



More News 24th November 2023

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



Year 6 Confirmation

Yesterday evening, 36 children from the parish, including 33 children from our Year 6, received the Sacrament of Confirmation in a beautiful Mass celebrated by Canon Paul McNally. Canon Paul visited school before the Mass yesterday afternoon to talk to the Confirmandi about the grace of the sacrament and to find out more about their chosen saints.

The Mass was beautiful, with the faithfulness of children and families being evident in the prayerfulness throughout the service.

The whole of Year 6 have celebrated this morning with a Confirmation breakfast.

This was also the debut public performance of the newly formed school choir, who sang beautifully.

Thanks go to the staff who worked so hard to prepare the children and the evening and those staff who supported through their attendance, to Miss Rutter who prepared the Confirmandi who do not attend STM, parents and carers for their work in preparing the children, Fr Simon and Canon Paul for the lovely Mass, Deacon Leo and the altar servers, the choir and the parents/carers of children in the choir who brought them out on a dark November night.

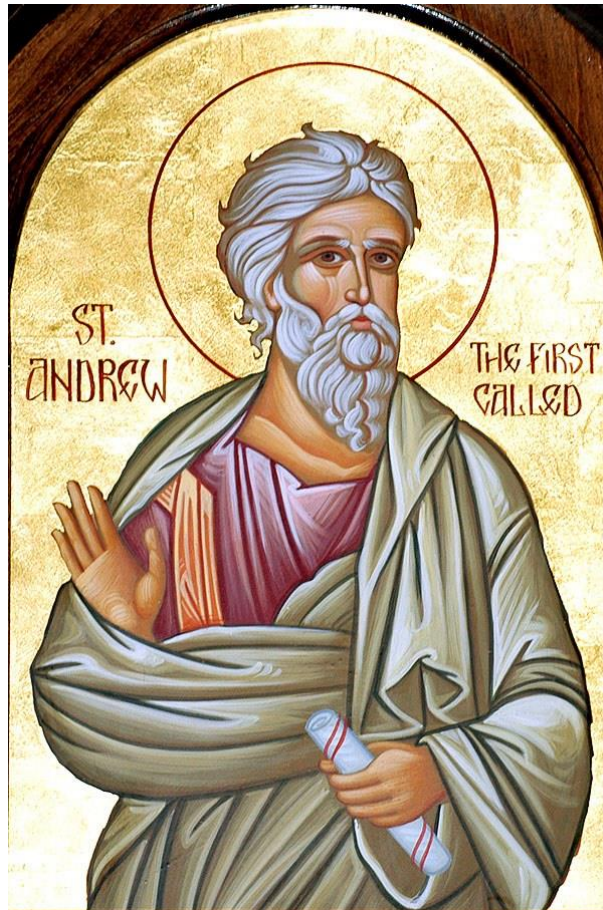
Please keep the Confirmandi in your prayers.

St Andrew's Day

Thursday 30th November is St Andrew's Day.

St Andrew was one of the first disciples chosen by Jesus and is credited with being one of the first people to spread the Good News across the world. He is the patron saint of fishermen and singers and also of several countries including Scotland.

To mark the day, children are invited to wear something tartan with their normal school uniform on Thursday.



Advent Day - Friday 1st December

On Friday (1st December), we will be holding our annual Advent Day when the school prepares faithfully and practically for the start of Advent. Children will be enjoying a special class Collective Worship, decorating their classroom, creating their Advent wreath and learning about an aspect of Advent. The day will finish with singing some Advent hymns together with Fr Simon.

Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumper to school on this day and are asked to bring in goods for the parish Christmas bazaar in return.

EYFS and KS1 to bring in chocolate for the chocolate tombola

KS2 to bring in bottles (preferably alcohol please) for the bottle tombola

Please do not feel the need to buy a new Christmas jumper for your child to wear - a nice top with some tinsel attached is fine. We want children to enjoy the day without any of our families worrying about additional costs.



Coventry City Centre Blessing of the Crib

The Season of Advent will soon be upon us, and the annual [Blessing of the Crib](#) in the city centre will be at **4pm** on **Sunday 3rd December**.



Nursery, Reception and Year 1 Nativity

The children in nursery, reception and year 1 are busy practicing for their Nativity performance in a few weeks. Parents and carers of children in these classes will have received an email today giving more information.



STM Sporting News

Boys' Football Team

St Osburg's 3-6 St Thomas More

Congratulations to the Boys' school football team who recorded another victory away at St Osburg's. A solid performance from back to front resulted in the three points returning to STM. A shout out to Patrick and Thomas who both respectively scored hat-tricks to add to their goal tallies for the season with some great finishes. The boys now sit top of the table with three victories out of three! Player of the match went to Max who pulled off some outstanding saves to keep the opposition at bay.

Girls' Football Team

St Thomas More 1-1 Holy Family

The return of a Girl's Football Team to St Thomas More was greeted by a mass of spectators ready for the girls in blue to face a well organised Holy Family side. Maximum effort was given from everyone who took part and the girls thoroughly deserved to come away with a point after the final whistle. The scoring was opened by Eva M who calmly finished her 1 V 1 past the oncoming goalkeeper however the points were split after a late penalty, given for handball, was converted. A combination of some great tackling by the defensive duo of Cara and Clara among some crucial saves made by Ella, cancelled out any attacks attempted by Holy Family. A performance to be proud of considering this was the team's first ever game together after a handful of training sessions.

Netball Team

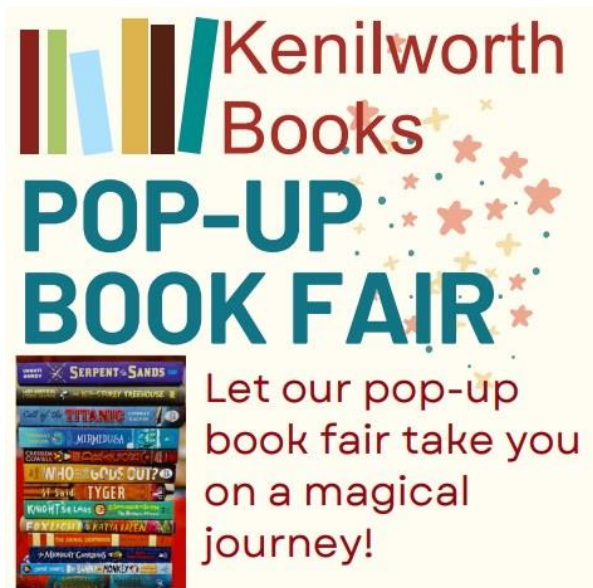
St Thomas More 2-3 Christ The King

Well done to the school Netball Team who narrowly lost to Christ The King on Monday. A good performance throughout the team but Christ The King snatched a late point in the final quarter to seal a 3-2 win. The team came from behind to level up the game on two occasions. A superb long range looping effort from Caiden levelled the scoring at 1-1 and an equaliser from Cara who calmly converted a well worked counter attack for 2-2. Player of the match went to Keisha for her all-round performance in all positions played from blocking, interceptions and creating chances.

Book Fair in School

The book fair has been a great success again this year! It's clear our children have a real love of reading and this is something that has been shown to be a key factor in success later in life.

Thanks go to Kenilworth Books and Debbie who ran the fair.



Understanding and Supporting Your Child with Autism and Sensory Processing Difference

In partnership with SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS), Coventry Complex Communication Team (CCT) SENDIASS will be running a **FREE ONLINE session** for parents/carers on '**Understanding and Supporting your Child with Autism and Sensory Processing Difference**'

The aims of this sessions are:

- This training session supports parents and carers in gaining a better understanding and insight into some of the sensory differences experienced by children and young people on the Autism spectrum.
- To explore the eight sensory systems and how your child might process, interpret, and organise this information
- To build a bank of strategies to support your child in managing their sensory differences and needs
- It provides support in developing a bank of strategies and how to implement and monitor a sensory diet.

Your child does not need an Autism diagnosis to attend this session.

When: Tuesday 5th December 2023, 9.30am-12pm

Where: Online (this session will be delivered 'live' online over Microsoft Teams - session links will be sent out via email 2-3 days prior to the date of the session, booking confirmations are sent within 5 days of booking)

To book your place please email SENDIASS: iass@coventry.gov.uk or TEL: 024 7669 4307. *Please quote 'CCT' along with your name and email address when booking your place.



In partnership with SENDIASS, Coventry Complex Communication Team (CCT) are running a **FREE Virtual Session** for Parents and Carers

'Understanding and Supporting your Child with Autism and Sensory Processing Difference'

Tuesday 5th December 2023 (9.30am - 12pm)

This session aims to:

- Provide an understanding of sensory differences experienced by children with ASC.
- Explore the eight sensory systems and how your child might process, interpret, and organise this information.
- Provide strategies to support your child in managing their sensory differences and needs.
- To look at strategies on how to implement and monitor a sensory diet.



**COMPLEX
COMMUNICATION
TEAM**

To book a place (and get your link) please contact SENDIASS

Tel: 024 7669 4307 or email: iass@coventry.gov.uk

*Please QUOTE: 'CCT' when booking



**COVENTRY PARENT CARER FORUM
IS PLEASED TO BRING YOU
'ASK THE EXPERT'
ABOUT TRAVEL ASSISTANCE**

**ASK
THE
EXPERT**



**JOIN US VIRTUALLY AT 6-7PM WEDNESDAY
22ND NOVEMBER 2023**

**Jeanette Essex and her team will be on hand
to answer your questions.**

**Email Helen Britton @
covpf@entrustcarepartnership.org.uk
for more info**

entrust
care partnership

A poster for a SENDIASS Drop-in Session. At the top, it asks 'Do you have a query about Special Educational Needs?' with a logo for 'Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service'. Below this, it says 'New to the service? Have a 'quick' question or query?' and 'Come and talk informally to the SENDIASS team FREE Tea and Coffee available. No appointment required.' There are four cartoon characters with speech bubbles: 'My child keeps getting sent home', 'I'm 18, what are my educational rights?', 'Can my son get an EHC plan?', and 'My child is struggling at school, what can I do?'. The main text reads 'SENDIASS Drop-in Session Moat Family Hub Moat House Primary School, Deedmore Road, Coventry CV2 1EQ Wednesday 22nd November 2023 Drop in between 1pm and 3pm'. A note says '*For more complex queries or questions we may need to arrange a more detailed discussion with you, or you can call us directly.' At the bottom, it provides contact information: 'For further information or telephone queries please contact us on: Tel: 024 7669 4307 or e-mail: iass@coventry.gov.uk'.

The Big Ambition Survey

The Children's Commissioner is seeking views from children aged between 6 and 18 years old in England. Please see the message from her below:

Hi, my name is Rachel and I'm the Children's Commissioner for England. I have launched this survey, The Big Ambition, to hear from all children and young people in England aged between 6 and 18 years old. Adults can answer on behalf of a child or young person aged up to 18. I will use this survey to take children and young people's views to the Government. Everything you tell me will be kept private, and you don't have to answer any question if you don't want to. To find out more, visit my [website](#). Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. Just answer honestly!

If your child would like to share their views, the survey can be found [here](#).

Car Parking

We are very lucky to have such good car parking facilities for parents and carers. Please remember to park considerately and within the marked bays. Please ensure you walk your child from the car to the pedestrianised area and don't cross the yellow lines marking the pedestrian walkway.

It's so important everyone plays their part in our car park to keep our children safe!

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
- 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.

ST Thomas More Preloved First Holy Communion dresses and suits



Please donate your preloved First Holy Communion dresses, suits, accessories, smart shoes, etc

So they can be worn again by other families in our School and Parish family when celebrating the Sacrament. Please drop off at the School Office or any School disco.

The PTFA will make them available to buy or loan at preloved uniform sales and discos.

Online safety parent/carers information - Online Shopping on Black Friday and Cyber Monday

Taken from [National Online Safety](#):

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have ballooned in popularity during the past few years, as prices on almost everything are slashed for a few precious days. With consumers in the UK alone spending a staggering £9.4 billion over last year's discounted digital shopping weekend, it can often become a frenetic rush to grab tech, games and other products at knock-down prices.

Such radical reductions are especially welcome at this time of year – but Black Friday and Cyber Monday are also peak season for scammers, who bet on a sense of urgency blinding shoppers to the red flags in their 'offers'. The **#WakeUpWednesday** guide highlights some common warning signs to help you bag the goods without being left out of pocket.



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

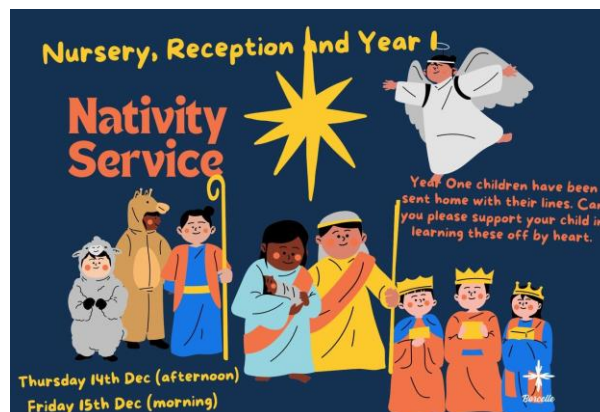
don't have enough adults for! If you, or an appropriate adult in your family, is able to offer some regular time each week that they can come into school to help, please do let us know.

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 (preferably alcohol please) 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.)
- Nursery, Reception and Year1 Nativity , Thursday 14th (afternoon) and Friday 15th (morning) December
- Years 2 to 6, Carol Service, Tuesday 19th December, 6pm
- Theatre trip, Wednesday 20th December Years 4,5 & 6
- Pantomime, Thursday 21st December Years 1,2 & 3
- Christmas lunch, Thursday 21st December
- 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! There are limited slots available left to book. If the booking will not let you continue, this means the time slot is no longer available.



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

Christmas bazaar raffle tickets have been sent home with your child (1 booklet per family). Please return counterfoils, payment and unsold tickets to school by Friday 8th December. No **tickets** to be sold to or by anyone under the age of 18. The name on the ticket must be the adult's name!



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 95.9%

Year R	92.0%
Year 01	93.7%
Year 02	93.2%
Year 03	94.3%
Year 04	94.6%
Year 05	94.5%
Year 06	96.7%

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



Important Dates

- Tuesday 28th 9am : Rock Steady Concert
- Wednesday 29th November 9am: Prospective (nursery & reception) parent tour - please call the office if you would like to join
- Thursday 30th November: St Andrews Day, children can wear some tartan in addition to their uniform
- Friday 1st December: Advent day - wear festive jumper (bring a bottle/chocolate)
- Friday 8th December: Parish Bazaar
- Thursday 14th December (pm): Nursery, Reception & Year 1 Nativity
- Friday 15th December (am): Nursery, Reception & Year 1 Nativity

- Tuesday 19th December 6pm: Years 2 to 6 Carol Service
- Wednesday 20th December: Theatre trip Years 4,5 & 6
- Thursday 21st December: Christmas lunch
- Thursday 21st December: Pantomime Years 1,2 & 3
- Friday 22nd December 3.20pm: School closes for Christmas

