



More News 26th April 2024

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Good Bye and Good Luck!

We will be wishing Mrs Wilson-King a very happy retirement at the end of the year as she has decided that after nearly 20 years of supporting children at STM, she will retire when we break up for summer. Mrs Wilson-King has been a huge source of support for children, families and staff in her time at the school and has helped in more ways than can even be listed! The entire STM community will be very sad to say good bye, but we know that Mrs Wilson-King will be enjoying the extra time she will gain by spending it with her family and doing lots of exciting things with her friends!

Whilst we could never replace Mrs Wilson-King, her retirement means...

We're hiring!

St Thomas More is seeking to appoint a compassionate, empathetic learning mentor who will work with children and families to get the best outcomes for our children.

You can find the advert for the role [here](#). Please do share it with anyone who may be interested.

Caring for our Common Home - World Earth Day

On Monday, the Holy Cross Catholic MAC Schools marked World Earth Day on Monday. Children came to school in blue and green and learned about the part they can play in looking after God's creation. The theme of the day this year was *planet v plastics* and children reflected on how caring for our common home in assembly on Monday morning. They have prayed, learned and taken action this week in an effort to reduce the impact plastics have locally and across the globe.

The Eco Team also visited the Coventry Peace Orchard this week and met with the Eco Teams from the other Holy Cross Catholic MAC schools at Cardinal Newman to continue the work they are doing collaboratively to live in a more sustainable way.



GIFT Team Attend Mass and Mingle

On Wednesday, the GIFT Team leaders attended Mass and then mingled with parishioners afterwards. The GIFT Team enjoyed talking with and listening to the parishioners who were attending the weekly Mass and Mingle.

Thanks go to Debbie Texeira who leads our GIFT Team Leadership group every week and to Mary Wilson, who supported the children in attending the Mass and Mingle. What a wonderful opportunity for our children to engage with parishioners in our community!





School Food Showdown

This morning, Years 3 and 4 were treated to a fantastic showdown between chefs, as they participated in the School Food Showdown, delivered by our catering company OCS. 4 children worked in pairs to compete to produce the most appetising meal with a given set of ingredients, while the rest of the year group watched in excitement and cheered their friends on! OCS showed the children how tasty, nutritious food is produced, using the same ingredients that are used to cook homemade food onsite for school lunches. Move over Gordon Ramsey - we now have 90 budding chefs!









PTFA News!

School Disco

The summer term school disco is approaching!

Discos will take place on Friday 17th May in the school hall.

- Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2: 5.15-6.15pm **Nursery and Reception parents must stay please.**
- Years 3 and 4: 6.30-7.30pm
- Years 5 & 6: 7.45-8.45pm

This is the day after SATs finishes, so a great opportunity for Year 6 to get together, let their hair down and enjoy the feeling of achieving something special after working so hard!



The disco can only go ahead with enough help from parents! If you plan to stay, then why not join in, get to know some of the other parents and help to raise money that goes directly to supporting and even fully providing the 'nice' things that happen in school like subsidising the cost of trips for every child in school and the Year 6 party.

If you are able to help at any of the discos, please register your support by following this [link](#).

Pre-loved Uniform

Thank you to the PTFA for running the pre-loved uniform sale at the parent/carers consultations. Good quality items of pre-loved uniform at extremely reasonable prices are a very popular way for parents to ensure children are smartly dressed in the correct uniform in an affordable way.

Please can any good-quality, washed uniform that you no longer need be donated to the pre-loved uniform stock - we are especially looking for ties, summer dresses, polo shirts and shorts at the moment.

If you missed the sale at the parent/carers consultations, you can still order any available pre-loved uniform using the click and collect order form available on the [PTFA page](#) of our website.

Spring Fayre - Non-Uniform Day

The Spring Fayre (Saturday 18th May) is nearly upon us! Just like the Christmas Bazaar, there will be a chocolate and sweets tombola and a bottle tombola. We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 10th May to gather prizes for these stalls. We are asking children in Early Years and KS1 (Nursery, Reception, Years 1 and 2) who wear non-uniform to bring in a donation of sweets or chocolate (no nuts please!) which can be used as prizes on the chocolate and sweets tombola. We are asking those children in KS2 (Years 3-6) who wear non-uniform that day to bring in a bottle that can be used as a prize for the bottle tombola. Whilst bottles of wine (or even something stronger!) are always appreciated for the customers they bring to the tombola, we appreciate that some families will not wish to provide alcohol, so please send in alternatives for the bottle stall if this applies to you.

All donations will be collected on the gate so children will not be carrying the chocolate, sweets and bottles into school!

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/carer 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.



Parish and School Spring Fayre

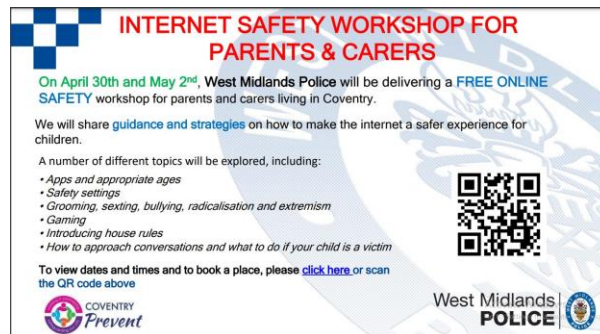
St Thomas More School and Parish will be holding a Spring Fayre (replacing the Summer Fayre) in the school grounds on Saturday 18th May from 12-2pm.

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 - Internet Safety

On April 30th and May 2nd, West Midlands Police are delivering free online safety workshops for parents of primary aged children. We recently held a similar workshop in school and parents who attended fed back that it was so useful they thought all parents should be expected to attend! If you weren't able to make the workshop held in school, this is a great alternative and you can attend from the comfort of your own home. I strongly advise all parents and carers to sign up as internet safety is such an ever-changing and difficult risk to navigate, but with some key information, you can help to keep your child safe online.

Please click on this [link](#) to book.



INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS & CARERS

On April 30th and May 2nd, West Midlands Police will be delivering a **FREE ONLINE SAFETY** workshop for parents and carers living in Coventry.

We will share **guidance and strategies** on how to make the internet a safer experience for children.

A number of different topics will be explored, including:

- Apps and appropriate ages
- Safety settings
- Grooming, sexting, bullying, radicalisation and extremism
- Gaming
- Introducing house rules
- How to approach conversations and what to do if your child is a victim

To view dates and times and to book a place, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code above

West Midlands **POLICE**

COVENTRY **Prevent**

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	99.7%
Year 01	96.8%
Year 02	96.9%
Year 03	97.6%
Year 04	97.3%
Year 05	93.6%
Year 06	97.4%

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

- Friday 10th May: Non-uniform day, bring chocolate/a bottle
- Saturday 11th May, 8am- noon: Community gardening event in our Forest School area
- Saturday 18th May, 12-2pm: Spring Fayre on school grounds
- Tuesday 21st May: Cultural Diversity Day, wear clothing that represents cultural heritage
- Tuesday 4th June: School photographer, class/group photos