

More News 4th October 2024

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Whole School Mass

Yesterday, the school gathered together for the first time this year at Mass. The Mass marked the Eucharistic Festival, Quarant'ore. It is a period of forty hours during which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for people to come and go as they please. Quarant'ore is an opportunity to commune with God. It offers a period of reflection where we can pause and take stock of our relationship with him, his mission for ourselves and how we are living out our vocation. It is an opportunity to move away from the busy schedule of our lives and simply be with the Lord. St Alphonsus Liguori once wrote, 'know also that you will probably gain more by praying fifteen minutes before the Blessed Sacrament than by all the other spiritual exercises of the day. True, Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, for He has made the promise, 'ask, and you shall receive,' but He has revealed to those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace.'



Cafod Family Fast Day

Today is Cafod Family Fast Day. This is a day when we reflect on our blessings and recognise when we have more than enough. Families were invited to contribute to the parish donation to local food banks by going without and to donating goods equivalent to what they would have used. Thank you for your generous donations!

If you forgot to donate today, please don't worry, we will continue to collect items until the end of October.



Marking and Feedback Changes

When you are next in school looking through the wonderful work in your children's books, you may notice that the way our teaching staff feed back praise and next steps to children looks a little different.

This is because we are introducing some changes to how all our school adults help children improve their learning.

We have spent a lot of time looking at the latest research into the best ways for teachers to improve children's learning and independence, and studies show that the most impactful, powerful feedback is given verbally to the child, group or whole class.

We want any change we make in school to be effective straight away, and therefore we trialed these marking and feedback changes last year to make sure they work for our children. The impact on learning from that trial was a success, so we are now implementing these changes across the school.

So now, more of our feedback to your child will be done live in the lesson, verbally in one-to-one conversations, or given to the class as a whole, with books showing a little less teacher writing, but a lot of progress!



Marking type	Summary
Live	In-lesson marking by the adult
Self- and peer- assessment	Structured, adult-guided and monitored child marking
Oral feedback	Children respond in pink pen to oral feedback
Selective	Marking a specific section, or for a specific LI-related skill
Full book set	Deep marking of the full set of books
Whole class feedback	Use of the class Feedback Folder to collate whole class headlines to be responded to as a cohort the next lesson
Target children focused	Deep marking of the target children's books, with the rest of the cohort receiving an LI highlighting

Mass of Thanksgiving

On Thursday evening, the parish will be welcoming Bishop Timothy back to STM, where he was once our parish priest, for a Mass of Thanksgiving. We will be asking some of our newly appointed pupil leaders to attend to represent the school. More details and the sign up sheet to attend the Mass and celebration afterwards can be found in church.

Pupil Leader Interviews

This week, we have been interviewing pupils from Y6 for the Pupil Leader roles. Pupils can apply for a range of roles:

- Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy
- School Council
- House Captains
- Outdoor Team
- Wellbeing Mentors

Pupils wishing to be appointed have completed an application form and attended an interview. The standard of application forms and interviews this year has been exceptionally high with our fantastic Year 6 pupils giving some very thoughtful responses.

Leaders will be appointed in assembly. Watch this space for the announcement of our Leadership Teams next week!



Sacramental Preparation

Please keep our Year 6 children in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

The first meeting for parents/carers and pupils will be in the church on Thursday 17th October at 5.30pm

Children will then mark their commitment to their preparation by attending Mass on Saturday 19th October at 5pm in church.

We're Hiring!

We currently have a number of roles that we are appointing to, including [Office Manager](#) and [Headteacher](#). If you know anyone who would be interested in these roles, please forward them the information (adverts available by clicking on the links).

Autumn is Here!

With autumn definitely here, and rainy and/or cold weather a consistent feature, please ensure your child comes to school with a coat.

Addressing a Problem

Please remember that if you have a concern or your child has shared a problem about another child, the best course of action is to speak to your child's class teacher so that we can address the matter in school. Please do not speak to other parents directly. Thank you.

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



Please go to our website at
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

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

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.



Disco

The first school disco of the academic year will be held on Friday October 18th. As always, the event can only run with enough willing helpers. If you are able to help out for an hour or two, please let the PTFA committee know by clicking on this [link](#).

More information can be found on the [PTFA Lotto page](#) of the website.

PTFA Tuck Shop

To celebrate the arrival of half term, the PTFA will be running a tuck shop on the playground at the end of the day of Friday 25th October.



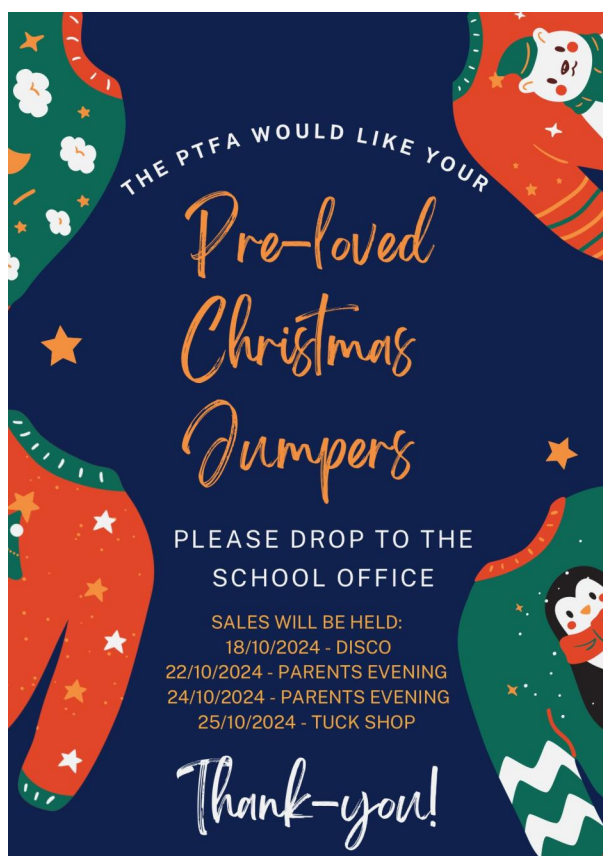
Pre-loved Sales - Donations Needed

The PTFA will be running a pre-loved uniform sale at the disco, so remember to bring along some change. There are lots of items of school uniform that can be bought for a very reasonable price and this is a great time to stock up for winter.

If you have any good quality pre-loved uniform that can be used in the sale, please send it in to school. Remember to make sure it's washed first.

Pre-loved Christmas Jumper Sale - Donations Needed

The PTFA would like to offer a pre-loved Christmas jumper sale before Christmas. This can only happen if enough pre-loved Christmas jumpers are donated though, so if you have any tucked away at the back of a drawer please send them in to school (washed!) to be added to the pre-loved Christmas jumper sale.



Pre-loved Communion Outfits Sale - Donations Needed

And lastly, if you have any pre-loved Communion clothing (boys' or girls') that you would like to offer to an appreciative home, please do donate it to our pre-loved Communion outfit sale. This can include dresses, shoes, suits/jackets and trousers.

ST Thomas More Preloved First Holy Communion dresses and suits



Please donate your preloved First Holy Communion dresses, suits, accessories, smart shoes, etc

So they can be worn again by other families in our School and Parish family when celebrating the Sacrament.

Please drop off at the School Office or any School disco.

The PTFA will make them available to buy or loan at preloved uniform sales and discos.



As you can see, our PTFA are very active and do a wonderful job of supplementing what the school can provide - **thank you!**

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

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.

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.

With **Parenikind**

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 26thth 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

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).

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 96.3%

Attendance this week is as follows:

Year R	97.3%
Year 01	100.0%
Year 02	97.9%
Year 03	95.9%
Year 04	94.8%
Year 05	92.8%
Year 06	95.5%

Important Dates

- Thursday 10th October, 7pm, Mass of Thanksgiving for Bishop Timothy, STM church
- Tuesday 15th October, Y1 visit to Herbert Art Gallery
- Thursday 17th October, Y6 Confirmation meeting (more details to come from Y6)
- Friday 18th October, non-uniform day - £1 donation
- Friday 18th October, school discos
- Saturday 19th October, 5pm, Mass of Commitment for Confirmandi (more details to come from Y6)
- Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th October - Parent/Carer consultations (more information to be shared closer to the time)