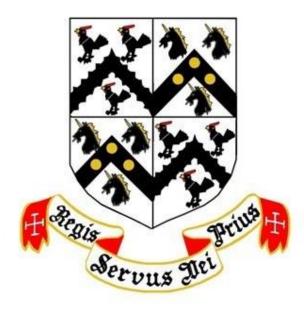


More News 2nd February 2024

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Candlemass

The school gathered together this morning for Candlemass. The GIFT Team Leaders processed beautifully during the Mass that was prepared so well by Year 2.

Thanks go to Fr Simon for celebrating such a reverent Mass with our school community.

Sacramental Preparation - Year 3

The Year 3 children who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion attended Mass on Saturday and received a blessing from Fr Simon. It was lovely to see all the children there, committed to their faith-life.

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

Peer Wellbeing Champions

Eight of our children in Year 5 have received training to become Peer Wellbeing Champions from Compass Shine in supporting their peers when they feel unsure, lonely or need other kinds of help. They will be available during playtimes and lunchtimes for anyone who needs a friendly ear. They are really looking forward to serving their friends across school and helping our school to be an even happier place.



Express Yourself Day - Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. The theme of the week is **My Voice Matters**. Children will consider different aspects of mental health in the whole school assembly on Monday and then begin to find ways of making their voice heard in a special Children's Mental Health Week assembly on Tuesday. Throughout the week, children will reflect on how to promote their own good mental health and on Friday all children are invited to come to school dressed in a way that helps to express who they are. This might be bright colours, a sports kit, dress that shows what they would to 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!* .

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 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.



There are helpful tips for parents and carers too. Please see below.





Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 6th February

On Tuesday, the school will be observing Safer Internet Day. Children will have activities to complete to remind them about staying safe online, and we're even expecting a visit from our PCSO to speak to Year 6 about Online Safety. You can find top tips for parents/carers in keeping your child safe online, <u>here</u>.

Online safety parent/carer information -Persuasive Design Online

Taken from National Online Safety:

Apps and sites are all competing for our attention. Over the years, numerous strategies have been developed which are intended to influence users' behaviour – making us more likely to remain on a site, game or platform for longer periods of time. These techniques are known as 'persuasive design' and can have a particularly profound effect on children and young people.

Despite these tactics' evident effectiveness, there are still plenty of ways to help prevent yourself (and your child) from being psychologically swayed. This week's **#WakeUpWednesday** guide breaks down the potential risks posed by persuasive design online – and offers some top tips for recognising and reducing its impact on young people's decision making.

Year 6 Parent/Carer Consultations

Parents and carers of children in Y6 have received information about the Year 6 parent/carer 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/carer 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/carer consultation meeting.

The parent/carer 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.

Chinese New Year Special Meal

On **Thursday 8th February** the kitchen staff will be providing a Chinese New Year special meal ahead of the celebrations during half term. If your child already has dinners on a Thursday there is no need to reply but if you would like your child to have a meal (@£2.30) instead of a packed lunch on **Thursday 8th February** please email the admin department <u>admin@st-</u>

thomasmore.coventry.sch.uk with your child's name and year group and we will add them to the list.



Coventry Rocks - Half Term Fun

<u>Coventry Rocks</u> is a website made especially for families to find things to do in the local area. The <u>February Half Term</u> What's On Guide is shown below. It is full to the brim with family friendly events for half term, amazing theatre shows for children and clubs that are on over the school holidays.



WHAT'S ON IN FEB HALF TERM



The Big Dippy Birthday Bash! | City Centre r all







Wednesday 14th February | FREE | Suitable for all ages To celebrate Dippy being here in Coventry for 1 year, The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum are throwing a BIG Dippy Birthady Bash! There will be free activities available throughout the day, fossil handling, curator talks, craft activities and some ROAR-some quests tool Stote are limited book titkets to exist discover guests too! Slots are limited, book tickets to avoid disappointment. Mum2Mum Market | Ernsford Grange Academy £2 Ad

Buy and sell preloved high quality baby, children and maternity items directly with other parents.

Free Re-Visit at Go Kids Play | Foleshill

12th - 18th February | Suitable for all ages Go Kids Play is an exciting indoor play and party centre in Foleshill, and this February Half Term they are offering a FREE RE-VISIT! There's a range of interactive activities such as laser arena, gokarts, three tier soft play frame, bouncy castle, toddler play area for under 5's and interactive role play. No booking needed, just turn up! Art Masterclass | City Centre

Thursday 15th February | Suitable for ages 5-16 Get hands-on with clay by making a self-portrait-inspired clay head. Just £10 per child, at The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum.

Lambing Live | The Barn at Berryfields

10th - 18th February | Suitable for all ages Watch newborn lambs take their first steps at The Barn at Berryfields this Feb Half Term! You can also meet the ewes, piglets and goats, decorate your own biscuit, go eco-skating, go-karting and axe-throwing, AND enjoy fantastic street food.

Wildlife Photography of the Year | City Centre n Every Day | F Suit

The world-renowned Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, on loan from the Natural History Museum in London, is now open at The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum! It features exceptional images which capture fascinating animal behaviour, spectacular species and the breathtaking diversity of the natural world.

And there's more! Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to find your fun.

www.coventryrocks.co.uk



COVENTRY

If you love live theatre, then these shows are for you Blue Badge Bunch | The Albany Theatre

AMAZING SHOWS FOR KIDS





Follow the Gruffalo's Child on her adventurous mission in Tall Stories' enchanting adaptation of the much-loved picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Let your imagination run wild with songs, laughs and fun for everyone aged 3 to 103.

day 15th February 2024 | Aimed at Key Stage 2 + Step into a world of rip-roaring laughter and learning with Blue Badge Bunch - the most engaging, inclusive kids game show taking the nation by storm! The perfect half-term activity for both younger and older kids to learn and have fun.

ay 16th February 2024 | Get 10% off tickets!

Pop Divas Live! is the UK's number one pop concert experience meaning you can sing and dance along to all your favourite pop stars! With family friendly choreography and lyrics your little divas and their friends will have the best time! Get 10% off tickets with code PD10

Zog and the Flying Doctor | The Belgrade Theatre 26th - 28th March 2024 | Suita ble for a

The crew are back with another 'Roar-some' adventure based on Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler's best selling book! With a little help from some friends and half a pound of cheese, can Pearl make her uncle better and prove princesses can be

wrocks.co.uk to find your fur





STATE OF

PLACES TO EAT? Find lots of amazing local restaurants, cafes, pubs and bars on Coventry Rocks! Browse the Places to Eat Collection

www.coventryrocks.co.uk

Pop Divas Live! | The Albany Theatre

HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS



There are some amazing holiday clubs and sports camps happening throughout the Half Term holidays. Here's some of our favourites!

es 5-11 | Wal

and childcare vouchers accepted.

SDH Academy Holiday Camp

GO GO Makers Holiday Club

Super Sports Holiday Camp -16 | King |











receive coaching in football, netball, rugby, hockey, tennis,

gynmastics, cricket and swimming. New customers get a FREE DAY! Visit teamsupersports.co.uk to book your place. Akwaba Centre Holiday Club ges 5-16 | Akwaba Centre, Stoke Alder The Akwaba Centre offers a home from home environment for children aged 5- 16.There are lots of activities available

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VIII School Super Sports Camps provide fun, professional coaching during the School holidays for children between 5-16. Your kids will

ofE Acad

something for everybody! Wrap-around options are available

es 5+ | 3 Venues: Allesley, Stivichall & Keresley Join SDH Academy during the school holidays! They provide an opportunity for every child to experience a range of activities including physical activity, outdoor education, team building, arts & crafts, performing arts & fun science experiments. Visit www.sdh-academy.co.uk to book your place.

Go Go Makers Holiday Clubs are perfect for kids from Reception to Year 6. There's loads of activities to choose from, tailored to each age group, including arts and crafts, dance, archery, sports, laser tag, fencing, lacrosse and more! Visit www.gogomakers.co.uk to book your place.

m Primary School

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

including sports, computer activities, painting, and soft play. Wrap-around options available. Childcare vouchers accepted. Email enquiry@akwabacentre.com for a booking form

www.coventryrocks.co.uk

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

MasterMind Tuition Tuition from KS1 Un



MASTERMIND Present the code below for 25% off your first month's bookings! MMTuition25

valid until July 2024

individualised lessons, tailored to the outcomes of the National Curriculum. They teach both face to face and online, for all year groups, including SATs, GCSEs, A Levels and 11+ prep. MasterMind Tuition thrive to ensure children are enjoying lessons and becoming confident in their skills. Confidence is the key to being a successful learner. The engaging lessons provide a

supportive environment, which improves student's subject knowledge, critical thinking and reasoning skills.

To book your free assessment, get in touch today by calling 07713128202 or email admin@mastermindtuition.co.uk The

assessment provides information on the students strengths, areas for development and style of learning, which is then used to plan next steps and lessons.





COVENTRY

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INTRODUCING NATURE MAKERS





Nature Makers Nature Inspired Arts & Crafts | Ages 0 - 11 Nature Makers are a brilliant local business who offer nature inspired arts and crafts sessions for kids and families. They have a range of baby, toddler and pre-schooler classes across Coventry and Balsall Common, plus after-school and holiday sessions for older children and families. Nature Makers sessions are an opportunity to have fun and complete calm and mindful activities with your little ones. Check out their half term sessions at

Check out their haif term sessions at www.nature-makers.co.uk/coventry-west



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 <u>www.coventry.gov.uk/coventryoutdoors</u> or contact us via e-mail <u>outdooreducation@coventry.gov.uk</u>

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.

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.



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.

Year R	97.7%
Year 01	97.3%
Year 02	93.5%
Year 03	94.6%
Year 04	95.3%
Year 05	93.4%
Year 06	93.5%

Whole school attendance so far this year is 95.4%

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 £30.00 per hour. Please enquire to: admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk



Important Dates

• Tuesday 6th February: Yr6 Parent/Carer Consultations

- Tuesday 8th February: Yr6 Parent/Carer Consultations
- Friday 9th February: Express yourself day non uniform!
- Monday 12th to Friday 16th February: School Closed for Half Term
- Monday 19th February: School closed for all pupils, MAC Inset Day
- Tuesday 20th February: Children return to school
- Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st February: Y5 Alton Castle



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,

K. Nelson. Altis - An And

Allison Duggal Director of Public Health Coventry City Council

Kirston Nelson Chief Partnerships Officer Coventry City Council