



More News 8th March 2024

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



Reconciliation

Congratulations to our Y3 children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, along with their friends from the parish.

The children continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion which will take place in June. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Day of Prayer

Today, the parish is holding a day of prayer to pray for peace in the Holy Land. All children have been to church for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and to take part in a short prayer service with their class.

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.

Ramadan

Many of our children will be observing Ramadan over the coming weeks. To enable our children to practice their faith during this important time, children will be able to use the Prayer Room if they wish to and those who are fasting may use the Hub as a base while their friends are eating at lunch time.

World Book Day

The children had a fantastic day yesterday, celebrating World Book Day! Many different characters arrived in school from Artemis Fowl characters to Roald Dahl's Matilda and Professor McGonagall.





Children took part in the BBC Live World Book Day lesson...



... and enjoyed a visit from author, Lorraine Gregory.



The enjoyment of reading continued this afternoon, with a visit from local author, Alex T Smith.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event

We have some exciting news for you! We are taking part in the 15th year celebration of Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 11-22 March 2024. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved.

What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

Including everyone

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel.

We know it may be more difficult for some pupils to take part than others. If you want to discuss more about your child(ren)'s specific needs, please contact Mrs Swan, (Nursery Teacher) and we will make sure to look into how your child(ren) can take part.

Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best away to bring down these pollution levels.

Plus there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

Useful resources



To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have hassle-free journey to school.

Download your free family guide using this link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide/>

For more information about the event go to www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk . Enjoy the challenge!

Emotion Coaching Workshop for Parents and Carers

All the staff in school are trained in emotion coaching, which is a useful and effective way of supporting children to manage their feelings to help children develop emotional stability and resilience and to effectively manage behaviour. Emotion coaching is a tool that can also be used by parents and carers at home. The Educational Psychology Team and SENDIASS are running a free course for parents and carers on emotion coaching, which I would recommend parents and carers sign up to. Please see the details below and the attached flyer for more information.

In Partnership with Coventry SENDIASS
Coventry Education Psychology Team will be
running a FREE session for parents/carers on
Emotion Coaching

Emotion Coaching is an approach that parents/carers can use with children and young people to support their emotional development.
Research suggests that Emotion Coached children and young people:

- Are more emotionally stable
- Are more resilient
- Achieve more academically in school
- Have fewer behavioural problems

This session will introduce the steps of Emotion Coaching and it's scientific basis and will involve practical activities and resource sharing so that parents can begin to use this increasingly popular approach straight after the session.

'Live' Virtual Session
(This session will be delivered via Microsoft Teams)
Tuesday 12th March 2024
9.30am – 11.30am

To book a place (and get your link) please contact SENDIASS
Tel: 024 7669 4307 or email: iass@coventry.gov.uk

**Please QUOTE: 'EPS' when booking*

In partnership with SEND Information, Advice and Support Service, Coventry Education Psychology Team will be running a **FREE ONLINE session for parents/carers on Emotion Coaching**. Please see the poster/details below for more information.

Session Details:

- Tuesday 12th March 2024, 9.30am – 11.30am
- Delivered 'live' via Microsoft teams (please note this session will not be recorded)

This date is not suitable, will you be running any further sessions?

YES! If you are unable to attend this session or would prefer an afternoon session (12.30pm - 2.30pm), we will be running this session again after Easter, details will be released soon.

What is Emotion Coaching?

Emotion Coaching is an approach that parents/carers can use with children and young people to support their emotional development.

How do I book a place?

To book your place please email iass@coventry.gov.uk or TEL: 024 76 69 4307 quoting 'EPS' along with your name and the email address you would like your link sent to.

When will I get my booking link?

You will receive a booking confirmation once a place has been reserved for you, followed by an email (2-3 days before the date of the session) which will contain your MS Teams link and instructions for how to join the session. Please check your junk folder if you have not received this, as sometimes emails end up in there. Please contact us if you have any questions or require any support.

Online Safety Information About Whatsapp

Matt, our PCSO, who has been working to support the school in promoting online safety has visited Year 6 again this week to talk about Whatsapp. Year 6 were very keen to know how to stop being added to group chats when they haven't given their permission and Matt was able to find this information and share it with them. We think it's so useful to know, it's worth sharing with everyone.

To manage this:

Step 1 – From the main screen, tap the 3 dots in the right corner and then Settings.

Step 2 – Go to Privacy and scroll down to Groups. Tap on it and set to My contacts or My contacts except....

Please see the group chat information below from [National Online Safety](#).



Parent Governor Election

The parent governor election closes today. We will share news of the outcome next week.

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.

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 has brought home their Good Shepherd Appeal money bag 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.

Please continue to collect any loose change in the money bag 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 95.5%

Year R	97.3%
Year 01	98.7%
Year 02	98.7%
Year 03	96.4%
Year 04	97.3%
Year 05	98.1%
Year 06	96.8%

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

- Thursday 14 March, 6:30pm: PTFA meeting @ The Burnt Post
- Wednesday 20 March: Non Uniform Day
- Thursday 21 March, 6-7pm: EYFS Workshop
- Monday 25 March to Friday 5 April: School Closed for Easter holidays

