



More News 16th November 2023

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



Don't forget school is closed to children tomorrow 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 with our Catholic ethos at the heart of nurturing our children to reach their full potential.

## Year 6 Confirmation Retreat

On Tuesday, Year 6 enjoyed a beautiful retreat in the Margaret Roper Room. Thank you to Fr Simon for his support in making the retreat so reverent.

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.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Episcopal Vicar on Thursday who will visit the children in the afternoon and then confirm our children on Thursday evening. Please keep the Year 6s who are preparing for this sacrament in your prayers.









## Remembrance

This morning the school attended Mass together to pray for and remember all those in heaven. Fr Simon blessed the remembrance plaques in our Peace Garden with the GIFT Team and members of the parish.

## Anti-Bullying Week



This week we have marked Anti-Bullying Week. The theme of the week, taken from the [Anti-Bullying Alliance](#), is to *Make a noise About Bullying!*

In our Collective Worship on Monday, we turned to the Bible for guidance and found that the Bible tells us in lots of places that we must make a noise about bullying and stand up for those who need our help or who aren't able to make a noise themselves. Children practiced saying 'STOP!' and learned there are three different ways to make a noise:

- tell the bully to 'STOP!'
- tell a grown who can help
- ask the person being bullied if they need a friend or seek help from a friend if you are being bullied

Throughout the week, classes have talked about how to spot bullying and what to do and have reflected on bullying and following the instructions we found in the Bible during 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.

## Positive Noticing Day



This week we also took part in Positive Noticing Day. As a school, we want children to celebrate their own and their friends' differences, remembering that we are all made in the image and likeness of God, and therefore are perfect, just the way God made us.

Children took part in a class collective worship where they thanked God for the things that make their friends special and unique. Children then thought about one specific person each (randomly chosen from their class) and wrote a label for them, detailing what is special about that person. Children were then presented with their label so they knew what someone in their class notices about them.



## TTRS Spooktacular - Well Done STM!

STM won the Holy Cross Catholic MAC Times Tables Rock Stars October half term competition again this year with 3,753 school points, beating Christ the King to first place by over 600 points. The top twenty points scorers in our school were recognised in assembly this week, with the top ten scorers receiving certificates and a small prize. Our top three point scorers were:

1. Anthony, Year 6
2. Praise, Year 6
3. Timmy, Year 4

The top performing class in our school was 6T, contributing a total of 23,000 class points

Anthony in Year 6 was the top scoring pupil from all of the Holy Cross Catholic MAC schools, with a whopping 75,000 pupil points! Well done, Anthony! What a Times Table Rock Star you are!

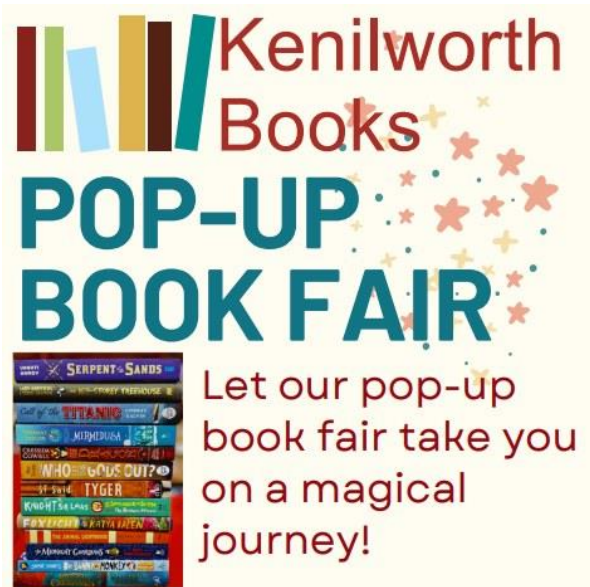


## Book Fair in School

On Tuesday 21st until Thursday 23rd November, Kenilworth Books will be holding a pop-up book fair and will have a wide selection of high quality books for sale. The sale will be in the Community Room and books will be for sale from 3pm-3:45pm each evening.

The school will benefit from a percentage of the proceeds of the sale, which will be spent on new books for our school library and class reading corners.

A perfect opportunity to start your Christmas shopping!



## Uniform (and Everything Else) Must Be Named

Please make sure all clothing your child wears to school and anything your child brings to school is clearly named: this includes coats, bags, water bottles... everything! If a child loses an item and their name is on it, it can be quickly returned to the right person with no problem. If a coat/water bottle/jumper/any other item is found but does not have a name in it, it is often impossible to return the found item to the correct person. Having your child's name in their belongings also means any mix-ups of belongings can be sorted out very quickly and your child should return home with the correct things.

Children inevitably lose things, but we encourage them to take an increasingly responsible attitude towards their belongings, especially as they grow older. We ask that you, as parents and carers, also help children to be prepared for the wider world by encouraging them to take responsibility for looking after their belongings. We will always help a child look for lost belongings, but the school is a large site with many different areas and lost items may have been accidentally taken home by another child, so if items are not clearly named it can sometimes be impossible to return them to the right person.

## PTFA

The PTFA are requesting **good quality, clean school uniform** donations for ages 6-10. Please bring any donations to the school office.

### Click and collect pre-loved uniform

To order pre-loved uniform you must:

- complete and return the order form to [admin@st-thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk)
- you will be alerted when the order is ready for collection from the school office (if it is available)
- make payment (the correct cash) when you pick up your order from the school office

The PTFA are also hoping to be able to set up a Pre-Loved Holy Communion clothing loan facility to run alongside our Pre-Loved uniform sales. Please bring any donations to the school office.



## 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 - Smart TVs

Taken from [National Online Safety](#):

Smart TVs are the future of home entertainment ... but how safe is that future? The percentage of UK households that own a smart TV has leapt from 11% to 74% in less than ten years – and that proportion is only expected to increase further as more viewers discover the various benefits of these sophisticated systems.

While the technology is impressive, fun and increasingly affordable, the flip side is that the number of people (especially young ones) who need to be aware of their risks has risen commensurately. This week's **#WakeUpWednesday** guide outlines how to avoid some common smart TV hazards, so that you can relax a little when your children do.





## 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.

## 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).

## Upcoming Christmas Dates

School is always at it's busiest as we prepare for Christmas through Advent, particularly in the last few weeks of term. There will be lots of things going on, so to help parents and carers plan ahead,

please see below for the list of events that are planned. Please note, this is to give you advance notice; more information about the different events will be shared by the appropriate members of staff nearer the time.

- Advent Day, Friday 1st December (Children may wear Christmas jumpers to school. We ask that children in EYFS/KS1 bring in chocolate that can be used as a prize on the chocolate tombola and children in KS2 bring in a bottle of drink, that can be used as a prize on the drinks tombola for the Christmas Bazaar)
- Parish Christmas Bazaar, Friday 8th December (Please see below for how you can help.)
- EYFS Nativity, Thursday 14th (afternoon) and Friday 15th (morning) December
- School (KS1 and 2) Carol Service, Tuesday 19th December, 6pm
- Theatre trip, Wednesday 20th December Years 4,5 & 6
- Pantomime, Thursday 21st December Years 1,2 & 3
- School finishes for Christmas, at 3.20pm on Friday 22nd December

## Christmas Bazaar

Santa will be visiting! We know we have lots of good girls and boys at STM, so he'll definitely be busy! Please see the attached flyer to book a slot (from next week on Arbor) to visit Santa while at the 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!



## 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	91.7%
Year 01	95.0%
Year 02	98.8%
Year 03	94.6%
Year 04	97.0%
Year 05	93.4%
Year 06	98.6%

## 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 17th November: School closed for inset day
- Friday 17th November 11am: Prof Noel Fitzpatrick visit (Church)
- Tuesday 21st-Thursdays 23rd November: School Book Fair
- Thursday 23rd November 7pm: Yr6 Confirmation
- Tuesday 28th 9am : Rock Steady Concert
- Wednesday 29th November 9am: Prospective parent tour
- Friday 1st December: Advent day - wear festive jumper (bring a bottle/chocolate)
- Friday 8th December: Parish Bazaar
- Thursday 14th December (pm): EYFS Nativity
- Friday 15th December (am): EYFS Nativity
- Tuesday 19th December 6pm: KS1 and 2 Carol Service
- Wednesday 20th December: Theatre trip Years 4,5 & 6
- Thursday 19th December: Pantomime Years 1,2 & 3
- Friday 22nd December 3.20pm: School closes for Christmas

