

More News 13th Spetember 2024

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



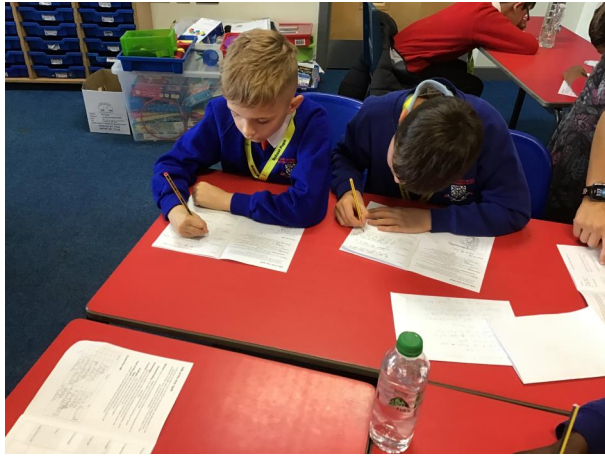
Holy Cross Catholic Feast Day Celebrations



We have had a wonderful day today, marking the Feast of the Holy Cross with our Holy Cross Catholic MAC family of schools.

Year 3 children from across the Holy Cross Catholic MAC enjoyed a visit to Coventry Cathedral, the Transport Museum and the Herbert Art Gallery and HCC MAC Year 6 children attended Mass at St Thomas More and then joined us for an afternoon of retreat activities. It was lovely to welcome Canon Jonathan Veasey back to STM to say Mass with Fr Simon.

Thank you to all from the Holy Cross Catholic MAC for making the day such a success.



KS1 also marked our MAC feast day with some Andy Goldsworthy inspired art work.

KS1 worked together to create a cross with fallen autumn leaves, in the style of the artist, Andy Goldsworthy.



IMPORTANT - Y6 Secondary Applications

The admissions process for Year 6 pupils to apply to secondary schools for September 2025 is now open. **It is vitally important that parents/carers of children currently in Year 6 completed the application before the deadline of 31st October.** Please see below for more details.

Starting Secondary School in September 2025

Apply online at
www.coventry.gov.uk/schooladmissions
by **31 October 2024**

for children born between 1 September
2013 and 31 August 2014

31 October 2024	Closing date for all applications
31 December 2024	If you move house before the 31 December 2024 you MUST contact the School Admissions Team to update your address
3 March 2025	Result emailed by 5pm or details available in your online account
5 March 2025	Parents who submitted a paper application will receive the result by letter



Key facts about the application process

- ▶ All parents of Year 6 pupils must apply for a school place through their Local Authority (the city where you live)
- ▶ Non-Coventry schools and Grammar schools can be listed on your application
- ▶ Even if you already have an older child at the school you must still apply for your younger child
- ▶ You should list three schools in order of preference. There is no advantage in listing fewer than three schools or including the same school more than once; in fact, by not including three realistic preferences, it could result in your child being allocated a school some distance away.
- ▶ If you live within a school catchment area you have more chance of your child being offered a place at that school if you request it and make your application on time. Information regarding the catchment area for your address can be found at coventry.gov.uk/catchmentareas

School Open Days are advertised at
coventry.gov.uk/school-admissions/secondary-school-open-evenings
Please check the details on applying for a faith school as they may require you to provide additional information as part of the application process.

Increase your chances of getting the school you want

A copy of the secondary school admissions booklet is on our website at coventry.gov.uk/downloads/download/243/in-year-primarysecondary-school-admissions-booklets Please consider each school's specific admissions arrangements carefully when making your application.

- ▶ Look at the oversubscription criteria in the policy to work out which priority would be given to your application
- ▶ Check how places have been allocated in the last 3 years
- ▶ Check your distance from the school. The Admissions team can confirm this for you, please email: 11plus@coventry.gov.uk stating 'distance query' in the subject box
- ▶ Compare your priority and distance with how places have been offered in previous years to get an indication of how successful your application might be

Bishop Ullathorne Open Evening

Bishop Ullathorne is one of our Holy Cross Catholic MAC schools and many of our STM children go on to attend Bishop Ullathorne for secondary school. They are holding their open evening on Thursday 26th September.

It is open to everyone, but if your child is in Year 5 or 6, you are strongly encouraged to go.

A promotional poster for Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School's Open Evening. The poster features a collage of photos on the left showing students and staff. The main text is in a dark blue box with white text. The school's crest is in the top right corner. The text includes the school name, the event title 'OPEN EVENING', the date and time, and two Ofsted inspection quotes. A website URL is at the bottom.

**Bishop Ullathorne
Catholic School**

OPEN EVENING
Thursday 26th September 6.00pm-8.00pm

"The school has high expectations and aspirations for pupils' behaviour and learning."
Ofsted Inspection, February 2024

"Students have respect for themselves, behaviour is outstanding and all students follow the 'Ullathorne Way!'"
Section 48 Inspection, June 2022

<https://www.bishopullathorne.co.uk>

Please support the parish afternoon tea!

A decorative invitation for an afternoon tea event. The invitation is shaped like a teacup and is surrounded by floral and leaf patterns. The text is centered within the teacup shape.

AFTERNOON TEA
Fundraising for
CAFOD
&
YOUNG CARERS

SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2024
at 2.00 p.m. in MRR @ STM

Tickets £15 per head.
Available before/after Sunday Masses (Sat/Sun) from
Mandy Woolforton Tel: 07968 970195.
Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Free printable invitation - beesbrower.com

PTFA News!

Welcome to the PTFA!

Every parent/carer in our school is automatically a member of the PTFA - welcome!

The PTFA are a friendly group of parents and carers who work together to enhance the experiences our children have in school. This can take the form of raising funds to provide the 'extras' that make school life so much more fun, to putting on events such as school discos and arranging for Santa to visit us at the Christmas Bazaar.

All and any help is much appreciated! Whether you are great at planning and organising, or you have a spare two hours to help sell sweets at the school disco, please join in to help make our school an

even happier place. To receive more information about supporting the PTFA and join the PTFA Whatsapp group, follow the link on the QR code below.



The next PTFA meeting will be held on **Monday 23rd September, at 18:30 in the Community Room.**

This is the perfect opportunity to come along and see what the PTFA is all about! All are welcome!

Asda Parentkind Cashpot for Schools

By signing up to the Asda Rewards app you can help to raise much-needed money for the school through the PTFA. It's simple, won't cost you anything, but is already helping the PTFA to support the school.

Top tip! When searching for our school, enter the postcode - **CV3 5DE** - as there are lots of St Thomas More schools around and we want the money to come to us and not a different STM!

Hurry though as the offer is only valid until the end of November!

INTRODUCING CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Download and opt-in with Asda Rewards
and we will donate ££s to schools.

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**



With
Parentkind

HERE'S HOW:

- 1** Download the Asda Rewards app and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools.
- 2** Choose your primary school
- 3** Shop in-store across Asda & George and scan your Asda Rewards app at the checkout.
- 4** Shopping online? Simply log in to Asda.com using the same details as your Asda Rewards account.
- 5** We'll do the rest! We donate ££s to your chosen school every time you shop, so they can spend it on exactly what they need.

STM PTFA Lotto

You've got to be in it to win it! Join the PTFA monthly lotto here!

STM PTFA PRESENTS



FOR FULL DETAILS & TO SIGN UP
SCAN / PRESS THE QR CODE

£1 month
11 draws a year
Sept-July
Allocated number
No number limit
Must be aged 16+



WINNER
1st prize £50
2nd prize £10
3rd prize £5
Amazon e-Gift
Voucher

ANY QUERIES EMAIL
stm-ptfa@hccmac.co.uk

Check Your Child's Key Information on Arbor

Over the course of the year, lots of important information about your child can change: their address; your contact details; medical information; whether you give consent for different things... The start of the academic year is a good time to go into Arbor to check all the information is correct. Please take 5 minutes to login to Arbor and check your child's information is correct - it is especially important to check your contact details and medical information. You can update information in the app and this will come through to school and your child's class teachers.

1. Once in the app, select your child's name.
2. Press the menu button at the bottom left of the screen (3 lines).
3. Select profile.
4. Scroll down to check all the information is correct.
5. If you need to change anything, click on the information and edit it. Remember to press CONFIRM to save the information.

Teachers will be checking so they are aware of all updated information, so please complete your checks and any updates by Friday 20th September. (You can update at anytime, but staff will be dedicating time to review changes the following week.)

Positive Family Foundations - in School!

We have a really exciting opportunity coming up for parents and carers to understand more about how child development happens and how knowing about this can help you to develop better relationships with your child.

From Monday 23rd September, we have the Positive Family Foundations course running at STM for ten weeks from 1-3pm. This will be in the format of a small, friendly group, with Mrs Hoare, our new Learning Mentor, attending.

You will have received an email today explaining more and informing you how to request a place. Places are limited and we only have a few left. They will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so if you are interested, please register your interest as soon as possible. We will let parents know next week if they have been allocated a place.

Volunteers Wanted!

Do you have a spare afternoon a week that you would like to spend with some fabulous people? We would love to add to our growing group of volunteers. We have lots of varied things that volunteers can help with and at the moment, we are especially looking for volunteers to hear our children read.

If you are able to help, please let the [admin](#) team know. All volunteers require a DBS check (which is free and school will arrange).

Rock Steady Places Available

Lots of children in our school love being part of Rock Steady - fun classes that teach your child the skills to play a rock music instrument and perform as part of a band. This year we have a few (limited) spaces available. If your child is interested, please see the flyer below for more information.



**ROCK
STEADY**

IGNITE THEIR INNER SPARK!

**Inclusive rock and pop
band lessons at your school**

With Rocksteady Music School, your child can learn to play an instrument in their own band with no experience necessary. Our inclusive band lessons tune into children's creativity, amplifying their self-belief and igniting a sense of confidence that carries far beyond the classroom!

**BOOK YOUR
CHILD'S PLACE
ONLINE!**

0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-9pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com

0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com



LEARN TO PLAY MUSIC. AMPLIFY CONFIDENCE.

Choose from: Vocals, keyboard, drums, guitar or bass.

A Rocksteady band is for everyone

Takes place in school. Instruments provided and no experience necessary!

Have fun and learn by playing

Children work their way through a curriculum of up to 300 musical skills.

Taught by professional musicians

Rocksteady band leaders are highly trained musicians who make learning music fun.

Much more than music

Improves wellbeing, confidence, social skills and academic achievement.

Progress at their own pace

Your child can achieve an exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity Music qualification!

End every term on a high note

Watch your child shine as they perform in their end of term concerts.

Rocksteady has boosted my son's confidence beyond belief!
Kerry

It's fantastic! Watching young people gain skills and confidence is invaluable.
Andy

Rocksteady has helped my child overcome their anxiety!
Natasha

£42.78 per month (no payment in August). Money back guarantee for the first month. Cancel at any time.

0330 113 0330
(Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)
rocksteadymusicschool.com

TRINITY
MUSIC
SCHOOL
C
Rocksteady Music School Ltd. Registered in England No. 08110258

Next Year's Term Dates

The dates for the school terms are published on the school website [here](#).



Attendance Update

During the summer holidays, the way attendance law is used by Local Authorities was updated. This means that Fixed Penalty Notice (fines) are increasing and there are more stringent consequences for parents of children who do not attend school regularly. This reflects the importance the DfE is placing on children having good attendance. The latest DfE guidance, which you may find useful, is [here](#).

The ways schools record absences is also changing, which could impact on the 'codes' used for absences.

Please note that Headteachers **cannot** authorise holidays during term time and all requests for leave of absence for exceptional circumstances **must** be made by completing the Leave of Absence form available from the school office.

If you are finding it difficult to ensure your child has good attendance, please contact the school as soon as problems arise so that we can help as soon as and as much as possible.

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 or your child has had low attendance in the past. 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 96.1%

Attendance this week is as follows:

Year R	95.7%
Year 01	98.7%
Year 02	98.7%
Year 03	95.0%
Year 04	96.9%
Year 05	99.3%
Year 06	95.4%

Important Dates

- Thursday 26th September, 6-8pm - Bishop Ullathorne Opening Evening
- Monday 23rd September, 18:30pm - PTFA meeting in the Community Room