



Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### End of Term Arrangements & Cinema Trip

Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are starting to plan our end of term events and are very much looking forward to our annual cinema trip with pupils.

Please find below an overview of our arrangements with further information on our trip to the cinema for all pupils.

#### Advent Preparation & Fundraising

- As usual we will work with pupils throughout advent, focusing on the themes of love, joy, hope and peace.
- Part of our work always focuses on supporting a charity. This year we will be continuing to support Feeding Families <https://feedingfamilies.org.uk/>.
- We will be asking as many pupils as possible to support our fundraising efforts, which will include the collection of food to distribute to families in need. We have collection boxes in reception for any donations you would like to make.

#### Advent Attendance Challenge

- This year we will again hold our Advent Attendance Challenge.
- Any pupil with 100% attendance from the 2nd to the 20th December will receive 5 first dinner passes to use at their discretion throughout the year.
- All qualifying pupils will also be entered into a draw to receive a free Christmas lunch or a selection box.

#### Cinema Trip

- This year's school visit to the Metrocentre Odeon Cinema is on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Due to the increase in the costs involved we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £9.50, this includes transport and entry to the film of their choice.
- Payments for this trip should be made via our online payment system Arbor Pay. Any queries regarding payment can be emailed to [STM-Arbor@stm.bwcet.com](mailto:STM-Arbor@stm.bwcet.com). Pupils currently in receipt of free school meals (FSM), currently in care (LAC) or previously looked after (Pre-LAC) will have the costs covered by the school.

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- Please ensure that either payment is made, or consent slips are returned, no later than **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024**.
- If for any reason you are struggling with this payment please contact us.
- The coaches will leave school from 8.50am and return to school between 11.45am and 12.30pm, depending on film choice. Lunchtime will be from whenever the first coach returns to school until 1.30pm.
- I would also remind you that if you do not wish your son / daughter to participate in the Cinema visit, they must attend school as normal.

### Christmas Non - Uniform Day

- We will have our annual Christmas themed non uniform day on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, this has proven to be a fantastic day in school where we all come together to raise money for charity. In order to support our fundraising, we are suggesting a donation of £1 cash on the day.

### Christmas Lunch

- We will be serving Christmas lunch on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December in the dining hall for all pupils.
- Pupils will have slightly longer for lunch that day to enjoy their lunch and ensure they are not rushed.

### School Quiz

- As is tradition, we will end the term with our annual school quiz.
- Quizzes will take place on the afternoons of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### School Masses

- We will finish the term with Masses in the school hall and presentation of Merit Awards on the morning of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

### End of Term - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

- I would like to remind you that term finishes on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December and attendance up to that date is required by all pupils.
- School will be finishing at 1:00pm.



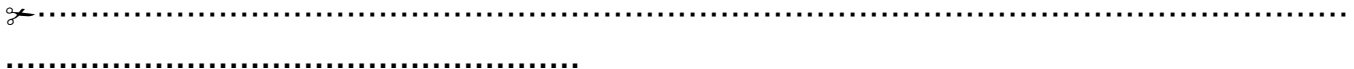
- We have been working closely with Nexus and Northumberland School Transport to arrange for the school buses to come early on this day, and whilst the Northumberland buses can accommodate an early finish, unfortunately the Gateshead buses can not.
- As a result of this all pupils will be allowed to leave school at 1:00pm and make their own way home where they are able. Any pupils who can not make their own way home are welcome to stay in school for the afternoon until the Gateshead buses arrive for departure at the normal time of 2:50pm. Any pupils staying in school will of course be supervised by staff. .

We are very much looking forward to celebrating this time of year with our pupils. One of the things that makes St Thomas More special is the traditions we have, with this time of year being a significant part of this.

We thank you in advance for your support in making sure your child attends school in the run up to Christmas and takes advantage of all of the wonderful experiences on offer.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

Mr R Lennox  
Assistant Head Teacher



**Parental Consent for Cinema Trip December 2024**

I hereby give permission for my son/daughter, named below, to participate in the Cinema trip on **Thursday 19th December 2024**.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Pastoral Class \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

