



More News 19th April 2024

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



We are now an ICON School (International Cross of Nails)!

Over the last year, we have been working towards achieving the prestigious [International cross of Nails School](#) award, which is awarded by Coventry Cathedral in its work on peace and reconciliation. Schools are awarded the ICONS status by showing that the school works towards:

- Healing the Wounds of History
- Living with Difference and Celebrating Diversity
- Building a Culture of Peace

This week we were very proud to be told that we have achieved ICONS status and are now an ICON school. The cathedral will present the school with a cross of nails at an upcoming presentation ceremony. We are really looking forward to continuing our work towards a more peaceful and hopeful future as an ICON school.



On Monday, Emma from the ICONS Team came into school to deliver an assembly with a very important message about being an ICON School. She explained the history of Coventry as a city of peace and reconciliation, beginning with the terrible events of the Coventry Blitz on November 14th 1940 and the hand of friendship, forgiveness and peace that were inspired when the beams of the Cathedral had fallen in the shape of a cross. Emma reminded us of how important it is to build bridges, especially in times of challenge or conflict and how we can start to do that with some of the simplest acts, such as offering a smile, listening to others and including people.

Caring for our Common Home

On Monday, the Holy Cross Catholic MAC Schools will be marking World Earth Day on Monday. Children will learn about how people have acted to make positive changes in the way we can look after our planet, reflect on caring for our common home during prayer time and may wear green and blue to school on Monday 22nd April.

Good Shepherd Appeal

At the beginning of Lent, children brought home a bag to use to make donations to the Fr Hudson's Charitable Good Shepherd Appeal. Just before Easter, we welcomed Margot Scotford from the charity to school and she explained to the children the good work the charity does in helping vulnerable people within the local community.

If they haven't done so already, please can children return their bags with their monetary donations to school as soon as possible.



Happy Vaisakhi!

Lots of our children and their families celebrated Vaisakhi at the weekend, a festival that marks the founding of the Sikh faith. The STM community wishes our Sikh families happy Vaisakhi!

CCFC go to Wembley!

We enjoyed showing our support for Coventry City Football Club's FA Cup campaign today!

Thank you to all who donated money to wear their CCFC kit or sky blue clothing.

Good luck Sky Blues!



Cultural Diversity Day - Tuesday 21st May

The school will be marking Cultural Diversity Day on Tuesday 21st May. We are planning a day of celebrating our own and others' cultural heritage. On this day, children are invited to come into school dressed in clothing that they feel represents their cultural heritage - this could be traditional dress, clothing that is the colour of the national flag, national sports kit or something else representative. If children have more than one culture in their heritage, they could choose one, or all of them to be represented in their clothing. Please ensure that clothing is appropriate and respectful

of all in our community (e.g. not overtly political or inciting of conflict) - the aim of the day is to celebrate, learn and find ways of understanding more about each other. We also ask that parents and carers do not spend money on clothing - clothing can be as simple as wearing a certain coloured t-shirt!

We have a wealth of cultures represented in our school and we're keen to learn about and from each other, celebrating our differences and understanding more about our friends. That week, children will be asked to deliver a presentation to their friends on their cultural heritage, sharing background information, what they feel it is important for other children to know, the things they're proud of, and even what else they would like to find out. To support children in preparing for this, they will take home homework a couple of weeks before to help them gather information - please do support them in finding out more and discerning what they feel is important to share.

We are also inviting parents who would like to share information about their culture to come in and talk to children on the day of Tuesday 21st May. We ask that the content of the talk is similar to that shared by children - background information, things that are similar to our lives in Coventry and things that are different, important things to know about and anything else interesting and appropriate for primary-aged children. We will provide a list of questions that will help to structure the information. If you would like to share information about your cultural heritage with our children, please email school on the [admin](#) address to register your interest, letting us know who you are (parent of...) and which culture you would like to share with our children. We are hoping to get as much of a range as possible that represents our school community.

Calling all gardeners, handy-people and willing hands!

Mrs Swan, Mrs Grant and Mrs Mullin have made it their mission to tidy up and make ready for action our Forest School area! On the morning of Saturday 11th May they will be working to make sure our Forest School area is safe and ready for pupils to use in the following weeks. They are asking for any volunteers within our school community who would be able to pick up their secateurs or shears and help. If you are able to support in this, please come along to school on this morning, bringing along any tools you feel will be useful (secateurs, forks, trowels, shovels, wheelbarrows, etc) and come and help to make our grounds even more inviting. Lots of the work in clearing back involves prickles, so we advise wearing gardening gloves and appropriate clothing. Unfortunately, due to the potential hazards involved in this type of activity, we ask that children do not attend.

The school will be open from 8am until lunchtime, so please drop by within these hours if you can offer an hour or two of support.

We want to hear your views

This week, you will have received an email from Holy Cross Catholic MAC asking you to complete the parent/carers survey. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on what we do well and how we can improve our school further.

Please do complete the [survey](#) - it is always helpful for us to know what works well and what we can do to make our school even better for our children.



PTFA

Join us at our next PTFA meeting!

Everyone is welcome at our meetings. We love to see new faces and hear new ideas, so don't be shy – come along and find out what it's all about and make friends too!

Monday 22nd April @ 6.30pm in the Community Room.



Transport West Midlands Road Safety Action Plan Survey

Transport West Midlands are reviewing their Road Safety Action Plan and welcome feedback.

From Transport West Midlands:

We will be updating our Road Safety Action Plan this year. The document will set out the actions we plan to take as a region to halve road deaths and serious injuries by 2030.

Our actions will be developed following the principles of the Safe System approach:

- People make mistakes
- Humans are vulnerable to injury
- Death and serious injury is unacceptable
- Responsibility is shared by all road users
- We must be proactive, not reactive
- Effective actions are systemic.

As you complete the survey, you will find information on the different aspects of the Safe System and the types of action we could implement.

More information is available in our consultation document (see below).

Providing your comments

We would like to hear your views on how we could improve road safety across the region. Please complete the [survey](#) to share your views. Your answers will influence the types of measure we include in the action plan.

The consultation will be open until 5pm on Friday 10 May.

Parish and School Spring Fayre

St Thomas More School and Parish will be holding a Spring Fayre (replacing the Summer Fayre) in the school grounds on Saturday 18th May from 12-2pm.

There will be lots to buy and do at the fayre, so please add the date to your diaries! More details will follow in the coming weeks. If you would like to to like to rent a stall please contact admin.stm.covty@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 1199270

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 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.

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 95.7%

Attendance this week is as follows:

Year R	98.0%
Year 01	98.4%
Year 02	98.8%
Year 03	99.0%
Year 04	96.7%
Year 05	98.1%
Year 06	96.4%

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

- Sunday 21st April, 12 noon-2pm: Family lunch at STM parish
- Monday 22nd April: Word Earth Day: Children are invited to come to school wearing the colours of Blue and Green
- Saturday 18th May, 12-2pm: Spring Fayre on school grounds
- Tuesday 4th June: School photographer, class/group photos