



More News 9th February 2024

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Half Term Next Week

Don't forget school is closed for half term next week and that Monday 19th February is a training day, so school will be closed to pupils that day too. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 20th February.

Children's Mental Health Week

This week we have been focusing on how to stay mentally healthy. The children enjoyed a lovely assembly thinking about the messages that we can take from The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy to look after our mental health. On Tuesday, children learned about using their voice to make a change and have voted to work with the catering team on improving the school lunches. Throughout the week there have been workshops going on with children thinking about managing their mental health in aspects like anxiety and healthy relationships.

Today, children were invited to wear clothes that allow them to express themselves. They looked fantastic and it was lovely talking to the children about why they had chosen their outfits.





Ofsted

This week we were pleased to show our Ofsted visitors just how wonderful our school is. The children were amazing! They talked about our school and their learning so articulately and behaved beautifully. I have been a very proud Head Teacher when sharing how our pupils make our school so special. Well done to pupils and the staff who have worked so hard in developing our school and in nurturing our children.

To celebrate and as a 'well done' to the children for their excellent work this week, the Holy Cross Catholic MAC kindly arranged for an ice cream van to come onsite this afternoon and provide ice creams or ice lollies for all the children. Thank you HCCMAC!

We will not have the final report for a few weeks, but we will share it with parents and carers as soon as possible.



Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 6th February

On Tuesday, children across the school reminded themselves of how to stay safe on the internet. Year 6 welcomed PCSO Matt, who talked to them about staying safe online in school and at home and how to stay safe on the internet as they grow older and move to secondary school.



Online Safety Workshop for Parents and Carers

Thank you to those parents and carers who indicated that they would attend an online safety workshop run by the PCSO. The majority of responses indicated that an evening workshop would be most popular, so we have arranged for an Online Safety Workshop for parents and carers of primary-aged children on Thursday 29th February at school, at 6pm. Some of the content of the course is not appropriate for children so please come without them. I would strongly urge you to attend as the workshop will provide an overview of the risks primary aged children are exposed to when online and how parents and carers can minimise the risk.

Calling all Local Celebrity Runners, Athletes, and Sporting Stars! Join Our Olympic Torch Relay!

In the run up to the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic games, 62 Coventry primary, secondary and special educational needs schools will be participating in a torch relay, the Flame of Friendship, leaving Coventry Cathedral on Thursday 22nd February and finishing on the University of Warwick campus on Monday 8th July. On the afternoon of Thursday 11th April, our school will be taking part in the relay where the torch will leave our school and make its way to Howes Primary School. If you or someone you know (including past pupils) have achieved something special within sports and would like to join us in our relay race please speak to Mrs Kirby or email our school admin.

Online safety parent/carers information -Monkey

Taken from [National Online Safety](#):

Online video calling with random strangers. It's hardly a new internet phenomenon – but the recent demise of Omegle has prompted the creation of several similar platforms bidding to fill the vacuum. One such contender is Monkey – a service that randomly connects its users for video calls, using their mobile numbers and Snapchat account details.

Monkey has surged in popularity since Omegle's shutdown in November 2023: visits to the site more than doubled within a month and have been climbing steadily ever since. Regrettably, it also seems that Monkey suffers from many of the same pitfalls as its notorious predecessor – our **#WakeUpWednesday** guide highlights these possible risks to young people in more detail.



Year 6 Parent/Carer Consultations

Apologies for having to postpone the Year 6 parent/carer consultations due to the Ofsted inspection we had this week. The evenings have been rescheduled to Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd February. If you have not already booked please do so via the Arbor App. Any appointments previously made have been cancelled so you will need to re-book - thank you for your understanding!

Chinese New Year

Nursery have been getting ready for Chinese New Year this week by tasting Chinese food and learning about the Chinese New Year celebrations. Thank you to Theo's Mum for coming in to talk to us. A very special thank you to Ricky from **Cheylesmore House**, chinese takeaway on Quinton Park for his extremely generous donation of tasty treats.

We wish everyone who will be celebrating Chinese New Year next week good luck in the year ahead and good health!





Lost Property

A silver chain has been handed into the school office, please contact us if you think it may be yours.

Coventry Rocks - Half Term Fun

[Coventry Rocks](#) is a website made especially for families to find things to do in the local area. The [February Half Term](#) 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.

FEBRUARY 2024

THINGS TO DO IN COVENTRY

THE ULTIMATE WHAT'S ON GUIDE FOR FAMILIES TO FIND THINGS TO DO IN THE LOCAL AREA

www.coventryrocks.co.uk

FIND HALF TERM FUN

AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON



FIND OUT WHAT'S ON

The Coventry Rocks website is full to the brim with things to do throughout the Feb Half Term holidays.

We've added 3 new buttons:

- Feb Half Term Events
- Local Days Out
- Places to Eat

There's also a tonne of Parks, Walks, Groups and Holiday Clubs to discover!

Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to browse the website.

LOOKING FOR INDOOR FUN?

Soft Play and Role Play Centres are a brilliant way to occupy the kids on a rainy day, or any day for that matter! We are very lucky to have some fantastic Soft Play and Role Play centres in and around Coventry - [read our guide](#) to see some of our favourites - perhaps you'll discover somewhere new!



FOLLOW US AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY!
Join thousands of local parents following us on Social Media. Just search *Coventry Rocks* and like our page!

www.coventryrocks.co.uk



WHAT'S ON IN FEB HALF TERM



The Big Dippy Birthday Bash! | City Centre
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 Birthday Bash! There will be free activities available throughout the day, fossil handling, curator talks, craft activities and some ROAR-some guests too! Slots are limited, book tickets to avoid disappointment.



Mum2Mum Market | Ernsford Grange Academy
Saturday 10th February | £2 Adult entry (kids free)
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, go-karts, 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 8-16
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
Open Every Day | From £4.50 | Suitable for all ages
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



AMAZING SHOWS FOR KIDS

If you love live theatre, then these shows are for you!



Blue Badge Bunch | The Albany Theatre

Thursday 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.



The Gruffalo's Child | The Belgrade Theatre

16th – 18th February 2024 | Suitable for ages 3+

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.



Pop Divas Live! | The Albany Theatre

Friday 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 | Suitable for ages 3+

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 doctors too?

And there's more!

Head to www.coventryrocks.co.uk to find your fun.

LOOKING FOR 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



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!



Onside Coaching Holiday Club

For ages 5-11 | Walsgrave CoFE Academy

Onside Coaching Holiday Club offers a brilliant mixture of Sports, Forest School, Team Building, and Crafts – there's something for everybody! Wrap-around options are available, and childcare vouchers accepted.

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



SDH Academy Holiday Camp

For ages 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 Club

From Reception to Year 6 | Finham Primary School

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.



Super Sports Holiday Camp

For ages 5-16 | King Henry VIII School

Super Sports Camps provide fun, professional coaching during the School holidays for children between 5-16. Your kids will receive coaching in football, netball, rugby, hockey, tennis, gymnastics, cricket and swimming. New customers get a FREE DAY! Visit teamsupersports.co.uk to book your place.



Akwaba Centre Holiday Club

For ages 5-16 | Akwaba Centre, Stoke Aldermoor

The Akwaba Centre offers a home from home environment for children aged 5-16. There are lots of activities available 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 Upwards | Online or Face to Face

Preparing for SATs, 11+, GCSE's or A Levels? Whether your child needs more of a challenge, is struggling or simply wants to achieve their next goal, MasterMind Tuition supports by providing 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.



Present the code below for 25% off your first month's bookings!
MMtuition25
valid until July 2024

£10 off at Bombay Palace in Earlsdon

Bombay Palace in Earlsdon is celebrating it's 40th Anniversary - and you're invited! Simply use the below £10 Gift Voucher when you dine Sunday - Thursday, up until 31/03/24.



www.coventryrocks.co.uk



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 www.nature-makers.co.uk/coventry-west

COVENTRY ROCKS RECOMMENDS...

Deep Sea Den | Centre AT7

Here's our little lady, doing her thing at the Deep Sea Den Soft Play at Centre AT7. We've been here for parties before, but did you know it's open Monday - Friday as well? There are lots of different activities for little ones, including slides, a small climbing wall, swinging ball, spinning lighthouse, basketball hoop, and plenty of soft play shapes (perfect for 'the floor is lava!'). We loved looking at the amazing underwater murals, and I thought it was all very clean and well maintained. There are toilets, picnic tables, a baby area, plus a café next door for coffee and snacks. Open weekdays only 10am-3pm. Find all the details in our Places to Visit Collection!



Like what you see? At Coventry Rocks we love to write open and honest reviews of local places, making it easier for you to plan brilliant days out! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see what we've been up to!

[@coventryrocks](https://www.facebook.com/coventryrocks) [@coventryrocks](https://www.instagram.com/coventryrocks)

www.coventryrocks.co.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 from 9.30am-15.00pm (wraparound available from 8.45am-15.30pm).

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



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

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	99.0%
Year 01	95.3%
Year 02	90.3%
Year 03	96.4%
Year 04	92.0%
Year 05	95.9%
Year 06	97.7%

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

- 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
- Tuesday 20th February: Children return to school
- Tuesday 20th February: Year 6 Parent Consultations
- Thursday 22nd February: Year 6 Parent Consultations
- Friday 23rd February times TBA: School Disco

- Monday 26th February 6pm: PTFA meeting @ The Burnt Post
- Wednesday 28th February: Reception & Yr6 Height & Weight check
- Thursday 29th February 6pm: PCSO Parent Workshop



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,



Allison Duggal

Director of Public Health

Coventry City Council

Kirston Nelson

Chief Partnerships Officer

Coventry City Council