



More News 20th October 2023

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Praying the Rosary in October

October is traditionally a time when we focus our prayer through saying the Rosary.

If you want to find out more, or pray together at home, there is lots of information and guidance [here](#).

Our GIFT Team have been explaining how to pray the rosary to other classes this week. Next week, they will be leading praying the rosary at lunchtime for any children who wish to join in the Prayer Garden.

On Wednesday each class prayed a decade of the rosary for peace and unity. Classes chose a specific area of the world to hold in their prayers as part of the Aid to the Church In Need Campaign "[one million children praying the rosary](#)" effort. Places chosen included:

- Afghanistan
- Israel and Gaza
- Ukraine and
- Yemen

In our Collective Worship we continue to hold **all** those affected by war and conflict, especially those in Israel, Gaza and Ukraine, in our prayers.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Each year we support the [Royal British Legion](#) Poppy Appeal to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for others in war.

You will be able to see our poppy display in our Prayer Garden.

Poppies will be available for children to purchase from next week.



RISE - God's Planet

On Monday 23rd October, we will have a theatre group running workshops and a performance on God's Planet. Children will spend the day working on activities reflecting on how we can look after God's creation, our common home.

Children can purchase a Planet Hero badge as a memento of the day and to encourage everyone to keep up the 'Planet Hero' stewardship. The cost of the badges are £1 each. Each 45mm badge is made from recycled plastic + metal pin which can be fully recycled at recycling centres.

All proceeds of this initiative will help RISE to continue to deliver tours like God's Planet in schools as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company and will support the future work of RISE Theatre



Social Action Week

We are always keen to ensure our children are growing and learning in a way that enables them to be ready to become responsible citizens who, in their own way, bring about positive change in the world. Next week, children throughout the school will be thinking about the impact of sustainability issues on God's creation, focusing on how those issues affect our global brothers and sisters. Children in each year group will focus on a different aspect of sustainability, thinking about what the problem is; the impact of that problem on the people affected and they will take an action to bring about positive change.

Please talk to your child about their learning.



Past staff member - Rest In Peace

Sadly, we have been informed of the sad death of Teresa Mellon, who worked at our school as teacher for a number of years. We keep Teresa and her family in our prayers.

Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.
Amen.



Parent/carers consultations

We are looking forward to sharing your child's start to the year at our parent/carers consultations next week. Please make sure you have arranged an appointment through the Arbor app: we are unable to accommodate parents who have not made an appointment.

You will also have the opportunity to purchase pre-loved uniform at the Tuesday and Thursday parent/carers consultations. Thank you to the PTFA for organising this.

Keeping Our Children Safe

As always, keeping our children safe and well is our top priority. Please make sure you have read the following information carefully.

We are a 'no nuts' school

To protect the children in our school who have serious nut allergies, **we are a 'no nuts' school**. Please make sure that all food and snacks your child brings into school are nut free. This includes chocolate bars, spreads, energy bars and any other food or snack. Any food brought into school that contains nuts will be disposed of.

Winter clothing

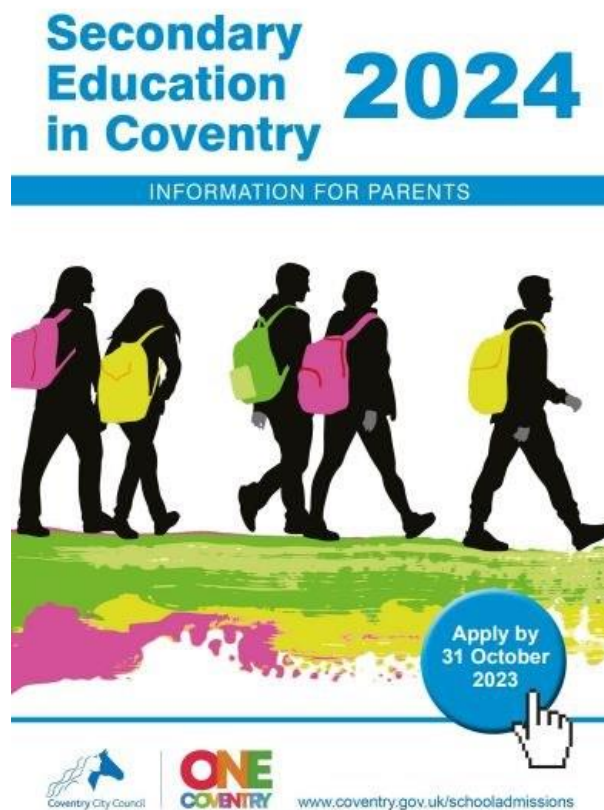
As the weather quickly changes from warm and summery to cold, wet and wintry, please make sure your child comes to school with appropriate clothing. Coats should be worn everyday, and children can, of course, bring hats and gloves to help them stay warm. Please make sure all clothing is clearly named as this helps us to return lost clothing to the right person. With the start and end of the day getting darker as winter approaches, bright, reflective outer clothing adds an extra layer of road safety too!

Y6 leaving after school clubs from half term

As the clocks go back and the evenings get darker earlier, we remind parents that all children must be collected by a suitable adult (aged 16+) from after-school clubs. This includes children who are in Year 6 and have a walking home pass. Thank you.

Secondary School Admissions

The closing date for secondary school admissions applications is fast approaching! It is vitally important that, if your child is in Year 6, you have submitted an application! Please make sure you have done this before the closing date of 31st October via the [online application process](https://www.coventry.gov.uk/schooladmissions)



Can you help us? Volunteers needed!

We are always in need of extra help in school. From changing reading books, to hearing children read, to supporting with cooking activities, there are always things we want to do more of, that we just don't have enough adults for! If you, or an appropriate adult in your family, is able to offer some regular time each week that they can come into school to help, please do let us know.

All volunteers must complete a DBS check before beginning (this is a safeguarding check that is free for volunteers and school will organise).

Nursery learn about harvest

Nursery have been learning all about Harvest time. They have had great fun playing in our allotment and farm shop role play area. In our outdoor learning area, the children have created a mud restaurant and treated Mrs Woods to a muddy afternoon tea.





...and Year 1 test their pirate skills

Year 1 became pirates last week in their Geography lesson and went on a treasure hunt! They used our knowledge of human and physical features when searching for clues on our map. Ahoy!





Help us keep autumn illnesses away

With autumn approaching, we know that the presence of colds and other viruses increase. We encourage children to use a tissue so that the spread of germs is minimised. As you can imagine, each class gets through boxes of tissues very quickly.

If you are able to, we are asking each child to bring in a box of tissues that will then be kept as part of their class stock and will be used during the autumn and winter months to help everyone reduce the spread of germs.

Christmas Bazaar

While it might seem far away, Christmas is fast approaching!

The Parish/School Christmas Bazaar will be held on Friday 8th December in the school hall. Plans are already underway to make this year's Bazaar as much fun as last year's was. If you would like to buy a stall for the evening, please contact Mary at mandjhulme1@gmail.com

There will be lots of opportunities for you to support in making the bazaar great, so watch this space for more information over the coming weeks!



Apply for a Blue Peter Book Badge

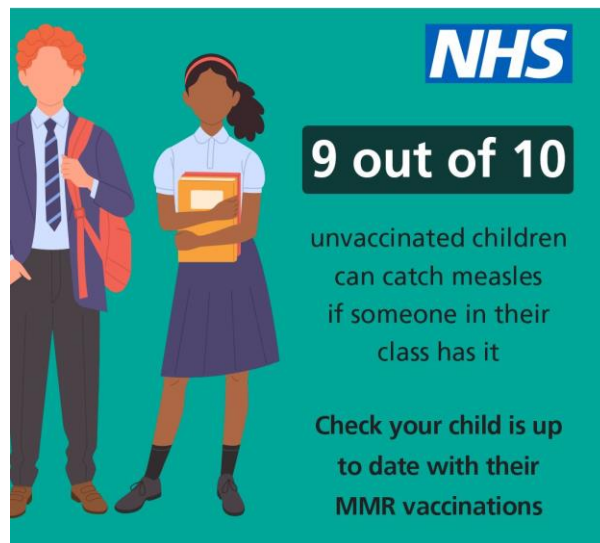
The new reading gazebo has proved to be a big hit with our children and we are always looking for ways to celebrate our love of reading.

Children can now apply for a Blue Peter Book Badge, which they can earn by applying online and sharing their thoughts on a recently read book.

Find out more [here](#).



Protect your child against serious childhood illnesses



Measles cases are rising across the country, with over 102,000 children starting primary school in England being at risk of catching the disease. The Department for Education is asking schools to share key messages from the NHS about MMR / measles and how to get vaccinated. Measles is highly infectious and if left unvaccinated nine out of ten children in a classroom can catch the disease if just one child is infectious. More information about protecting your child has been sent out via Arbor.



Online safety parent/carer information - EA Sports FC 24

Taken from [National Online Safety](#):

What's the most prolific partnership in recent football history? Son and Kane? Ronaldo and Benzema? How about EA and FIFA? Their collaboration produced the most popular sports video game series of all time, with 325 million copies sold worldwide.

EA Sports FC 24 – the makers’ new solo offering – now hopes to emulate FIFA’s legendary success. While it’s almost certain to hit the back of the net in commercial terms, does it keep a clean sheet against FIFA’s traditional online safety risks? Find out in this week’s **#WakeUpWednesday** guide.



Half Term Activities

There are lots of half term activities that being delivered by the Outdoor Education Service (Coventry Outdoors) this October at Coombe Abbey Country Park.

Coventry Outdoors will be running a series of outdoor activity days aimed for children and young people who are aged 9-13 years old. Coventry Outdoors Activity Camps gets children and young people into the wild, where they will learn and experience an unforgettable adventure, from survival techniques to all sorts of outdoor activities and challenges, whilst making new friends and having lots of fun!

We strongly believe that being outdoors fully-immersed in the natural environment helps children and young people explore different ways to boost self-awareness and confidence, cultivate greater happiness and find greater wellbeing.

Dates:

Monday 30th October, 10am – 3pm

Tuesday 31st October, 10am – 3pm

Wednesday 1st November, 10am – 3pm

Activities include:

- Combat Archery
- Laser Tag
- Bushcraft
- Survival Skills

To book on to our Outdoor Activity Camps please visit www.coventry.gov.uk/coventryoutdoors or contact us outdooreducation@coventry.gov.uk



October half term Activity Camp '23

Coombe Abbey Park, Brinklow Rd,
Coventry CV3 2AB

Experience an unforgettable adventure, from survival techniques to outdoor activities and challenges, whilst making new friends and having lots of fun!

Have a go at:

- ✓ Combat Archery
- ✓ Laser Tag
- ✓ Bushcraft
- ✓ Survival Skills

30 Oct 31 Oct 1 Nov

9-13 years 10am - 3pm £25pp per day

Book your place online:
www.coventry.gov.uk/coventryoutdoors




For more information, call 024 7538 1277
email: OutdoorEducation@coventry.gov.uk
Facebook: CovOutdoors Instagram: coventryoutdoors Twitter: coventryoutdoors
Coventry City Council #CovOutdoors

Coventry Rocks half term activity

[Coventry Rocks](#) have created an [October Half Term What's On Guide](#). It is full to the brim with family friendly events, activities and clubs that are on over the half term holidays. The October Half Term Guide can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Safety before school starts

Staff have reported children being left unsupervised in the school car park at very early times. Please note that children must be supervised before school and parents/carers should ensure their children have entered safely through the gate before leaving the premises.



Listening to your views

You will remember completing a parent/carer survey in the summer term last year.

The results of the survey were overwhelmingly positive - thank you for your support and letting us know when we do well. There are always things we can improve, and you have let us know where those areas are too. Your thoughts are always appreciated as they help us to improve the school for you and our children.

Each week over the next few weeks, we'll share your feedback and let you know how the school will respond.



You told us: that you would like to have a better understanding of your child's progress

What we're doing: we have looked at the kind of information you receive at parent consultations and identified what will be most useful for you to know at different points of the year. The parent consultations next week will focus on how well your child has settled in to their new class and how they are working in the class at the moment. As children haven't had any assessments at this point of the year, the information you receive about their learning will focus on the quality of their class work and their learning behaviours.

Late Collection

School finishes at 3.20pm, and you are expected to collect your child/ren at 3.20pm. We do understand some families have logistical difficulties but collecting an older child from secondary school first is not an acceptable reason for delay, and primary children should be prioritised.

Our expectation is that on a **rare** occasion, when you may be unavoidably late due to an unforeseen emergency situation, you would contact the school office to inform us what arrangements you have made before 3.20pm. In cases where a child is not collected within 10 minutes of the school day (3.30pm) or after school activity, without reasonable excuse, a charge of £3.00 will be payable for each child. At 3.40pm the full Care Club fee becomes payable.

Please keep in mind that Care Club do not always have availability especially at late notice and this after school club should only be available to children who have registered. Please contact the Care Club Manager for an application form, should you decide to register with the provision:

charlotte.turner@st-thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk

Please access the attendance and late collection policy on our [website](#) for your information.

Care Club

After half term, payments for Care Club will be accepted through Arbor. More information to follow.

Attendance is important!

The Department for Education (DfE) has asked headteachers to remind parents of the importance of good attendance.

The DfE say:

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. If you are unsure whether your child is too ill for school, you can check this NHS guidance: [is my child too ill for school?](#)

They also say:

In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young

people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it.

If your child is having difficulty in coming to school, please contact us (your child's class teacher should be the first port of call for most communication).

We monitor all pupils' attendance and will contact you (often by letter) if their attendance is getting lower than we'd expect. Please don't be offended if you receive a letter - we have a duty to keep you informed of things that can affect your child's progress and/or wellbeing.

Lastly, please remember that term-time holidays will not be authorised and, in many cases, will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) being issued.

Whole school attendance this year - 96.2%

This week 16-20th October	
Year R	98.3%
Year 01	94.0%
Year 02	98.1%
Year 03	96.4%
Year 04	99.0%
Year 05	98.7%
Year 06	95.4%

Help available for children struggling with emotions

Is your child struggling with their emotions and feelings? Compass Shine deliver workshops covering various topics and offer 10 minute consultations for parents and carers to get advice. Please see the flyer below for more information.

The flyer is titled 'IT'S MY TIME TO Shine Compass'. It features a blue and white color scheme with a wavy line graphic. The text is as follows:

Compass Shine supports Children and Young People aged 5-18 years (25% SEND), who are struggling with their emotions and feelings.

Are you a Parent or Carer?
Are you struggling with your child?

Maybe we can help

we deliver workshops covering various topics as well as provide 10 minute consultations for you to obtain advice, suggestions or signpost you to other agencies

For further information please contact Compass Shine on
T: 02475 186206 or E: compass.cypeip@nhs.net
Web: <https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-coventry-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-service/>

New Workshops coming soon

Parish facilities

Planning a party/event? Looking for a Venue?

The Margaret Roper Room at Church is available for hire for parties and events. It is in high demand, so enquire early about dates. Excellent kitchen facilities available. Holds approximately 80 guests. Hire charge £25 per hour. Please enquire to: admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk



Important Dates

- Thursday 26th October: Parent Consultation Nursery, Reception, Years 2 to 6
- Thursday 26th October, 4-6pm Community Room: PTFA Pre-loved Uniform Sale
- Thursday 9th November: Reception to Yr6 flu vaccine (if consent given)
- Friday 10th November Disco: 5:15-6:15pm EYFS and KS1
- Friday 10th November Disco: 6:30-7:30pm Year 3 and 4
- Friday 10th November Disco: 7:45-8:45pm Year 5 and 6
- Monday 13th November: School Photographer: Individual and STM sibling photo's



THINGS TO DO IN COVENTRY



THE ULTIMATE WHAT'S ON GUIDE FOR FAMILIES TO FI

www.coventryrocks.co.uk



FIND HALF TERM

The Coventry Rocks app is brim with things to do over the Half Term. There's 3 main categories:

- Places to go
- Half Term Activities
- Places to Eat

There's also a top section for Days Out and Home Visits.

Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to browse the website.

PUMPKIN PICKING

Pumpkin Picking is a great activity to do with the whole family, and there are lots of places around Coventry where you can pick the perfect pumpkin! [Read our Guide](#) Head to the next page for some of our favourites!

FOLLOW US AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY!
Join thousands of local parents following us on Social Media.
Just search [Coventry Rocks](#) and like our page!



SPOOKY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



[Spooky Farm](#) | [Ash End Children's Farm](#)

21st, 22nd, 28th-31st October | Near Tamworth

[For Halloween 2023, Ash End House Children's Farm presents SPOOKY FARM!](#) This gruesome Halloween event includes unlimited time on the farm plus a new spooky trail, pick and carve a pumpkin, creepy crafts and a sweetie treat for every child. It's perfect for kids of all ages.

Halloween Trail | Draycote Water

28th October - 5th November | Near Rugby

Willow the Witch has left a trail of questions with clues hidden in the Halloween scenes. Collect a spooky trail sheet for £3 from the Visitor Hub to start your Halloween adventure!

Halloween Events | St Mary's Guildhall

28th October - 5th November | Coventry City Centre

St Mary's Guildhall will captivate guests with ghoulish medieval mysteries during October Half Term. You can experience hands on living history in the medieval kitchen, and explore Halloween traditions and superstitions. You can also book a Halloween Afternoon Tea for kids at the Tales of Tea Restaurant.

Halloween at The Barn | The Barn at Berryfields

20th - 31st October | Meriden



Get ready to go pumpkin picking in the giant homegrown pumpkin patch, enjoy the Eco-skating rink surrounded by twinkling lights and spooky faces. Finish off with The Barn at Berryfields' epic award-winning streetfood, including stone-baked pizza, burgers and a fully stocked bar!

Halloween Spooktacular & Train Ride | Heart of England

27th, 28th, 29th, 30th & 31st October | Fillongley

Head to Heart of England for a Spooktacular Family Festival! All aboard for an exciting creepy adventure aboard the Train through the woods, and then head to the Festival Village for lots of

family fun. Includes dancing in the spooky disco tent, shopping village, meeting characters, a crafting area and games with prizes.

[And there's more!](#)

[Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to find your fun.](http://www.coventryrocks.co.uk)

WHAT'S ON OCTOBER HALF TERM



[Dipp-E VR | Herbert Art Gallery & Museum](#)

23rd September - 31st March 2024 | Coventry City Centre Immerse yourself in the 175 million year journey of the Herbert's ichthyosaur skull and experience the power of interactive storytelling with Dipp-E VR! Each experience lasts approximately 5 minutes, suitable for ages 5+ and costs just £5.

Junk Modelling Maker Challenge | Coventry Transport Museum

[28th October - 5th November | Coventry City Centre](#)

Get creative by upcycling waste and make junk-model-monsters! Suitable for all ages - FREE with admission.

The King of Nothing | The Albany Theatre

[Wednesday 1st November | Earlsdon](#)

With songs, puppetry, slapstick and more, the two Swindlers will weave their cunning magic on children and adults alike. Don't miss this awesome re-telling of Hans Christian Andersen's Emperor's New Clothes. For ages 5+. **Get £2 off tickets with code CRK2**

Halloween Makers Market | Fargo Village

[28th and 29th October | Far Gosford Street](#)

Find a selection of the most monstrous makers and deadly designers for a Halloween special at Fargo Village. From candles & needle felted pumpkins to jewellery & sweets and much more.

The Smeds & The Smoos | The Belgrade Theatre



31st October and 1st November 2023 | Coventry City Centre Soar into space with this exciting adaptation of the award-winning book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. On a far-off planet, Smeds and Smoos can't be friends. So when a young Smed and Smoo fall in love and zoom off into space together, how will their families get them back? Perfect for ages 3+.

Wildlife Photographer Of The Year | Herbert Art Gallery

[27th October - 1st April 2024 | Coventry City Centre](#)

The world-renowned Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, on loan from the Natural History Museum in London. The exhibition features images which capture fascinating animal behaviour, spectacular species and the diversity of the natural world.

[And there's more!](#)

[Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk](http://www.coventryrocks.co.uk) to find your fun.

FANG-TASTIC HOLIDAY CLUBS



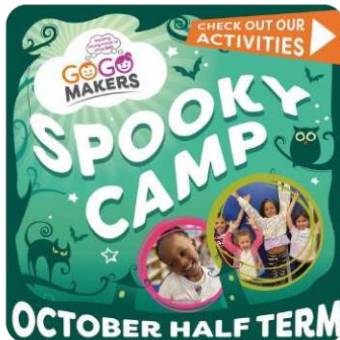
Super Sports Holiday Camp

For ages 5-16 | Bablake School

Super Sports Camps provide fun, professional coaching during the School holidays for children between 5-16. Your kids will receive coaching in football, netball, rugby, hockey, tennis, gymnastics, cricket and swimming.

Get 5% off with code ROCKS23.

Visit teamsupersports.co.uk to book your place.



GO GO Makers Holiday Club

From Reception to Year 6 | Finham Primary School

Go Go Makers Holiday Clubs are perfect for kids from Reception to Year 6. There's loads of activities to choose from including Ghoulish Games & Fun, Wicked Arts & crafts, Spooky Sports, Potions & Hocus Pocus in STEAM, AAArrrrchery, Dance & musical theatre and more!

Visit www.gogomakers.co.uk to book your place.

FANCY A BITE TO EAT?

If you're looking try try a new restaurant or café this Half Term, then head to our **Places to Eat Collection**. It features over 50 local eateries, and includes everything from community cafes to pizza restaurants, curry houses, dessert cafes and more!

Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to browse the collection.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



There are some amazing events coming up - so grab your diary and get planning!

[Cinderella | The Belgrade Theatre](#)

[22nd November to 13th January | Coventry City Centre](#)

This Christmas you're invited to a Royal Ball at the Belgrade Theatre with the nation's favourite panto, Cinderella! This wonderful rags-to-riches tale is guaranteed to delight all the family and bring a touch of magic to your festive celebrations.

Vintage Sleigh Ride | Coventry Transport Museum

25th November - 23rd December | Coventry City Centre Take a ride on an enchanting vintage sleigh, meet Santa, tell him your Christmas wishes, and collect your gift from the elf's toy shop. Admission to Coventry Transport Museum is included in the ticket price. Booking essential!

[The Gruffalo | Warwick Arts Centre](#)

[28th November - 24th December | Canley](#)

Join Mouse on a daring adventure through the deep, dark wood in Tall Stories' magical, musical adaptation of the classic picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Songs, laughs and monstrous fun for children aged 3 and up and their grown-ups, in this much-loved show!

Wizard of Oz on Ice | Planet Ice Arena
Tuesday 5th December | Coventry City Centre



This season, Planet Ice present a fun filled version of the Wizard of Oz adapted by the Show & Skate class of amateur skaters and supported by their Professional on Tour cast. A magical evening's entertainment for the whole family, guaranteed to fill the hearts of young and old with the spirit of Christmas.

Santa's Sparkly Surprise | The Belgrade Theatre

7th - 24th December | Coventry City Centre

Bring your little ones to see Santa, Ellie the Elf and the gang! Get the festive season off to a magical start by helping Rudolph and Mouse bring Christmas to the North Pole. Meet Santa and receive a Christmas gift. Perfect for ages 2-6.

And there's more!

Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to find your fun.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Razzamataz Theatre School

For ages 4-18 | [Blue Coat School](#) | FREE Trial available!

Multi award winning Razzamataz runs sessions at Blue Coat School in Coventry. Razzamataz offers a safe space for kids to explore their voice, imagination, and gain skills for life. They specialise in

Musical Theatre and Commercial styles including street dance, pop, singing, and acting, taught by industry professional teachers.

Head to coventryrocks.co.uk & search "Razzamataz" for info.

Master Mind Tuition

From KS1 Upwards | [Online or Face to Face](#)

Master Mind Tuition offers tuition for Key Stage 1, 2, 3 & 4 pupils, including those preparing for 11+. Does your child need some extra support in achieving their academic goals? Master Mind Tuition will invest in your child, using a variety of resources to build confidence and increase motivation for learning.

Email admin@mastermindtuition.co.uk for info.

H2O Swimming

Ages 4+ | Bablake School & West Coventry Academy



[H2O is a thriving local Swim School](#) who offer private and group swimming lessons for children age 4+. Classes run at Bablake Sports Centre and West Coventry Academy. H2O also offer holiday clubs, crash courses, family swim sessions, swimming parties and adult fitness classes too. Get in touch to book a Free Trial! [Head to \[coventryrocks.co.uk\]\(http://coventryrocks.co.uk\) & search "H2O" for info.](#)

LOOKING FOR KIDS CLASSES?

Coventry Rocks now features over 200 kids classes taking place locally. So whether you're looking for something specific, or just browsing for ideas, we've got you covered!

[Baby & Toddler Groups](#)[Swimming Lessons](#)[Music Lessons](#)



Dance ClassesDrama ClubsArts & Crafts

GymnasticsSports TeamsPregnancy & Adult

[Browse Groups & Classes on www.coventryrocks.co.uk](http://www.coventryrocks.co.uk)



Like what you see? At Coventry Rocks we love to write open and honest reviews of local places, making it easier for you to plan brilliant days out!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see what we've been up to!

COVENTRY ROCKS RECOMMEND

Secret Quarry Garden| Baginton

We love spending time at the Secret Quarry Garden in Baginton - it's such a hidden gem! Did you know this wildlife haven was created over 30 years ago from an old quarry, once full of rubbish and cars! Now it is a beautiful garden, loved by many, with so much to explore. We enjoyed exploring the paths, hunting for hidden rocks and smelling the gorgeous flowers. Highly recommended for getting some fresh air this Half Term! **Find all the details in our Parks & Walks Collection**



The Green Fairy Trail

If you're looking for something to do, we'd definitely recommend the Green Fairy Trail, Lichfield - and it's FREE! The Green Fairy Trail is a recycled, interactive trail with lots of facts and information. Around the trail, it is full of little ones about the environment to see and explore, including fairy houses and shiny objects. We enjoyed making 'potions' and chatting to the fairies. **Find all the details in our Parks & Walks Collection**

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