



More News 23rd February 2024

**St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter**



## Welcome back Year 5!

Year 5 returned home from their 2 night stay at Alton Castle on Wednesday afternoon. They were very tired after their cycling, rope challenge and walking - as well as getting as muddy as possible - but came back happy and full of enthusiastic talk about their adventures! The staff and volunteers who accompanied them were delighted with their behaviour, thoughtfulness and caring attitude, reporting that they had been excellent. Well done, Year 5!

Thanks go to the staff and volunteers who made the residential possible (and who give so generously of their time), some of whom kindly stepped in at the last minute!











## Lost Property from Alton Visit



## Reconciliation

Please keep the Year 3 children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation next Saturday. The Year 3 children will attend Mass in the church at 9.15am and then will receive the sacrament in a service that will begin at 10am. The service will conclude with all those who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time and their families praying together once all children have made their confession.

## Stations of the Cross

As we begin our Lenten journey this year, we look forward to Year 4's Stations of the Cross Collective Worship. This year, the Stations of the Cross will be held in the church on Thursday 21st March at 1.45pm. Parents and carers are welcome and we look forward to welcoming parishioners as well.

## Swimming Gala

On Wednesday 17 STM children took part in the Swimming Gala held at Pingles Leisure Centre. The children showed excellent sportsmanship and determination and were great ambassadors to our school. Well done swimmers!



## School Disco - tonight!

Don't forget that the school disco is on in the hall tonight.

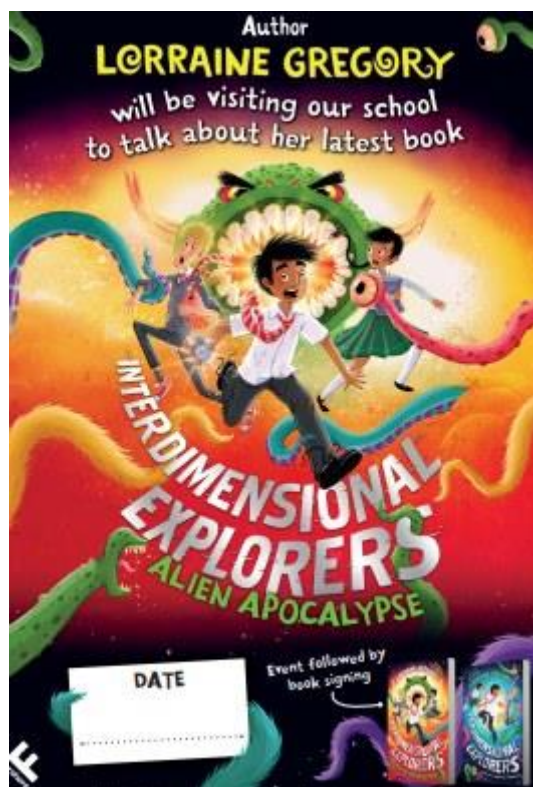
- 5.15-6.15pm: EYFS and KS1
- 6.30-7.30pm: Y3 and Y4
- 7.45-8.45pm : Y5 and Y6

Thank you to the PTFA for organising and running the discos!

## Getting in Touch

You may notice, going forward, that the email addresses of those involved in STM (staff, governors, etc) have changed slightly over half term. The structure of the addresses is now ...@hccmac.co.uk. Don't worry if you have sent an email to the old addresses - they are being forwarded to the new addresses and should still be received by the correct person. You will notice over the next few weeks that references to the old addresses are changed to the new address on the website, letter heads, etc, but for now, both are effective.

## World Book Day



We are very lucky that Lorraine Gregory will be visiting STM to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Lorraine will be talking to the KS2 children about her new book which is the second in a sensationally spacey, action-packed and adventure filled series

As well as an assembly there will be an opportunity for your child to receive a signed copy of one of Lorraine's books. If you would like to purchase one of her books - 'Interdimensional Explorers' or 'Interdimensional Explorers Alien Apocalypse' at a discounted price of £7.15 (RRP £7.99) please make a payment via Arbor by 12pm on Wednesday 6th March. Children will bring home their signed copies on World Book Day.

**To continue the World Book Day celebrations, Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book characters!**

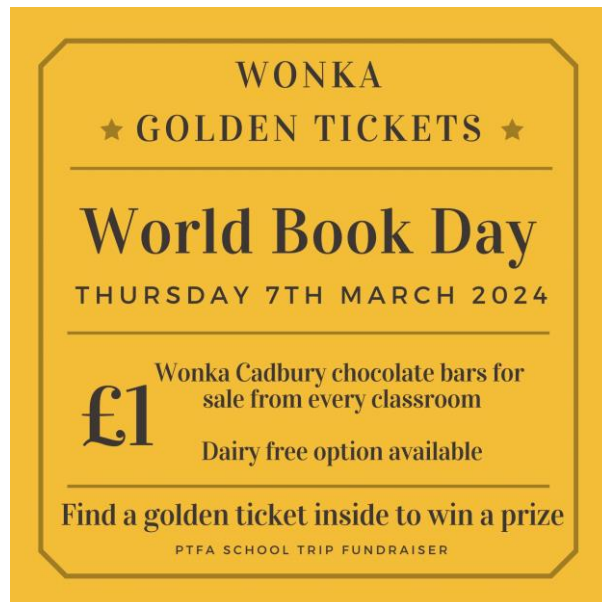
World Book Day celebrates the joy and value of books and reading, especially for children and so to help celebrate we ask children to come into school dressed as their favourite book character. Children are never too young to start their journey with books and the benefits of reading to your child is enormous. You can join us in building your child's enthusiasm for books well beyond World Book Day by reading together regularly.

We will also be hosting a school book swap on this day. We ask that children bring in to school a book that they wish to donate on Wednesday 6th March. Children will then have the opportunity to exchange their book for a different one to bring home and enjoy on 'World Book Day'.



In true Willy Wonker style, the PTFA have also organised for some Golden Tickets to be won on World Book Day. Chocolate bars will be available to buy for £1 (there is a limited selection of dairy-free chocolate available as well) on the day. Some of the Wonker Bars will contain golden tickets, which will each be redeemable for a prize.

Don't forget to bring in your £1!



## Online Safety workshop for Parents and Carers

As detailed on the newsletter before half term, I am very pleased to share that Matt, our Police Community Support Officer, will be running a workshop for parents and carers of primary-aged children on Thursday 29th February in school at 6pm.

The benefits of online use are myriad, but this also presents a huge area of risk to our children. As a parent myself, I know how challenging it can be to keep children safe online, especially as children grow and the risks on the internet evolve so quickly. This workshop will provide parents with an up-to-date understanding of the risks and potential harms and will equip parents with information and practical strategies to increase the way they can safeguard their children.

Please note there are elements of the workshop that are not suitable for children, so please do not bring your child with you: this is for adults only. Matt estimates that the workshop will run for roughly 1 hr 15 minutes and so should finish at approximately 7.15pm.



I strongly urge all parents and carers who can attend to do so, even if you did not previously indicate you would wish to attend when the survey was sent out originally.

## Parent Governor Election

We have a vacancy on our Local Governing Body for a parent governor. Please see the attached [form](#) regarding the nomination process.

If you are interested in the role and would like to find out more, please speak to Mrs Collins. Please read the information carefully as incorrectly filled out or late nomination forms cannot be accepted.

Governors meet once a half term (with a few additional meetings usually taking place each year) and help to drive the strategic direction of the school and ensure standards remain high.

This is the perfect opportunity to thank our hard working governors, who are all volunteers, and give so much of their time and support!

## Pupil Voice - Developing our Catering

You will remember before half term, pupils voted to make our school lunch offer even better than it already is. The Catering Team are really excited to work with our pupils to hear their thoughts and get their ideas for how to develop lunches to really match they children's wishes. Watch this space for more news on this!

## 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.



## SENDIASS Coffee Morning

This is a session for Parents/Carers of Children or Young People with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). The session offers a great way to meet other parents/carers who may be in a similar situation, and an opportunity to share with others in a friendly, non-judgmental environment, together with a member of staff from SENDIASS.

**When:** Tuesday 27th February 2024, 9.30am – 11.30am

**New Venue:** The Wave, Coffee Tots Community Room, New Union Street, Coventry, CV1 2PS

Please see the leaflet below for more information. If you would like to come along, please let us know so we have an idea of numbers. Contact us via email: [iass@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:iass@coventry.gov.uk) or TEL: 024 7669 4307.



## Please Use the Car Park Safely

Please remember to drive slowly, only park in designated parking bays and be very cautious in using our car parks safely. We ask that children are always supervised when walking across the car park and that the marked yellow walkways are used as these are the safest place for pedestrians. Thank you for keeping our children safe.

## 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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> January 1-2:30p.m.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](#).

## Good Shepherd Appeal

Your child will bring home their Good Shepherd Appeal box from Fr Hudson's Society.

For over 100 years, children attending schools within the Birmingham Archdiocese have supported Fr Hudson's Care by collecting loose change during Lent. The money collected is used to support vulnerable people in nearby communities.

Your child will be asked to collect any loose change in the box and then return it at the end of Lent. This year there is also a colouring activity that can be completed as well.



## 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	95.3%
Year 01	97.9%
Year 02	97.6%
Year 03	98.6%
Year 04	99.2%
Year 05	93.4%
Year 06	94.2%

## 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](mailto:admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk)

# room hire

## Important Dates

- Friday 23rd February, times as above: 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
- Thursday 7th March: World Book Day, dress up as your favourite book character





## 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.

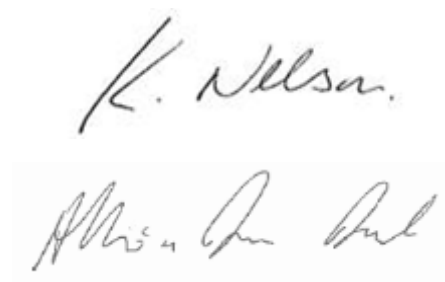
## Did you know?

- 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/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/).

Thanks for your support.

Best wishes,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'K. Nelson' and the bottom signature is 'Allison Duggal'.

**Allison Duggal**

**Director of Public Health**

**Kirston Nelson**

**Chief Partnerships Officer**

**Coventry City Council**

**Coventry City Council**