in learning.

Our new year will bring fresh challenges for the school and we feel that we are in a great place to move forwards with the help and support of our faith and friends.

We wish you all the best for 2020.

AUSTRALIA DAY – FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY 2020

Because Australia Day is on Sunday 26th January, we will be having a non-uniform day on Friday 24th January. Many of our children have told Mr. Jamieson that they wanted to help the animals by raising as much money as we can to support the Australia Bushfire Emergency Fund. Bush fires are currently causing devastation to land and wildlife.

During break times on the 24th, Year 6 will be organising cake sales – donations of cakes via the School Office would be very much appreciated. These can be homemade or bought, but please remember no nuts. We are asking for a minimum donation £2 for the non-uniform day and also please provide your children with a small amount of spending money for the cake sale.
Another way that we can help is to sew, knit and crochet emergency care equipment for the animals that have been orphaned or left homeless by the raging fires. It has been reported that “knitters around the globe” have united to knit/make pouches, nests and mittens for kangaroos and koalas to wombats and wallabies.

Please take a look at the following website for some ideas:
www.thesprucecrafts.com

The School Council are gathering fundraising ideas from their classes. Staff are planning to gain sponsorship to ride the equivalent length of Kangaroo Island, this is a badly affected island near Adelaide. They will cycle in a relay during school next week (on a static bike), we will share a sponsorship fund for anyone who is willing to support us.
SHARING ASSEMBLIES
Thursday Mornings at 10.10 am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th February</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th February</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th February</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th March</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th March</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd April</td>
<td>6 Stations of the Cross</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

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.

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**CHICKEN POX**

Please note that we have had a confirmed case of Chicken Pox in the school.

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***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.

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**PARENTS/CARERS**

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

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Share the light of Jesus, by learning together and loving others
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:-

**BOYS**
- Grey Trousers
- White Shirt
- Navy Jumper
- Red Tie
- Grey or Black Socks
- Black Shoes - **No Boots or Trainers**
- Dark Blue / Navy Blue Overcoat

**GIRLS**
- Navy Skirt or Pinafore
- White Blouse
- Navy Cardigan or Jumper
- Red Tie
- White or Navy Blue Socks / Navy Blue Tights
- Black Shoes - **No Boots or Trainers**
- Dark Blue / Navy Blue Overcoat

**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

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**KEY DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 24th January</strong></td>
<td>Non Uniform Day re Australia Bushfire Emergency Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 3rd February</strong></td>
<td>Safer Internet Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 14th February</strong></td>
<td><strong>INSET DAY</strong>: No attendance for Pupils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 17th – Friday 21st February</strong></td>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY</strong> (school re-opens Monday 24th February)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 26th February</strong></td>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 5th March</strong></td>
<td>World Book Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 11th March</strong></td>
<td>Parent/Carers Meetings with Class Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 24th March</strong></td>
<td>Tempest Class Photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 27th March</strong></td>
<td>PTA Easter Event – Easter Bonnet/Easter Egg Competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 6th – Friday 17th April</strong></td>
<td>Easter Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 5th June</strong></td>
<td>School Disco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 17th June 2020</strong></td>
<td>DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: EARLY NOTICE OF SPORTS DAY TO BE HELD AT SUTCLIFFE PARK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 3rd July</strong></td>
<td>PTA Annual Summer BBQ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Yours sincerely

Mr G Jamieson

Share the light of Jesus, by learning together and loving others
Head of School

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.

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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 6 January – Friday 14 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Term Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 17 February – Friday 21 February 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Monday 24 February – Friday 3 April 2020 (1pm finish)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 6 April – Friday 17 April 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Summer Term 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 5</td>
<td>Monday 20 April – Friday 22 May 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 8th May 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half Term Holiday</td>
<td>Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 6</td>
<td>Monday 1 June – Friday 17 July 2020 (1pm finish)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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