

# More News 20th Spetember 2024

## St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



### Goodbye and Good Luck!

The school was sad to say 'goodbye and good luck' to Mrs Byron this week. Mrs Byron has been an integral part of our Admin Team for many years, ensuring the school is run smoothly and being a friendly face to greet children, carers and visitors.

Thank you for your hard work. We wish you lots of luck in your new job!

### Caring for our World

KS2 enjoyed an Eco assembly this week, led by Mrs Nicol from Christ the King who is our MAC Lead on eco endeavours. Mrs Nicol then met with our Eco Champions who swiftly took action in assessing any areas of the school in which we can make energy efficiencies. What a great start to the year's Eco Champions' work!

### 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](http://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



Please go to our website at  
[coventry.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://coventry.gov.uk/schooladmissions)  
Council for details on how to apply. For further help  
call School Admissions on **024 7697 5445**.

## 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](http://coventry.gov.uk/catchmentareas)

**School Open Days are advertised at**  
[coventry.gov.uk/school-admissions/secondary-school-open-evenings](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

## Do You Have the Correct Number for School?

We advise all parents and carers to save the number for St Thomas More School in their phones.

The Parish Office has received a number of calls from parents/carers trying to contact the school over the last few weeks. The church number is completely separate from the school number and they cannot advise or help with any queries or messages.

Please save the school number into your phone to make reaching the right people at school easier:

**024 76 849 910**

## 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.



**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>

## PTFA News!

### Welcome to the PTFA!

Every parent/carers 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.



## 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**

Only with  
**ASDA  
Rewards**

Download and  
opt-in today

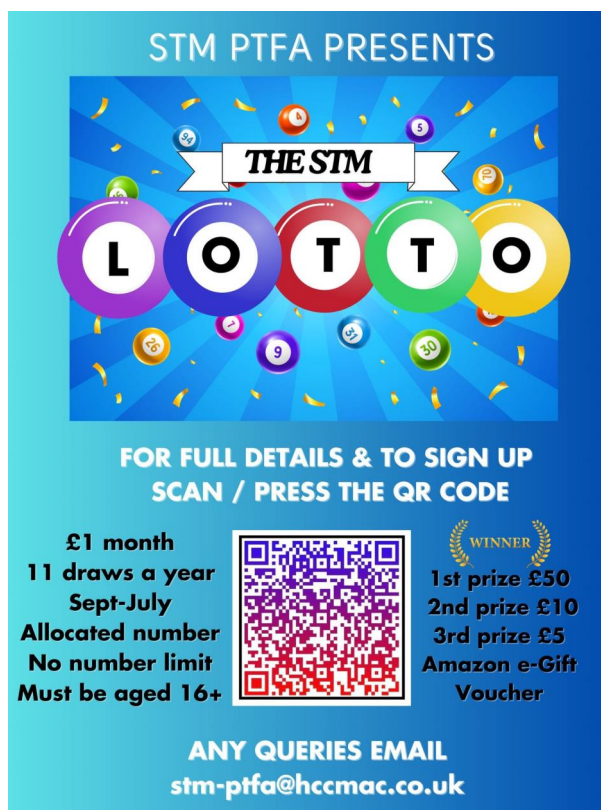
With  
**Parentkind**

**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

**THE STM**

**LOTTO**

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 the end of today: Friday 20th September. (You can update at anytime, but staff will be dedicating time to review changes next week.)

## Positive Family Foundations - in School!

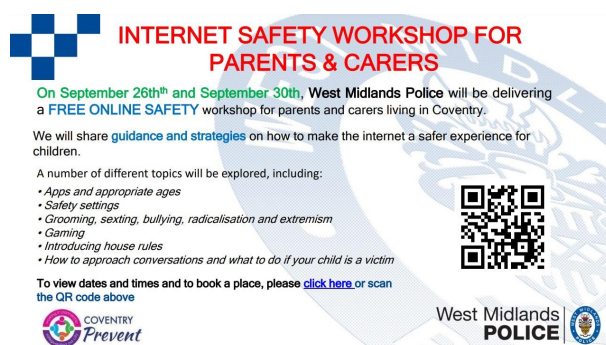
Thank you to those parents who have requested a place on this exciting course.

Parents and carers have been informed today if they have been allocated a place, so please check your emails.

## Free Online Safety Course for Parents and Carers

Matt, the schools' PCSO is delivering some free online safety courses for parents and carers of children of primary age. We were lucky to have Matt in school last year to deliver this course and feedback from parents was extremely positive, with one parent commenting that 'every parent needs to know this!'

Please use the QR code to book onto the course.



**INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS & CARERS**


On September 26th<sup>th</sup> and September 30th, 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



COVENTRY Prevent

West Midlands POLICE

## 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.

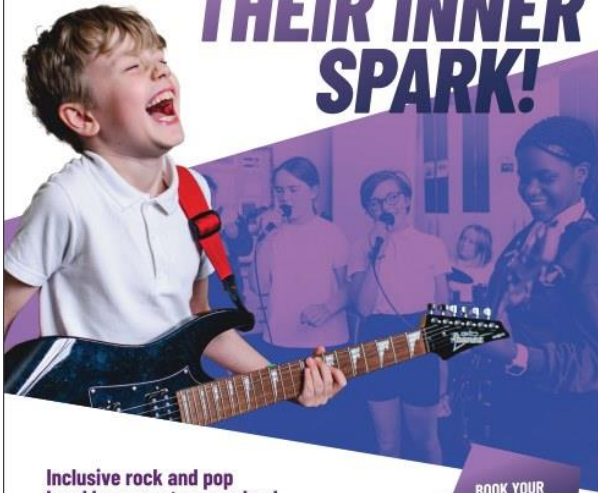
If you are able to help, please let the [admin](#) team know. All volunteers require a DBS check (which is free and school will arrange).

## 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-8pm, 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

£62.78 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 SCHOOLS  
Centre for the Arts  
Rocksteady Music School Ltd. Registered in England No. 08119258

## 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 97.9%**

Attendance this week is as follows:

Year R	98.3%
Year 01	99.3%
Year 02	98.0%
Year 03	96.6%
Year 04	96.9%
Year 05	94.1%
Year 06	93.4%

## Important Dates

- Thursday 26th September, 6-8pm - Bishop Ullathorne Opening Evening