



More News 15th March 2024

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



## Good Shepherd Appeal (Non-Uniform Day)

A few weeks ago, your child brought home a Good Shepherd Appeal bag to raise funds for this important Catholic charity who help vulnerable people within the community.

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.

On Monday the children will enjoy an assembly delivered by [Fr Hudson's](#) (the charity running the Good Shepherd Appeal) that will further explain the work the charity does.

The Birmingham Diocese is also running a (separate) fund raising event called **Pledge £1** where they are hoping to raise over £83,000 to support the Fr Hudson Appeal. To do this, they ask that every child who attends a Diocesan school with the Archdiocese of Birmingham to raise just £1. On Wednesday, we will be holding a non-uniform day, where we will be asking **every** child to bring in £1 that will be used to participate in the **Pledge £1** event. We currently have 319 children in our school - it would be fantastic if we could raise £319 (plus extra from staff donations). Please help your child to support this very worthy cause.



## Good Bye and Good Luck!

I am sad to share the news that Mrs Darroch will be leaving the school at the end of term after 9 years of dedicated care and commitment to enabling our children to flourish.

Parents will be informed of the staffing arrangements for Year 1 as soon as full confirmation is made.

I am sure the STM community will join me in thanking Mrs Darroch for her hard work, Catholic faith and determination to do the best for the pupils in her care.

## 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.

## Coventry Building Society Writer of the Year

Congratulations to Omar who has been awarded the CBS Coventry Young Writer of the Year! We are very proud that STM pupils have been awarded this prestigious award twice in the last three years. Omar won a number of prizes including a kindle and a creative writing workshop for his class. Kalina in year 5 and Bea in year 4 were also highly commended in their year group categories. Well done to all of our wonderfully creative writers who participated in the competition as a homework task from years 3-6.



## Sporting Success

Well done to our netball team who beat Holy family 2-0 last week and well done to man of the match Kasper.

Huge congratulations to the boys football team who won 9-0 against St Mary & St Bens in the cup quarter final yesterday. Fantastic results well done to both teams!

## Parent/Carer Consultations Nursery to Y5

Parent/carers consultations will take place on Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th April after school for children in years from Nursery to Year 5. Year 6 parent/carers consultations have already taken place.

Please remember that if your child has SEND and you have had a SEND parent/carers meeting, there is no need to book a parent/carers consultation as your meeting will have gone into depth about your child's progress.

Booking for slots will open on Monday 18th March at 6pm.

## Nursery, Reception & Y 1 New Starters Reading Meeting

The reading workshop for parents and carers of Nursery children and children in Year 1 and Reception who are new to the school will take place on Thursday in the Nursery classroom. The meeting starts at 6pm - please enter through the Nursery gate.

The meeting will share the school's approach to early reading and will help parents and carers to support their children in becoming happy and confident readers.

We look forward to seeing Nursery parents and carers and those parents of children in Reception and Year 1 who have been invited because they are new to the school.

## Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel event

After a soggy start to our Sustrans walk and wheel event, where rain almost stopped play, we are now building up our scores. So far, both Year 3 classes are topping the leaderboard- fantastic work! Mrs Chester has been spotted, leading by example, walking to school. Year 4 are close on their heels. Well done to all of the children and their families that have braved the weather and made a heroic effort to travel to school under their own steam. Let's have a huge push next week and get those St Thomas More scores soaring!

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](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk) . Enjoy the challenge!

## After School Clubs

All after school clubs will be continuing in the Spring term and will be available on Arbor to book from 11.00am on Saturday 23rd March. There are limited places for each of the clubs so please reserve a place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. All clubs will be starting W/C Monday 8th April and will finish W/E Friday 19th July (14 weeks).

## Archdiocese of Birmingham Ethnic Chaplaincy Welcomes Hong-Kongers

Spiritual Retreat Afternoon in Lent. Saturday 23rd March from 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Christ the King Church, 14 Westhill Road, Coventry, CV6 2AA

Lection Divina, prayer in silence, group sharing, Mass and Confessions in Cantonese. Refreshments available!

All enquires to: [co-ordinator.ethnic.chaplaincy@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:co-ordinator.ethnic.chaplaincy@rcaob.org.uk)

## Ramadan

We are continuing to support children who are observing Ramadan by offering them the opportunity to use the Prayer Room and ensuring they can spend time in the Hub while their friends are eating at lunchtime.

## Parents and Carers Workshop

**Positive Family Foundations** is a nurture-based parenting programme based on understanding how children and their carers interact, and what children need to help them thrive.

Please see the flyer below for more information.



**Find out how to raise happy, secure and well-behaved children**

**Join our free 11 week course – Positive Family Foundations**

**This course is for**  
All parents and carers with children age 0-10 in Coventry

**What we do**

- share information about child development and parenting styles
- give out practical resources and activities
- provide a friendly, supportive and welcoming group
- have a drink and a snack

**Where it is**  
Telfer Road Adult Education Centre, Radford, Coventry, CV6 3FA

**When it is**  
6-8pm every Tuesday from 16/4/24

**How to join**  
Scan the QR code  
Or enrol online at <https://coventry.gov.uk/adulted>  
Or just come along and enrol at the first session  
Find out more by emailing [kate.steventon@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:kate.steventon@coventry.gov.uk)

*"It was great to listen to other parents. There were lots of ideas on the course - I found the section on Emotion Coaching really helped at home."*



Logos at the bottom: ONE, Ofsted Good, Mosaic Mileboards, Start Life, Education & Skills, matrix





## Clothing Bank

Please see the flyer below for information about Coventry Clothes Bank where items of clothing can be obtained for free.

**CLOTHING COVENTRY**  
Supporting People in Clothing Poverty

**ABOUT US**  
Set up to help people struggling to access clothing in Coventry in 2021. We support thousands of people every year by distributing clothes, shoes and uniform to anyone in need. Registered charity 1197270

**CONTACT US ABOUT VOLUNTEERING**

**CONTACT :**  
Phone : 07704044230  
Website : [www.clothingcoventry.org](http://www.clothingcoventry.org)  
19 Napier st, Hillfields, Coventry, CV1 5PR

**HOW WE HELP**  
We invite clients to our warehouse to collect the clothes they need. To request an invitation, please go to [www.clothingcoventry.org](http://www.clothingcoventry.org)  
We also have free clothes in community rails such as at foodhubs and family centres where clients can collect clothes conveniently when accessing other support services  
We run regular free uniform events where we support those needing access to school uniform

**HOW TO DONATE**  
We love donations of wearable clothes for all. Please ensure clothes are clean and wearable, shoes are paired, and school uniform is for Coventry schools.  
We love donations in a reusable bag for life, backpack, suitcase, holdall or other bag we can pack clothes into for our clients.  
We're open Monday - Friday from 10am - 2pm except Wednesdays when we're open until 7pm.

## 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](#).



## 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	95.0%
Year 01	98.3%
Year 02	96.8%
Year 03	97.1%
Year 04	94.0%
Year 05	96.9%
Year 06	94.8%

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



## Important Dates



- Tuesday 19 March, 2.30pm: Rock Steady Concert in school hall
- Wednesday 20 March: Non Uniform Day £1 donation Father Hudson Appeal
- Thursday 21 March, 1.45pm: Year 4's Stations of the Cross Collective Worship in Church
- Thursday 21 March, 6-7pm: EYFS Workshop
- Monday 25 March to Friday 5 April: School Closed for Easter holidays

