



MORE NEWS

12 September 2025

Issue: 2

Parish Website: olcsaffronwalden.org.uk

Diary Dates



19 September – Mass 9.30am All welcome
23 September – Y6 to Harry Potter
24 September – KS1 Scooter Morning 9am – 12pm
10 October – Y5/6 Young Shakespeare
16 October – Flu Immunisations
22 October – Y4 Anglo-Saxon & Viking Day
27 – 31 October – Half Term
3 November – Y5 Bikeability
4 November – Y5 Bikeability
5 November – Y5 Bikeability
6 November – Y5 Bikeability & Parents Evening 4pm – 7pm
11 November – Pret-a-Portrait Individual & Sibling Photographs. Parents Evening 5.30pm – 8.30pm
12 November – Opening Morning for New Prospective Reception Parents
13 November – Year 3 visit to Cambridge Museums
17 November – Y5 Bikeability
18 November – Y5 Bikeability
21 November – Jubilee Celebration Day
27 November – Clothing Collection
28 November – Christmas Fete
4 December – Opening Morning for New Prospective Reception Parents & Christmas Wreath Making Evening
5 December – Y3 Prayer & Liturgy
6 December – Y5&6 Spirit of Christmas
19 December – Last Day of Term

Lunch

w/c 15 September (Week 3)
Please pay lunches on School Money - £2.50 per day

Swimming

15 September – Year 4&6
16 September – Year 2

Message from Mrs Stockdale

It's been a wonderfully busy week at St Thomas More as we have got into the routine of being back to school for a full week. It has been particularly exciting for our pupils returning to the swimming pool for lessons, and of course, for our Reception Class who started full time yesterday. It has been lovely seeing the new Year 5 buddies supporting their friends walking into school in the mornings and around the classroom.

We ask for God's blessing on all our pupils and families as we embark on the new term in its fullness once more.

St Thomas More, pray for us. Amen.

Welcome to St Thomas More, Reception!



Year 6 Leaders

Our Year 6s have been extremely busy this week preparing their applications for various leadership roles across the school. We came together as a school today to hear their presentations and pitches, and to vote the new leaders in, democratically! Congratulations to our newly elected team:

House Captains –

St Bernadette – Hugh & Danny

St Francis – Will & Ela

St Peter – Harriet & Lenny

St Theresa – Flora, Emily & Hetty

Sports Ambassadors – Ollie, Sophie, Jude, Lina, Louis, Emilia & Martha

Chaplaincy Team – Cecilia, Mason, Una & Mairead

School Council – Sebastian, Erin & Eleanor

We look forward to hearing more about their work and the impact of their leadership across the school soon.

Prayer of the Week

**Sunday 14 September 2025 is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross
EDUCATION SUNDAY**

Alleluia, alleluia.

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.*

Alleluia.

Dear Lord

We pray for your guidance through this new school year
Please especially help our Reception buddies settle into their new routine
Help us to be inclusive, kind and helpful to everybody

Support us in learning new things

Fill us with your spirit Lord

And guide us to live the best way we can

Amen

Isabelle Amelie Gabe and Dominic



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Secondary School Admissions for September 2026

Secondary school admission round opened on 12 September, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026.

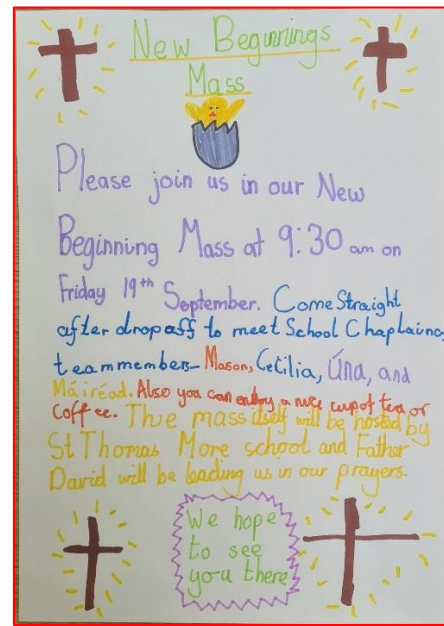
The statutory national closing date for applications is 31 October.

Applications can be made online

via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions <<http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions>

Mass - Friday 19 September at 9:30am

You are most welcome to join us for Mass at the school to mark the beginning of the school year. Mass begins at 9:30am and we are offering any parents who wish to join the Year 6 Chaplaincy Team an opportunity to gather together after school drop off in preparation for the service.



Phonics Workshop

Miss Vinter will be holding a phonics meeting on Tuesday 23 September at 2:30pm in the Reception classroom to discuss the importance of phonics, provide information regarding our phonics scheme 'Unlocking Letters and Sounds' and answer any questions you may have about reading. It would be wonderful if our Reception parents could attend and also those parents of children in Year 1 who may find this helpful.

Small Gate

Please note the small side gate (by the steps) will now remain locked in the mornings to support the school in managing site safety. Please use the main gate for entrance to school at drop off time. Thank you for supporting your child in making their way through the gates independently at this time.

Autumn Term Clubs

Reminder – All clubs start next week. **If your child is signed up for Tri Club, please remember they will need to bring their bikes to school that day. Please park bikes in the scooter pods near Year 5). Thank you.**



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Music Lessons

A reminder to contact individual teachers for music lessons, including being added to a waiting list. The office does not hold the waiting lists. Please wait until the Pentecost (summer) Term of Year 2 to contact the teacher for sign up for lessons, which can begin at the beginning of Year 3. Please find our current teachers and their details below.

Paul Wood (guitar) evas.dream@btinternet.com

Claire Simmons (piano) clairesimmons5@aol.com

Tom Hancock (drums) tomhancockdrums@gmail.com

George Withers (woodwind) Currently not taking new students.

Waiting list info@mfsf.org

Pippa Hopewell (violin) philippa.hopewell@essex.gov.uk

Aaron O'Sullivan (brass and guitar) aaron.osullivan@essex.gov.uk

Curriculum Evening

A big thank you to all of you who attended the curriculum evening on Tuesday. They were valuable and informative meetings. We appreciate you giving up your time and hope you found them helpful.

Parent Course – Exploring Autism

SENDIASS are running the Rainbow parent course.

This is a six week free parent course - delivered online.

It aims to support parents and carers with children or young people recently diagnosed as autistic or on the diagnosis journey.

🔗 Find out more on the SENDIASS website:

<https://www.essexsendiass.co.uk/.../exploring-autism.../>

PSA

Unwanted Gifts/Bottles Donations

If you have any unwanted gifts, bottles of wine/processco, the PSA would be very grateful of any donations in preparation for our Christmas Fete. Thank you in advance.