

STMS newsletter 26

Dear Parent / Carer,

26th May 2017

The half term break is almost upon us and it looks like it's going to be a sunny one. It's been a short half term but the children have been working incredibly hard in that time and I think they are beginning to tire now, so a well-earned rest is needed.

Thank you to all those parents who joined us in the rain for our 60th Anniversary Pilgrimage from the site of the old school at St Joseph's in Havant to our school here in Hooks Lane. It was lovely to see so many of you at the event, especially all those past pupils and ex members of staff. Our next event is TomFest, our family festival, on the 17th June. Please do come along and join us. There are lots of great acts and entertainment lined up. Then, on the 22nd of June, which is the feast day of St Thomas More, we will be having a mass of thanksgiving at St Michael and All Angel's Church. Children, families and friends, past and present, are all invited to attend.

Since I wrote our last newsletter, children in Year 6 and Year 2 have been sitting SATs tests. I have been so proud of them; they have tackled them all with perseverance and determination to succeed and consequently, I am sure they will do extremely well.

We try to make these tests as informal as possible but ultimately, our government, in its wisdom, seems to think schools need to be tested. And so, we find the place of tests in primary schools is growing. It's a personal opinion, but I believe this level of testing, especially among Year 2 children is unnecessary. This coupled with the growing pressure on school budgets is something I would urge you to speak about with your local candidates for the national election.

I want to just highlight that the overall attendance rate at St Thomas More's is not only above the national average but also, above the Hampshire average. I appreciate your support in achieving this exceptional level.

Lateness however, is becoming a bit of an issue as we creep through the final term. Please be aware that we expect EVERY child to be on the playground BEFORE the bell rings at 8:45 EVERY day. When we return from half term, I plan to meet latecomers at the school gate where I intend to ask for the reason for the late arrival and to discuss persistent lateness with certain families. I am left with no choice but to do this as children are dropped off, because some families have not attended appointments to discuss their child's late arrival. Arriving late to class is embarrassing and uncomfortable for children and so we really must insist that you are in school on time.

Finally, I want to let you know, that after 26 years at St Thomas More's Primary School, Mrs Wilson will be leaving us this Friday. 26 years of service is an incredible achievement and shows exceptional dedication and commitment to St Thomas More's Primary School. I'm sure you will all want to join me in wishing Carol all the very best as she takes up a new role with the Local Authority.



Parent E-safety tips

Sign up to the Childnet newsletter at <http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>



Get further advice at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Stranger Danger

Keep an eye on your child whilst online, children should never talk to strangers online. Children need to understand that people aren't always who they say they are online.

Put yourself in control

Make use of the parental controls on your home broadband and any internet-enabled devices. You can find out how at your broadband provider's website or by visiting internetmatters.org.

Tomfest

This will be held on Saturday 17th June. Please do come along and join us for a family afternoon of music, dancing and games. Please bring your own picnic and drinks. If you have any outdoor games e.g. swingball, please bring them along to add to the fun!

This will be a free event for all our community to enjoy.

If you know anyone who would be prepared to sing or dance, please let the office, Michelle Dennis or Julia Corps know as soon as possible.

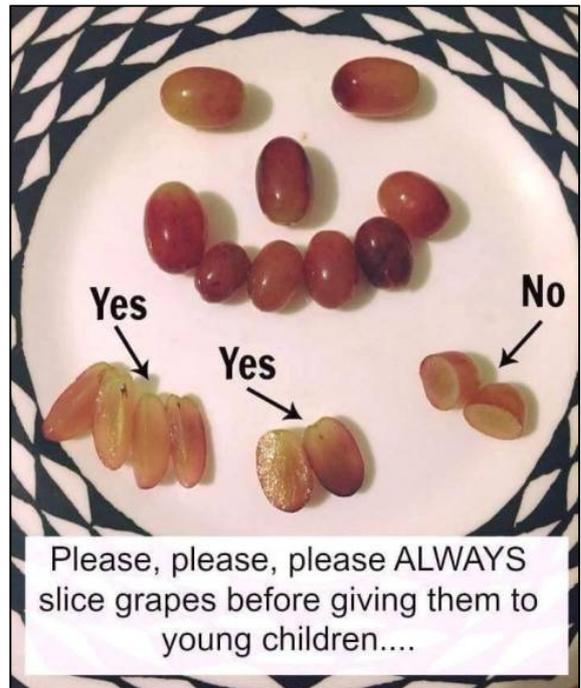
Hayling RNLI will be attending on the day. For the sailors among you please bring your life jackets along, they will check them for you free of charge.

P.E. Kit

Please ensure your child has the correct P.E. Kit in school at all times.

Food – possible choking hazards.

If sending in any food with your child's lunch that resemble the shape or size of grapes, cocktail sausages, or cherry tomatoes, please follow the cutting guide below so we can ensure our children's safety. Food not cut to this guide can be a choking hazard as it is the same size as their windpipe.



We currently have a vacancy for a part-time Lunchtime Supervisor. Please contact the office for further information.

Messages to the office

If you need a message passed on to your child or their class teacher, please ring the office before 10.30am this also includes change of pick up arrangements

There is also a post box in the outer reception which is to be used for any messages or money deposits. This is checked on a daily basis

ITEMS FOR YOUR DIARY		
Date	Time	Event
Friday 26 th May	15:15	Last day before Summer Half Term
Monday 5 th June	08:45	Back to School after Summer Half Term
Sunday 11 th June	10:00	First Holy Communion at St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Leigh Park (Group 1)
Saturday 17 th June		'Tomfest' family event
Sunday 18 th June	10:00	First Holy Communion at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Leigh Park (Group 2)
Sunday 18 th June	11:00	First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Church, Havant
Monday 19 th June	09:30	Year R Sports day
Monday 19 th June	18:00	Summer Music Concert
Tuesday 20 th June	09:30	KS1 Sports Day
Wednesday 21 st June	09:30	KS2 Sports Day
Thursday 22 nd June	10:00	St. Thomas More's Feast Day
Friday 23 rd June		Year 3 / 4 Camp Out
Thursday 29 th June	14:00	Ss. Peter & Paul Feast Day (Holy Day of Obligation)
Monday 3 rd July		First Holy Communion Celebration
Monday 3 rd July	10:00	Phoenix Class Mass
Tuesday 4 th July	10:00	Delphinus Class Mass
Wednesday 5 th July	10:00	Columba Class Mass
Saturday 8 th July	13.00 – 15.30	Summer Fair
Thursday 20 th July	14:00	Leavers Mass for Year 6
Tuesday 25 th July	09.00	End of Year Assembly
Tuesday 25 th July		Year 6 BBQ
Tuesday 25 th July	15:15	Last day of Summer Term

CHURCH NEWS

St. Joseph's Church, Havant.

Summer Fair on Saturday 24th June from 12.00 – 15.00. Profits from the Fair will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and Rosemary Trust

First Holy Communion Programme at St. Michael and All Angels Church continues as follows:-

- 10th June – Rehearsal at 10.00
- **Sunday 11th June – First Holy Communion (Group 1)**
- **Sunday 18th June – First Holy Communion (Group 2)**
- 1st July – “To Love and to Serve” (*No parent meeting*)