



More News 26th January 2024

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



Sacramental Preparation - Year 3

It was lovely to see so many parents, carers and children come to the Reconciliation meeting yesterday evening.

Preparations for receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and then First Holy Communion are well underway. Children will be attending Mass in the church tomorrow afternoon at 5pm.

Please keep the children in your prayers as they prepare for this special moment in their journey in faith.

Welcome Back, Year 6

Year 6 had a wonderful time at Dol-y-Moch and came back looking at least 10 cm taller!

We hope the washing machines managed with the extra pressure and that you have enjoyed hearing the stories of bravery and fun that have come back from North Wales.

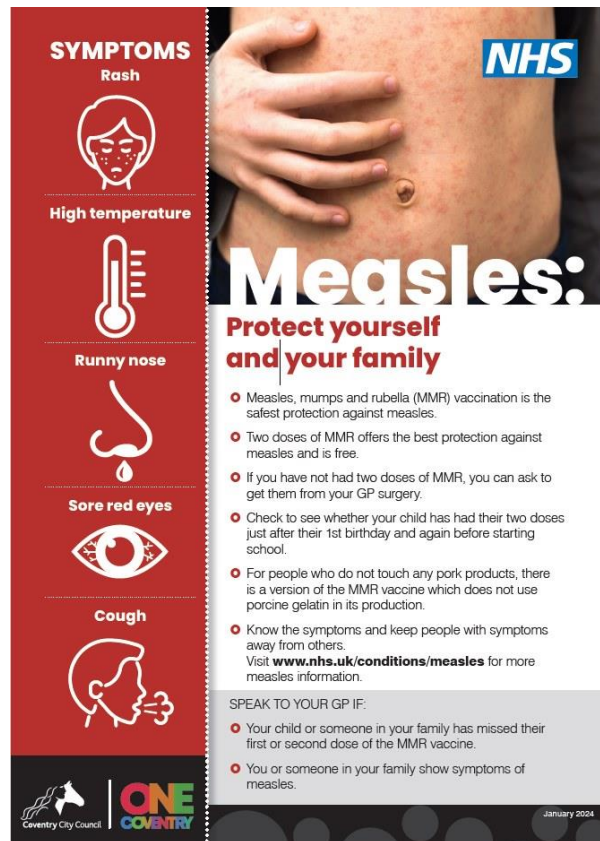
A huge thank you to the staff and volunteers who accompanied the children. We would not be able to run trips like this without their generosity.

IMPORTANT - Measles

You will have seen in the press that there are increasing cases of measles in the local area. Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and cause serious problems in some people.

Thankfully, you can prevent your child from catching measles by ensuring they are fully vaccinated. The MMR vaccination has been proven to be safe and is highly effective in protecting you or your child from measles.

If your child (or any member of your family) has not been vaccinated, please do contact your GP as soon as possible.



Express Yourself Day - Children's Mental Health Week

As a school, we have been focusing on children understanding that they are made in the image and likeness of God, and so each of us is unique and special and perfect, just the way we are. Children's Mental Health Week is from Monday 5th to 9th February, and as a school we will be observing this, with activities and reflections for children and tips being shared with parents. At the end of the week, on Friday, we will be joining in with the Children's Mental Health Week 'Express Yourself Day'. This will perfectly complement the work we have been doing in encouraging children to value their own uniqueness in whatever form that takes and to appreciate why these characteristics make them special.

We will be inviting children to come to school dressed in something that helps to express who they are. This might be bright colours, a sports kit, dress that shows what they would do in the future (a scientist outfit, or police uniform for example), or simply something that they feel really good in. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately and safely (no exposed torsos, high heels, etc), but otherwise, this is an opportunity for your child to *express them self!*



Local Authority Budget Proposals

The Local Authority is currently running a consultation on the budget proposals it is making for the coming years. They are proposing a number of changes that will affect residents across the city. You can read the proposal and have your say [here](#).

Reduction in School Bus Services

Part of the proposal includes a reduction in bus services for secondary school children. This will affect services for Bishop Ullathorne. Please see the letter (at the end of this newsletter) sent to parents and carers of Bishop Ullathorne students and Sep 24 Year 7 students. Even if your child will not be at Bishop Ullathorne in September 24, this could still affect your family in future years. Please read the letter carefully and do take part in the consultation to share your views.

Online Safety - Online Transactions

Unfortunately, we have become aware of children purchasing online items (for example things in Fortnite) for friends. This is obviously happening outside of school, but has an impact on children's wellbeing in school and can cause upset when children do/do not bring in real money to compensate their friends or are not permitted to make purchases in their own online accounts.

Online safety falls under the safeguarding umbrella, so school will always take seriously the risks children are exposed to online and work with parents to help keep children safe. However, please note that school cannot be responsible for monies spent online. Please talk to your child about online purchases and ensure they know what they are/aren't allowed to do on their accounts. I strongly advise parents and carers to have very secure settings on devices and platforms to prevent children being upset and huge bills being created!

We have shared this parent guide before. Please read carefully to help safeguard your child from making inappropriate online transactions.



Online safety parent/carers information -Hate Speech

Taken from [National Online Safety](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.org/):

Contentious or provocative viewpoints are shared every second of the day online. That's not to say, however, that an opinion is less valid simply because it's initially unpopular: just think about Galileo or Emmeline Pankhurst. The facility to have our beliefs questioned – and to challenge other people's in return – is often a catalyst for scientific and social progress.

With disturbing frequency, though, some individuals post damaging hate speech online under the guise of 'freedom of expression' – and unless young people can identify hate speech, there's a risk of them being influenced by such harmful content. Our **#WakeUpWednesday** guide explores the crucial differences between free speech and hate speech.

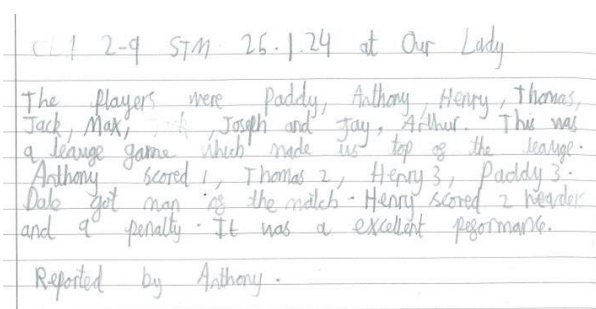


Year 6 Parent/Carer Consultations

Parents and carers of children in Y6 have received information about the Year 6 parent/carers consultations that will take place on Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th of February. Please note parents/carers of children with SEND will receive an invitation to a separate meeting which will cover the parent/carers consultation conversation and focus on their additional needs, so there is no need for parents/carers of children with SEND to book an appointment for the parent/carers consultation meeting.

The parent/carers consultations for children in Nursery to Year 5 will take place early in the summer term. This is to allow your child's assessment information from the end of this term to be analysed so that teachers can give you the most useful information in the meeting. The summer term 'drop-in' opportunity to discuss your child's report at the end of the year will continue to be at the end of the summer term.

Sports News



Gymnastics Club

Due to a low intake we have had to move our gymnastics club from Wednesday morning to Monday after school. If you have not already secured a place for your child then please book via the Arbor app. Places are available for children from Years 3-6, for a total of £18.00 for 7 sessions (29th Jan-18th March).

Cardinal Newman Consultation

The Department for Education, Holy Cross Catholic Multi-Academy Company (HCCMAC) and BAM Construction are pleased to share details of their proposals for the redevelopment of Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Sandpits Lane.

Your views are welcomed and can be shared in the [consultation](#) that is currently taking place. Please do take a look and support this excellent opportunity for our Holy Cross Catholic MAC and the children in our HCCMAC schools.

The current school is designed for 1361 pupil places for ages 11-18 years old with 208 sixth form places, including provision for 15 additional resourced pupil places for pupils with EHCP.

The proposed development will provide a new two-storey teaching building, sports hall and sixth form centre to replace the existing buildings (with the exception of the Caretaker's cottages and the recently built dining hall). The relocated playing fields will be accessed via Sandpits Lane and Bennetts Road, with enhanced pedestrian and cycle access proposed to connect to improvements already planned in conjunction with the major residential development at Watery Lane.



Coombe Abbey Half Term Fun

Dates for February half term outdoor activities that are being delivered by the Outdoor Education Service (Coventry Outdoors) at Coombe Abbey Country Park are now available.

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 12th February, 10am – 3pm

Tuesday 13th February, 10am – 3pm

Wednesday 14th February, 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 via e-mail outdooreducation@coventry.gov.uk

Sports Development UK Holiday Clubs

Sports Development UK will be running their holiday clubs for primary aged children, using STM as their venue, during the February half term, Easter holiday and May half term. The clubs will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout these periods. More information will be available soon.

Please note Sports Development UK run these clubs independently of the school.

PTFA - Summer Uniform

The PTFA met on Monday and are busy planning the events they will put on to support the children in our school and raise money for the 'extras' that are not covered by the school budget.

They would like to provide opportunities for parents and carers to buy pre-loved summer uniform at vastly reduced prices. If you have any summer uniform that is in good condition but you no longer need, please donate it to the PTFA. Please ensure any donated uniform is washed before you send it in to school. Thank you.

Online Sleep Workshop


Sleep issues are common for children and young people and can have a huge impact on the quality of family life. This two-hour workshop looks at the importance of sleep, understanding sleep cycles, causes of sleep issues and what you can do to support your child to sleep better.

The next session is on 4th March on Teams.

For further information or to book your place on the workshop please email:

parenting@coventry.gov.uk Please include the following details in your email: Preferred workshop date, Your name, address, postcode, parents email, age of child and child's name.

Sleep Tight Workshop for parents/carers of children
aged 1 year and over
Tuesday 9th January 1-2:30p.m.
Monday 4th March 1-2:30p.m.
This session will be delivered virtually on Microsoft Teams







NEW DATES
JUST ADDED!

Sleep issues are common for children and young people and can have a huge impact on the quality of family life. This two-hour workshop looks at the importance of sleep, understanding sleep cycles, causes of sleep issues and what you can do to support your child to sleep better.

This session will be delivered by a parenting practitioner who has been trained by The National Sleep Charity.

For further information or to book your place on the workshop please email:
parenting@coventry.gov.uk
Please include the following details in your email:
Preferred workshop date, Your name, address, postcode, parents email
age of child and child's name



Early Help - Virtual Family Hub

Early Help is a partnership of organisations that provide help, advice and support to children, young people and families.

The aim of Early Help is to help you as soon as possible and prevent problems from getting worse by providing you support, as early as possible. Early Help services can help families, children and young people - pre-birth to 19 years old and 25 years old where there are special educational needs or disabilities

You can find lots of helpful information in different areas of life at the [Virtual Family Hub](#).

Attendance is important!

We monitor all pupils' attendance and will contact you (often by letter and text message) if their attendance is getting lower than we'd expect. Please don't be offended - 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 95.4%

Year R	96.2%
Year 01	98.7%
Year 02	96.1%
Year 03	96.0%
Year 04	98.0%
Year 05	95.6%
Year 06	97.1%

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 30th January: Vision Screening, Reception
- Thursday 1st February, 2.30pm: Guitar Assembly
- Tuesday 6th February: Yr6 Parent/Carer Consultations
- Tuesday 8th February: Yr6 Parent/Carer Consultations
- Monday 12th to Friday 16th February: School Closed for Half Term
- Monday 19th February: School closed for all pupils, MAC Inset Day
- Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st February: Y5 Alton Castle



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School



Leasowes Avenue Coventry CV3 6BH

Telephone: 024 7641 4515

Email: admin@bishopullathorne.co.uk www.bishopullathorne.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Billings

Tuesday 23 January 2024

Dear families

School bus services from September 2024

Before Christmas I wrote to you regarding Coventry City Council's intention to remove the funding for Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School's bus services from September 2024. This would impact:

- **The Number 50 Bus**
- **The Number 60 Bus (expanded capacity to be removed)**
- **The Number 48 Bus**
- **The Number 40 Bus**
- **The Number 49 Bus**

This proposal is currently under review with the council and they are requesting views from invested parties on the funding decisions being made. You can access the consultation here:

<https://letstalk.coventry.gov.uk/budget24-25>

I would strongly suggest families who use the school bus services respond to the consultation as it will help to communicate parental concerns regarding safe travel.

In addition, parents have set up a petition in support of maintaining the bus services. This can be found here:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=469&RPID=23920454&HPID=23920454&fbclid=IwAR1DiuznkJM4WXwnpSJ0II5RAQnE4Qze0W3wuaAnJA--RB4nYCYHCA3wYc>

As a school we are extremely concerned about the impact the removal of this service will have on our young people. Currently 300 children use the school bus services daily with another 400 children accessing public bus services. Many students often have to wait up to an hour after school to access the public buses. In September this will include the additional 300 children trying to access already overwhelmed public bus routes. Therefore, any action we can take now as a community to try to preserve these services in some capacity is essential.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school or your local councillor.

Yours sincerely



Mr Billings

Headteacher

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Measles and the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine



Public Health, Education Services, December 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

There has been an increase in measles cases in Coventry. Most of the measles cases are children who have not had the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

This letter is to give you information about measles and encourage you and your family to have the MMR vaccine.

About measles

Measles is a disease which spreads very quickly and easily in communities such as schools and nurseries where people have not had two doses of the MMR vaccine. Measles can cause serious illness and can be fatal. People in certain at-risk groups, including babies and small children, pregnant women, and people with weak immunity (immunosuppressed) are at **increased risk** of complications if they catch measles.

Vaccination with **two doses of MMR** is the only way to give people maximum protection from this serious disease.

The **first signs of measles** are:

- High temperature (fever)

- Cold like symptoms such as runny or blocked nose, coughing, sneezing
- Red, sore, watery eyes
- A non-itchy, blotchy red brown rash. This usually appears a few days after cold-like symptoms (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to the rest of the body). The rash can be harder to see on darker skin tones.
- Small white spots appearing inside the cheeks and on the back of lips (for a few days)

A measles case is infectious for four days before any rash appears and for at least four days after the start of the rash.

Anyone with measles symptoms is advised to stay at home and phone their GP practice or NHS 111 for advice. After contacting the GP or NHS111, you should try to rest and stay at home.

If you do need to visit a GP or hospital, you must call ahead to let them know that it could be measles. The staff will make special arrangements to see you and/or your child so that, if they have measles, they won't pass it to others.

If your child has measles, they cannot attend nursery/school or group activities for 4 days after the start of the rash.

Important information about the MMR vaccine

The MMR vaccine can be given to anyone who missed their MMR vaccinations when they were younger. People can 'catch-up' by booking in for MMR vaccination at their GP practice free of charge.

The first dose of MMR vaccination is offered to children soon after their first birthday. The second dose is normally given before your child starts school.

- If your child has not received **two doses of MMR vaccination** as part of their childhood immunisation programme, you should take up the offer of the MMR vaccine for your child.
- If you are not sure if your child needs an MMR vaccine, you can check their Red Book (personal child health record) or you can contact your GP to check.

It is never too late to get vaccinated. MMR vaccination is very important when there are cases of measles in the community – as we have in Coventry now. This is because any child or adult that has not had **at least one dose of MMR and comes into contact with a person with measles cannot attend nursery/school or group activities for 21 days** after contact with the infected person. This is the time it can take for measles to develop.

Did you know?

- One person with measles can infect 9 out of 10 unvaccinated close contacts.

More information about measles and MMR vaccination can be found on the NHS website at www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/.

Thanks for your support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Nelson".A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Duggal".

Allison Duggal

Director of Public Health

Coventry City Council

Kirston Nelson

Chief Partnerships Officer

Coventry City Council