



More News 22nd March 2024

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



Holy Week Masses

Holy Week and Easter are the keystone of our faith, and as such, attending Mass during Holy Week takes on an even greater importance in allowing us to live out our faith. Masses at St Thomas More are at the times shown below for next week.

Please see the message below from Fr Simon:

As we come to the end of another term, may I wish all our families, together with the children and staff a very happy, peaceful and restful holiday. I know how busy the term has been, but even amidst the hectic schedule there have been many blessed moments where the school motto has been seen, experienced and felt within the school community.

Although you break up for Easter today, there is still another week to go before we celebrate – which means keeping off those things which we have given up for Lent. As always, I extend a warm welcome to you all and encourage you to come along to our Holy Week and Triduum liturgies at St Thomas More. Details of all our services can be found on this newsletter.

On Good Friday at 10.30am we will gather in church for our Children's Stations of the Cross. Last year, it was wonderful to welcome several families from both school and parish who were able to join in prayer as the children led us in short meditations for the final journey of the Lord.

I look forward to seeing you over the Easter weekend and hope that you can celebrate with friends and family. When it comes, may I wish you and all your families a very joyful, happy and blessed Easter.



Holy Week

TUESDAY 26th MARCH		
7.00 pm	Lent Penitential Service at STM	
THURSDAY 28th MARCH		MAUNDY THURSDAY
7.30 pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at STM and SJW followed by the Watch at the Altar of Repose	
9.50 pm	Compline at SJW	
11.50 pm	Compline at STM	
FRIDAY 29th MARCH		GOOD FRIDAY
10.30 am	Children's Stations of the Cross at STM	
3.00 pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at STM and SJW	
7.00 pm	Maria Desolata Devotions at STM and SJW	
SATURDAY 30th MARCH		HOLY SATURDAY
8.00 pm	Vigil and First Mass of Easter at STM <small>Please note this Vigil Mass is for both parishes (British Summer time begins and the clocks go forward at 2.00 am on 31st March)</small>	
SUNDAY 31st MARCH		EASTER SUNDAY
9.00 am	Mass of the Day at STM	
10.45 am	Mass of the Day at SJW	

Surrexit Christus Alleluia

Fr Simon and Fr Peter, together with Deacons Leo, David and Pat, would like to wish you all a very happy, holy and joyful Easter.

In Collective Worship we prayed the Diocesan Prayer for Lent for schools.

Lord Jesus,

for forty days and forty nights,

you fasted and prayed.

That gives meaning to these forty days.

Keep us close to you.

During this holy season,

we are called to think less of ourselves

and more about you and about the needs of others.

The ashes we receive make us humble.

The money we give to charity gives life to others.

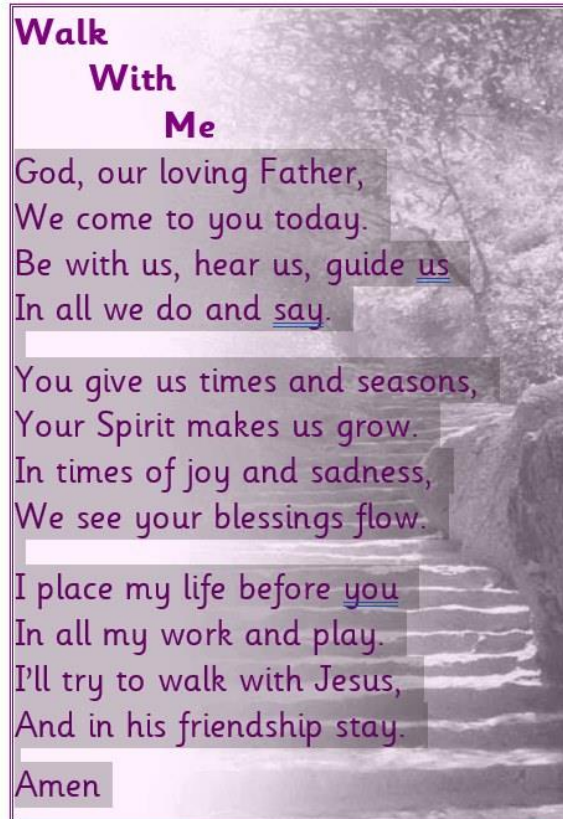
As we pray, may we think of the many people who need our prayers.

May we believe in the power of prayer to make a difference.

Even as we go without some things that we like, this Lent,

make us always joyful in your service.

Amen.



The staff and children at St Thomas More wish everyone a very happy and holy Easter when it comes!

Stations of the Cross

Yesterday, Year 4 led the KS2, family members and parishioners in a faith-filled Stations of the Cross prayer service that invited us all to consider the passions of Christ, our servant king and to reflect on the ways in which we can grow closer to God through our own actions, thoughts and prayer life.

Thank you for the wonderful feedback and thank you to Year 4 pupils, staff and Fr Simon for their work in preparing a prayerful worship to share in our community.



Good Shepherd Appeal

On Monday, we welcomed Margot Scotford from Fr Hudson's Society to our school to share with the children the good work that is done in our local communities by the Fr Hudson Society.

Children enjoyed wearing their non-uniform on Wednesday to support the **Pledge £1** and we managed to raise £214.71. The Archdiocese of Birmingham is asking every child to donate £1 to this very worthy cause, so we are still some way off our target. If your child did not donate on Wednesday, please do send the £1 donation when we return after Easter.

Children also brought home bags to collect money for the Good Shepherd Appeal at the start of Lent. This is separate to the **Pledge £1** appeal. Please return them to school as soon as possible after Easter.



Good Bye and Good Luck!

Today we thanked Mrs Darroch for her hard work and commitment to the school over the last 9 years.

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. We all wish her the very best of luck!

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Sullivan back from maternity leave. Mrs Winter and Mrs Sullivan, along with Mrs Yates, will be teaching Year 1 in the summer term.

Neurodiversity Week

This year, one thing we are focusing on across the school is enabling every child to know they are made in the image and likeness of God, and therefore are loved and valued for being the unique person they are... and that they are just perfect, exactly as they are. To support this, this week we have been taking part in Neurodiversity Week, with children learning about different conditions such as ADHD, autism, dyspraxia, dyslexia, etc. We have been thinking about how the way different people's brains work can help them to find some things easier, and how this can also present

different challenges. Our main 'take away' from the week is that everyone is different and unique and these differences are such an important part of what makes each one of us special!

We will be continuing to think about neurodivergence and other aspects of our lives that make us different and why it is so important to celebrate our differences as the school year progresses,

Rock Steady Concert

Children and parents were treated to the Spring Term Rock Steady concert this week. Our musicians are making wonderful progress and are becoming true performers!

Well done to our Rock Steady musicians and thank you to Emily, our Rock Steady teacher.



New School Lunches Menu

Since the children voted to develop the school lunch offer, the Catering Team have worked with pupils to take suggestions and then with a panel of pupils to design the new menu for after Easter. The Catering Team will be continuing their work with pupils in the summer term, offering workshops and assemblies that explain healthy (while still delicious!) food choices.

Please see the new menu - put together by the Catering Team and the pupil panel - below.

Monday 8th April is week 1

Spring/summer MENU
CYCLE
WEEK ONE

St Thomas More
Catholic Primary

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN COURSE	Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Chicken Tikka Curry	Roast Chicken With Trimmings	Sausage Roll	Fish Fingers
VEGETARIAN COURSE	Macaroni Cheese	Vegetable Curry	Cheese and Onion Pie	Vegetable Sausage Roll	Cheese and Bean Parcel
VEGETABLE	Sweetcorn or Baked beans	Peas	Broccoli with Carrot Ribbons	Green Beans or Baked Beans	Peas or Baked beans
SIDES	Wedges	Rice & Nann Bread	Roast Potatoes	Wedges	Chips
DESSERT	jacket potato with various fillings offered each day A choice of freshly made sandwiches A selection of home bakes, jelly and fresh fruit available daily				

Fresh Baked Bread and salad served Daily



Spring/Summer MENU
CYCLE
WEEK TWO

St Thomas More
Catholic Primary

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN COURSE	Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Sausages, Yorkshire pudding and Gravy	Roast Chicken with Trimmings	Chicken Wrap	Fish Fingers Or Salmon Fishcake
VEGETARIAN COURSE	Pasta with a Rich Tomato Sauce	Veggie Sausage, Yorkshire pudding and Gravy	Vegetable Sausages with Gravy	Veggie Wrap	Cheese and Bean Parcel
VEGETABLE	Sweetcorn, Baked Beans	Mixed Vegetable	Broccoli or Peas	Sweetcorn or Baked Beans	Peas or Baked Beans
SIDES	Baked Wedges	Mash Potato	Roast Potatoes	Lightly Seasoned Wedges	Chips
DESSERT	Jacket potato with various fillings offered each day A choice of freshly made sandwiches A selection of home bakes, jelly and fresh fruit available daily				

Fresh Baked Bread and salad served Daily



St Thomas More Catholic Primary

Spring/Summer MENU CYCLE WEEK THREE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN COURSE	Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Mexican chilli With Nachos	Roast Chicken with Trimmings	Hot Dog	Fish Fingers
VEGETARIAN COURSE	Macaroni Cheese	Vegetable Lasagne	Vegetable Sausages with Gravy	Veggie Hot Dog	Cheese and Bean Parcel
VEGETABLE	Baked Beans or Sweetcorn	Sweetcorn or Baked Beans	Carrots or Peas	Baked Beans or Sweetcorn	Peas or Baked Beans
SIDES	Potato Wedges	Rice / Garlic bread	Roast Potatoes	Crispy Sliced Potatoes	Chips
DESSERT	Jacket potato with various fillings offered each day A choice of freshly made sandwiches A selection of home bakes, jelly and fresh fruit available daily				

Fresh Baked Bread and salad served Daily

Food Allergies and Intolerance
 If you require information on allergens or suffer from a food intolerance, please speak to a Team Member before you order your food and drinks.

After School Clubs

All after school clubs will be continuing in the Spring term and 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).

PTFA - used uniform

The PTFA are asking for donations of summer uniform items please: summer dresses, blue polos, shorts, etc.

They will hold a preloved uniform sale at the parent consultation evenings on 16th and 18th April.

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

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

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.



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
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

We also have free clothes in community hubs 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.

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 95.6%

Year R	97.3%
Year 01	95.3%
Year 02	96.5%
Year 03	96.2%
Year 04	94.0%
Year 05	96.1%
Year 06	94.5%

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 25 March to Friday 5 April: School Closed for Easter holidays
- Monday 8th April: School open
- 16th April, 3.40-6pm: Nursery to year 5 parent consultations
- 18th April, 3.40-6pm: Nursery to year 5 parent consultations

