

# Welcome to St Thomas More School



New Entrants September 2020

# Mission Statement



- ✧ We are a Catholic School and all our teaching reflects our Christian faith.
- ✧ We recognise the needs and value the contribution of each member of our school community.
- ✧ We encourage the children to grow spiritually, socially and academically and to show respect for each other and in the world in which we live.

# Reception

- ❧ Miss Vinter will be the class teacher.
- ❧ Mrs Williams, Budden and Mrs Leigh will be the Learning Support Assistants.
- ❧ There will be 30 children in the class.
- ❧ The children will follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum which follows on from the curriculum they will have followed in Pre-school.





# Communication



- ❧ You have already seen initial information on our website.
- ❧ We hope further and more specific information will be given at a New Entrants Meeting in September. This may have to be a virtual meeting depending on the Covid guidelines at the time.
- ❧ Further guidance on reading will also be given at that meeting.
- ❧ We will be sending you a questionnaire to complete regarding your child – you will be able to write anything you would like the teacher to know about your child.

# Communication

- ❧ Weekly information, including the school newsletter, 'More News' is provided by email. Daily information is given in the children's diaries.
- ❧ Information regarding trips is also made available by email.
- ❧ You may telephone/email the school at any time to ask a question.
- ❧ You will be invited to a Parent Teacher Consultation during the Autumn and Spring term.
- ❧ You may request a meeting at any time throughout the year
- ❧ You will be made aware of your child's achievement at the end of the school year in a written report.



# Settling in

- ❧ A lot of time is spent in the first few weeks doing activities designed to help the children settle into school.
- ❧ Some children take longer than others – DO NOT PANIC if your child seems unsettled at the beginning.



# Skills to practise before September

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- ❧ Dressing/undressing
- ❧ Putting on and fastening shoes
- ❧ Going to the toilet and cleaning themselves
- ❧ Wiping their own nose
- ❧ Holding a pencil correctly
- ❧ Pincer grip
- ❧ Listening to and talking about stories
- ❧ Learning Nursery Rhymes
- ❧ Using scissors
- ❧ Using a knife and fork



# Buddies

- ❧ All children in Reception are allocated a buddy from Year 5.
- ❧ Buddies make sure the new child is not on their own at playtime.
- ❧ A buddy will show a new child where to find the toilet when their teacher is not around to ask.
- ❧ A buddy will help a new child to learn and understand the school rules and procedures.





# Homework



- ⌘ Legal requirement to set homework
- ⌘ Do as much as you can
- ⌘ We expect very little at the beginning
- ⌘ Not set at the weekend to allow family time
- ⌘ Literacy, numeracy and social skills are the most important at the start
- ⌘ Do talk to a teacher if there is a problem

# Lunches

- œ We encourage all children to have a school lunch.
- œ They are cooked on site by our own staff.
- œ They are balanced and nourishing.
- œ Two choices are offered.
- œ There is not a cost (IFSMI)



# Healthy School



- œ We have a Healthy Snack Bar available at breaktime – from October for Reception children.
- œ Encourage Healthy Snacks from home – nutty snacks are not allowed.
- œ Water and fresh fruit is available in the classroom – please provide a named cup.



# Behaviour Policy



- œ Use a graduated approach:
- œ Warning
- œ Yellow Card
- œ Red Card

# Uniform

- ❧ We encourage all parents to keep to our uniform policy including PE kit.
- ❧ Details about uniform are on the New Entrants Page of the website.
- ❧ Please name all items of clothing.
- ❧ PE kit should be **named on the outside**.
- ❧ New uniform can be purchased from Gray Palmer in Saffron Walden.



# Parents in School



- ❧ Parents are invited to help in class – Confidentiality is expected.
- ❧ You are invited to class assemblies and school productions.
- ❧ Our Gold Book is on display in the front entrance.
- ❧ Parents are often invited to accompany a class on a visit. You must have DBS clearance. Information about how to obtain a DBS certificate is on the New Entrants page of the website.



# Helping in Class



- This is a really important job.
- Many activities can only happen if we have this support.
- However teachers plan activities so it is frustrating when people don't turn up.
- Please do stick to your commitment.
- You will be extremely valued!

# Finance



- ❧ The vast majority of payments are via School Money– details will be sent to you at the start of term in September.
- ❧ Cash/cheque may be asked for, for some charity events.
- ❧ Any money sent into school should be in a named envelope.
- ❧ Wherever possible a cheque is the safest option.
- ❧ Cheques should be labelled with child's name and for which activity the money is payment.

# Finance



- ❧ Please support our voluntary levy. We ask for a minimum of £15 per term per child. This levy is used for the upkeep of the premises. Donations should be made on School Money.
- ❧ Please use a Gift Aid form if you are a tax payer.



# Finally...



- ❧ We are here to help - we care about your child.
- ❧ If you or your child are experiencing any problems at school please contact us early so that we can clarify issues or sort problems before they develop.

**We look forward to a successful partnership over the next seven years.**