



More News 10th November 2023

[St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter](#)



Don't forget school is closed to children on Friday next week as we have a staff training day. The staff will be working together with colleagues from across the Holy Cross Catholic MAC to improve our practice.

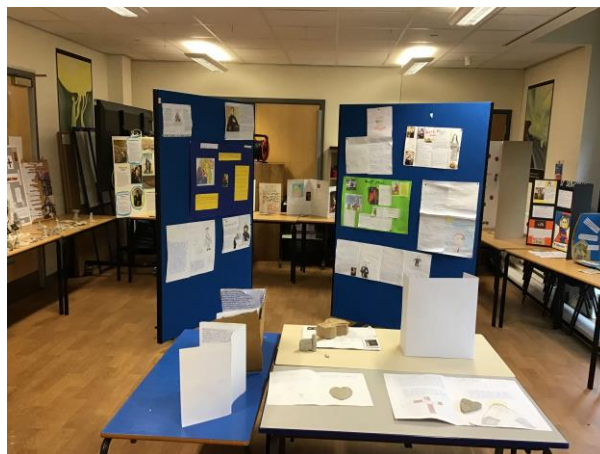
## Year 6 Saints Exhibition

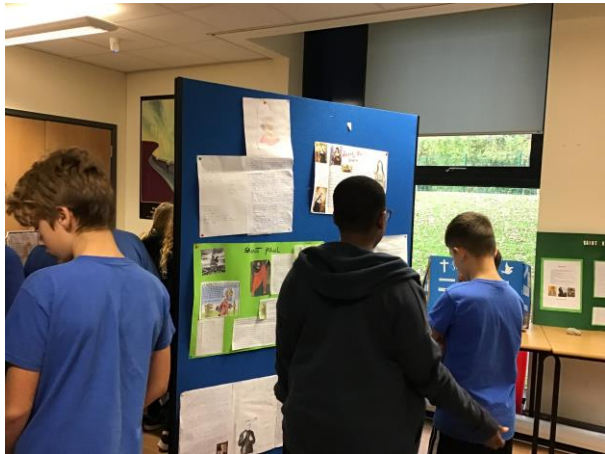
Year 6 put on a fantastic exhibition of the learning they have been doing about their chosen Confirmation saint yesterday. With saints as diverse as St Killian to St Lucia, our Year 6 pupils have put lots of thought into choosing a saint that means something profound to them. All classes had an opportunity to visit the exhibition and be inspired for their future learning. Parents were then able to visit the exhibition after school and before the Confirmation meeting last night.

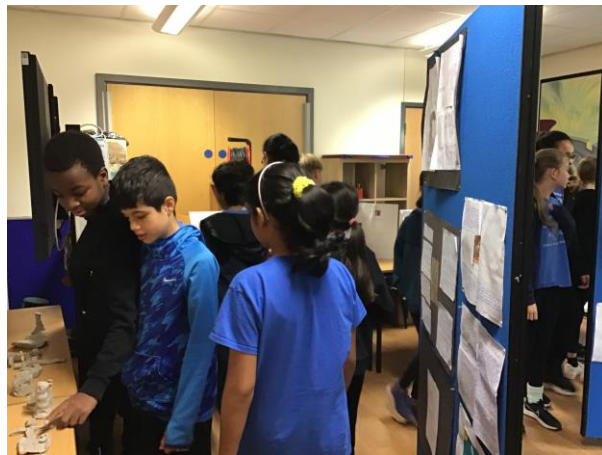
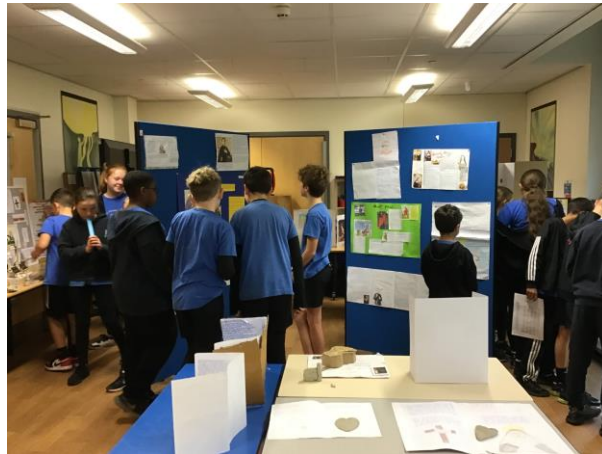
On Tuesday, Year 6 will continue their sacramental preparation with a retreat to further consider how they might use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in serving God.

Year 6 Confirmandi and their sponsors will be attending Mass in church on Saturday 18th November at 5pm, followed by rehearsal for Confirmation at 6pm afterwards.

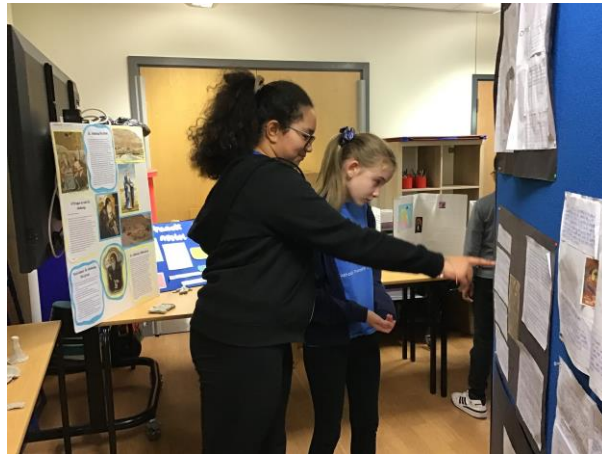
Please keep the Year 6s who are preparing for this sacrament in your prayers.











## Remembrance

This morning Mrs Staines delivered a beautiful Collective Worship for the whole school on remembrance. Children reflected on remembering those who have died, been injured or otherwise affected by war and prayed for the souls of the lost and for peace across the world.



The school then marked remembrance this morning at 11am by listening to the Last Post followed by a minute's silence and saying together Eternal Rest. Our children were incredibly respectful and showed their gratitude with wonderful silence and contemplation.



## Lord Mayor's Remembrance Parade

From [Coventry Rocks](#):

The Remembrance Sunday Service commemorates the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. The service will be led by the Bishop of Coventry at the Cenotaph and is open to the public. It includes a military parade consisting of past, present and future armed forces personnel marching to the Cenotaph.

Coventry has a long history of promoting peace and reconciliation and honoring the contribution of servicemen and women over the years. [Coventry Peace Festival 2023](#) has a programme of events, all with promoting peace at it's heart.

Please see the Lord Mayor's letter below inviting all Coventry families to attend.



LORD MAYOR'S PARLOUR  
COUNCIL HOUSE  
EARL STREET  
COVENTRY  
CV1 5RR

Telephone Number: 024 7697 5555  
E-mail: lord.mayor@coventry.gov.uk

24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Headteacher

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to remind your schoolchildren about this year's Remembrance Day Service and Parade **on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10.30 am in the War Memorial Park.**

I know that schools already support the work of the Royal British Legion through the wearing of poppies, the symbol of Remembrance at this time, which is very appropriate to ensure our next generation understand the importance of the occasion.

Each year the service ensures that memories of ex-service men and women from WW1, WW2 and more recent wars are not forgotten. We would like the children of our city, and their families, to share in this year's event.

It would be appreciated if you could please inform your pupils at the appropriate time of the occasion.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Jaswant Singh Birdi  
Lord Mayor of the City of Coventry

## Anti-Bullying Week



Next week is Anti-Bullying Week. The theme of the week is taken from the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#):

Too often, we are silent when we see bullying take place, silent about the hurt bullying causes, and silent when we hear bullying dismissed as 'just banter'. It doesn't have to be this way. Of course, we won't like everyone and we don't always agree, but we can choose respect and unity. This Anti-Bullying Week let's come together to have discussions about what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying. Together, we can make a difference and take a stand against bullying.

We will talk about bullying in assembly next week, reminding children of what bullying is and what to do if children witness it or become a victim of bullying. Children will also reflect on bullying in their classrooms and through class collective worship.

You can find our Anti-Bullying Policy on our [website](#).

Thankfully, we find we have very few instances of bullying, but it is important that children know how to recognise it and what to do. It's also important that children are able to recognise the difference between falling out with friends and bullying.

As always, please do contact your child's class teacher if you think your child is being bullied.

## Road Safety Day

Next Wednesday is also Road Safety Day. The theme for this year is reducing speed.

Taken from [Brake](#):

Every time we drive faster than the speed limit, or too fast for the road conditions, we increase the risk of a crash – and we increase the chance that someone we love will be killed or hurt on a road.

Whoever you are, however you travel, We need to talk about SPEED.

For more information about reducing speed and saving lives, please take a look at the [website](#).





## PTFA Meeting

All parents and carers are invited to the next PTFA meeting which will take place on Monday 13th November at the Burnt Post at 6.30pm. The main purpose of this meeting is to organise Santa's Grotto so that Santa has a nice place to rest before the big day and plenty of opportunity to meet our STM children when he visits our Christmas Bazaar on Friday 8th December.

Please do come along - the PTFA are a friendly group who support the school in lots of ways to make sure children enjoy treats and create special memories.

## School disco!

The PTFA will be holding school discos this evening! All discos are being held tonight, so please read carefully to ensure no-one misses out.

Early Years and KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2): 5.15-6.15pm

Years 3 and 4: 6.30-7.30pm

Years 5 and 6: 7.45-8.45pm

Please remember that siblings cannot be left and children should not bring mobile phones.

There will be an opportunity to buy pre-loved uniform at the disco as well, so bring some extra cash as there are lots of uniform bargains to be had!



## School Photos on Monday

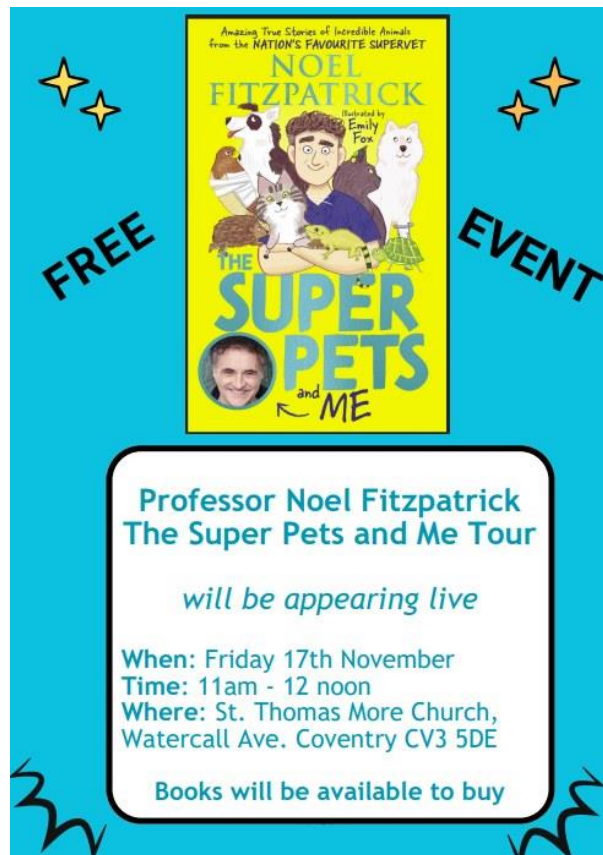
Individual/sibling (STM pupils only) school photos are being taken on Monday. Please can all children wear their correct winter uniform (jumper/cardigan, white shirt/blouse and red tie) so they look as wonderful as possible for their snap. If your child has PE on a Monday, for this day only, please can they bring their trainers/pumps (no kit needed) to school to change into. Please make sure they are named and in a named bag - we know how expensive trainers are and don't want any to get lost!

## Super Pets - Professor Noel Fitzpatrick is Visiting!

We are excited to share with our STM families that Professor Noel Fitzpatrick of Super Vet fame is coming to St Thomas More (Margaret Roper Room in the church) to share his latest book: The Super Pets and Me.

This event has been organised by [Kenilworth Book Shop](#), an independent local business, who are fantastic supporters of our school and have a brilliant range of books suitable for children in their store and available online.

Please see the attached flyer for more information about Professor Noel's visit.



## Coventry Oral Health Survey

Are you a parent or carer living in Coventry? Coventry is currently updating its plans around oral health support for children and young people and we would like your help in shaping this work.

Please can you complete this [short survey](#) to provide your views.

Thank you .

## Online safety parent/carers information - Microtransactions

Taken from [National Online Safety](#):

Seventy-six billion dollars! That's the value some experts have assigned to this year's global online microtransaction market – those additional in-app and in-game purchases which offer young players a temptingly quick way to enhance their digital experience for real-world money.

With concerns over the impact of allowing these paid-for upgrades to be available to children, some countries have already either banned microtransactions or subjected them to stringent legislation. This week's **#WakeUpWednesday** guide outlines the most significant risks.



## Mental Health Support

More and more families are being affected by mental health challenges. This is not something that only affects adults: many children are indicating they would like support in managing and promoting improved mental health.

[Kooth](#) is a website that offers advice, forums, strategies and can signpost to other areas of support. Take a look with your children to see if there is anything that will be beneficial to sustain or promote good mental health for them.

## 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.

## Autumn Underway in Year 2

Just before half term, Year 2 were very busy making sure they had lanterns to light the way in our dark evenings.







## 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).

## 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 [mandihulme1@gmail.com](mailto:mandihulme1@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!



## 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 a clearer understanding of what your child is learning so you can help them.

**What we're doing:** we have developed knowledge organisers for key units that are being taught each term/half term. These have been/are being sent home as well as being used in school so you can see what your child is learning, help them to remember key knowledge and help them to learn key vocabulary that they will use in their learning.

## 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 so far this year is 96.1%**

Year R	98.7%
Year 01	95.0%
Year 02	95.5%
Year 03	98.5%
Year 04	94.5%
Year 05	97.6%
Year 06	97.1%

## 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.





## 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](mailto:admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk)



## Important Dates

- 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
- Friday 17th November: School closed for inset day
- Friday 17th November: Prof Noel Fitzpatrick visit (Margaret Roper Room, Church)

