



More News 10th May 2024

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



## Ascension Day

The school gathered together to worship in a whole school Mass yesterday to celebrate Ascension Day. Thank you to the Year 4 readers who read so beautifully and to Fr Simon for celebrating such a prayerful Mass with the school and parish.

## Year 1 & 2 invited to Mass

Year 1 & 2 and their families are invited to the parish Mass this Sunday 12th May at 9.00am in the church. Fr Simon will offer a blessing. This is a lovely opportunity for children and families to worship with their peers and the wider St Thomas More community. All are welcome including our families who are non Catholic.

## Good luck Year 6!

Please keep Year 6 in your prayers as they sit their SATs next week. We are so proud of how far all of the children have come in their STM journey and wish them the very best in showing how much they have learned in these tests. However, we also want the children to remember that they are so much more than a test score and have so many sporting, musical, artistic, persuasive, compassionate, logical and faithful talents that reading, writing and maths are just one small part of who they are and what they bring to the world.

Good luck, Year 6!

## Well Done Junior Maths Challengers!

20 of our Year 5 and 6 pupils recently took part in the Junior Maths Challenge with great success!

The questions are designed for children in Year 8 and below and got progressively harder as the challenge went on. The mathematicians among you can try your hand at some of the questions shown below.

7. The diagram shows a large square which has been divided into four smaller squares. It also shows both diagonals of the large square and two diagonals of smaller squares. What fraction of the area of the large square has been shaded?

A  $\frac{3}{16}$       B  $\frac{1}{4}$       C  $\frac{5}{16}$       D  $\frac{3}{8}$       E  $\frac{7}{16}$



8. Skye has half as many pens as Isha. Ana has twice as many pens as Skye. What fraction of all their pens does Skye have?

A  $\frac{1}{3}$       B  $\frac{1}{4}$       C  $\frac{1}{5}$       D  $\frac{1}{6}$       E  $\frac{1}{8}$

(solutions can be found at the end of the newsletter)

Children who took part were: Valerie, Victoria, Jude, Maya, Henry, Jessica, Kuruvilla, Lacey-Mai, Arthur, Aayushi

5 children scored so well they achieved Bronze Awards: Kasper, Bence, Nicky, Ksawery, Bansuri

and 5 children scored so highly they achieved Silver Awards: Praise (best in school), Joel, Johnathan, Keisha, Tia

Well done to all who took part!



## **Thank You Katronic Technologies Ltd and JM Groundworks!**

Thank you to Katronic Technologies Ltd and JM Groundworks who have worked together to support STM this week. Katronic Technologies have donated some pallets which will be used to enhance our outdoor environment and JM Groundworks transported them to our school site. Watch this space to see what we do with the pallets.

Thank you!



## 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! Tomorrow morning 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, bring 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.

## Here Comes the Sun...

Each year group has planted a sunflower seed this week in an attempt to grow the tallest sunflower by the end of term. Watch this space for updates!













## Sun Safety

And with the sun finally making an appearance, please remember to ensure your child comes to school with a suitable sunhat and plenty of water to drink in their water bottle. Please remember children are only allowed juice with their lunch and so must bring water for consuming during the main parts of the day. Please also remember to apply long-lasting sunscreen before your child comes to school. Staff are unable to apply sunscreen for children during the day, so it is important children are protected by long-lasting brands or have been taught to effectively apply their own.

Hay fever is very common amongst children, especially because they tend to be outdoors a lot and exposed to pollen. It's important that your child is correctly treated if they have hay fever, please can you ensure that your child is medicated before they arrive to school.

## Spring Fayre

Thank you for your support in bringing sweets and bottles in as non-uniform day donations for the Spring Fayre which takes place next Saturday, 18th May. All are welcome to the fayre, which will open at noon and finish at 2pm. There will be lots to do including:

- an open mic event (children and adults can book a 5 minute slot)
- children's fun races starting at 1pm
- ice creams
- a BBQ
- face painting
- children's games
- candy floss
- Elite Dance Academy performance

and lots more!

If you can help or have any prizes to donate to the raffle, please let the school know.



## PTFA News!

### Join the St Thomas More Virtual Balloon Race

#### Virtual Balloon Race



## Fantastic Prizes!!!

- 1st placed balloon - **£50 Amazon Gift Card.**
- 2nd placed balloon - **£25 Amazon Gift Card.**
- Last placed balloon - **£25 Amazon Gift Card.**

It's only £2 to enter a balloon, and you can enter more than one.

Have fun creating your own unique balloon design, so it stands out in flight.

You will be able track your balloon throughout race and see your final position.

All funds raised go directly to the STM PTFA.

It's easy to buy a balloon using the link below.

<https://www.balloonrace.net/stmrpsp>

## 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/carer 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/carer 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.

## Census Day Meal - Thursday 16th May

OCS Catering would like to share this special menu that will hopefully create some enthusiasm amongst the children who don't normally take school meals!

Please inform the school office if your child normally takes a packed lunch, and would like to order a school meal on this day, via email [STM\\_admin@hccmac.co.uk](mailto:STM_admin@hccmac.co.uk) by noon on Monday 13th May.

Thank you for your continued support.



## 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.

## Cultural Diversity Homework Sent Home today

Your child will be coming home today with homework to help them prepare for Cultural Diversity Day. Children will be using their homework in lessons toward the end of next week and during the week of 20th May, so please support them to complete and return it. Please can the homework be returned by Wednesday 15th May.

## Coventry Children's Mile

The Coventry Children's Mile is an opportunity for children (of all ages and abilities) to take part in a 1 mile run around the War Memorial Park.

This year, the event will be coordinated by parent representatives from STM. The programme highlights the importance and enjoyment associated with leading a healthier and active lifestyle, both at home and at school.

All profits will go to a local charity and 'Team Coventry', who will represent Coventry and Britain at the International Children's Games in Mexico this summer.

The entry fee is £10 per child (payment to be made via Arbor), and it includes:

- a bespoke event t-shirt to wear proudly
- a completion certificate to commemorate their achievement.

Before we set up a payment on Arbor we need to gauge interest so please respond to this [form](#) by Wednesday 15th May 2024 and we will inform you a.s.a.p if the event is going ahead. Thank you for your co-operation.

## 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 95.8%**

Attendance this week is as follows:

Year R	96.7%
Year 01	94.8%
Year 02	99.2%
Year 03	97.6%
Year 04	99.6%
Year 05	96.6%
Year 06	95.6%

## 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

- 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

## Junior Maths Challenge Solutions

7. **D** Note that the two small shaded triangles have a combined area equal to the area of one of the larger shaded triangles in the diagram. These larger shaded triangles each has an area which is half of a quarter, that is an eighth, of the area of the large square. So the total shaded area is three-eighths of the area of the large square.



8. **C** Let Skye have  $x$  pens. Then Isha has  $2x$  pens, as does Ana. So there are  $5x$  pens in total and Skye has one-fifth of these.