

# More News 11th October 2024

## St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



### Mass of Thanksgiving - Bishop Timothy

Yesterday evening we were privileged to welcome Bishop Timothy back to STM, where he was once our parish priest, for a Mass of Thanksgiving. A large number of our newly appointed Pupil Leaders represented the school beautifully by attending Mass and enjoyed socialising with parishioners at the celebration afterwards. They represented our school beautifully in their first engagement as Pupil Leaders and I was extremely proud of them attending the parish event with such prayerfulness and charm. Bishop Timothy gave a very thoughtful homily about the role of the parish and even gave our pupils their very own short address.

Please keep Bishop Timothy in your prayers as he embarks on his journey in this new role.



## Pupil Leader Appointments

I am delighted to share with you our newly appointed Year 6 Pupil Leaders who are raring to go in the new endeavour of making our school even better!

### Our Head Pupil Team

- Tia
- Victor
- Emilia
- Emmanuel



### Our House Captains

#### Fatima:

- Lana
- Jessica

#### Rome:

- Agnes
- Emily

#### Walsingham:

- Trixie
- Fife

#### Lourdes:

- Elias
- Aidan



**School Council:**

- Kendall
- Jay
- Kalina
- Anthony
- Mila
- Logan
- Sukhmani
- Nehemiah
- Renae
- Charlie
- Bence
- Jack
- Esmee
- Nmesomachi
- Aaron
- Joseph



**Well-being Team:**

- Janvi
- Thea
- Ethan
- Maya
- Yasminah
- Jessica
- Joshita
- Kuruvilla



**Outdoor Team:**

- Luna
- Oliver
- Noora
- Archie
- Ella

- Divine
- Mia
- Sienna
- Poppy
- Lily



## 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.

## First Netball Fixture of the Year

The First Netball game of the season was played by Ethan, Yasminah, Emily, Noora, Lena, Ella and Anthony.

It was an exciting game against All Souls. Unfortunately, we lost 4-2, but we made lots of progress and it was a friendly game.

Star Player of the Match was Noora, because she was fast.

## Non-uniform Day - postponed

Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to postpone our non-uniform day on Friday. We will reschedule and share the new date as soon as possible.

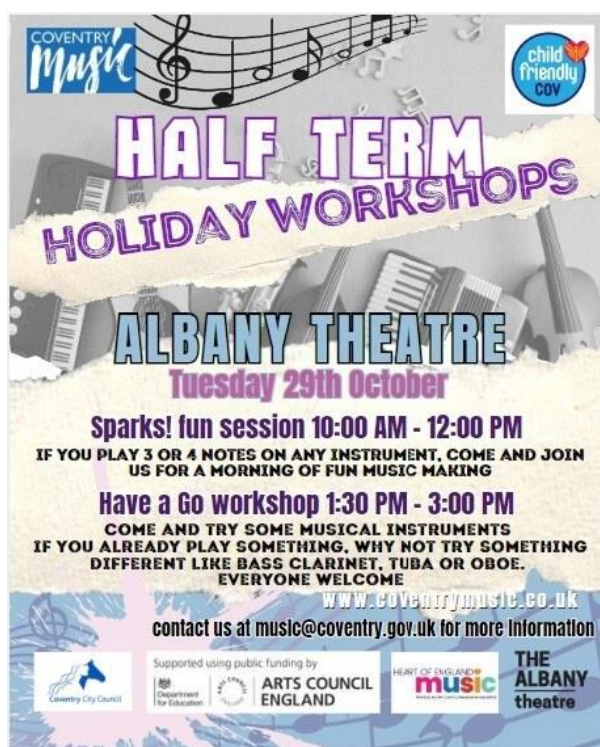
## Parent/Carer Consultations

Our Autumn Term parent/carers consultations will take place on the evening of Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th October. As this is the first consultation of the year, the focus of the meeting will be on how your child has settled into their new class. Your child's class teacher will be able to give a brief overview of their academic progress but it is too early in the year for assessments to have taken place.

You will receive an email on Monday letting you know how to book a slot on Arbor. Bookings will open at 6pm on Monday evening.

Please note, if your child is on the SEND register you will have had a longer meeting with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress. Please do not book an appointment for the parent/carers consultations as you have already had the information that will be shared at this meeting.

## Half Term Music Fun!



## Looking Ahead to Christmas

### School Dates for your Diaries

To support you in being able to attend some of our Christmas events we are sharing dates now. Please note that more information will be shared closer to the time.

#### Early Years and Year 1

The Twinkly Nativity play will be taking place in the school hall on:

- **Thursday 12th December at 2pm**
- **Friday 13th December at 10am**

Please note: children who attend Nursery in the mornings only or afternoons only will be able to take part in both performances.

### **Year 2 to Year 6**

The Carol Service will be in the church at 6pm on Tuesday 17th December.

## **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](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 <b>MUST</b> 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](https://coventry.gov.uk/catchmentareas)

#### School Open Days are advertised at

[coventry.gov.uk/school-admissions/secondary-school-open-evenings](https://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](https://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

## IMPORTANT - Reception Applications (Sep 25)

### Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021

The [application process](#) to apply for September 25 Reception places has opened.

The national closing date for making your application on time is **15 January 2025**. All applications received after this date will not be considered until after the offer date of 16 April 2025.

**If you are applying for a place at St Thomas More and wish for your child to be considered Catholic, you must show a copy of your child's Baptism certificate to the school. If the school has not seen the Baptism certificate your child will not be classed as Catholic for the admission process.**

Late applications will be considered in the second allocation round in May 2025.

Please access the [Coventry Education Services Portal](#) to make your On time application before 15 January 2025.

Our Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

## PTFA News!

### 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](#).



### 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.



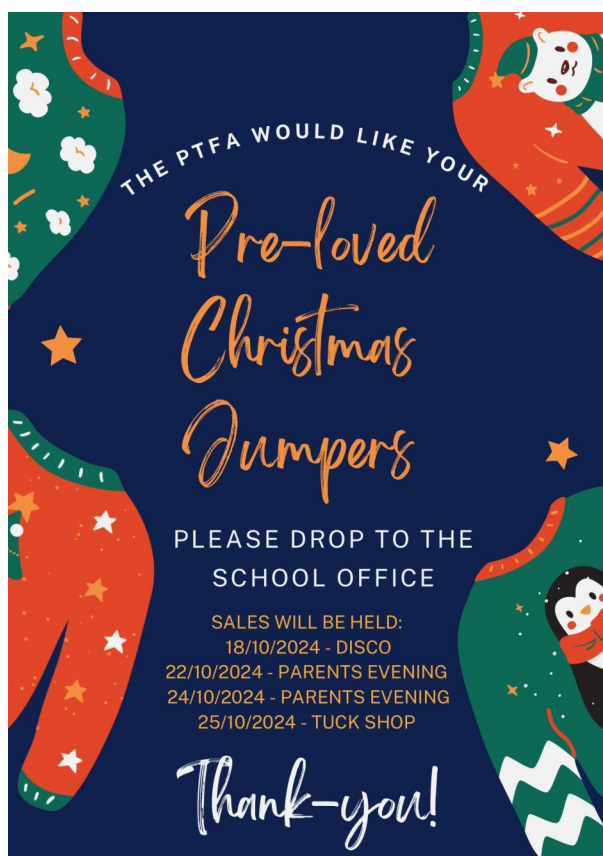
## Pre-loved Sales - Donations Needed

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.

**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.

## Free Sleep Tight Course for Parents and Carers

Does your child struggle to get to sleep or stay asleep?

Coventry Family Hubs are offering a free virtual two-hour workshop, on Wednesday 16th October, looking at the importance of sleep, understanding sleep cycles, causes of sleep issues and what you can do to support your child to sleep better. The session will be delivered by a National Sleep Charity trained practitioner.

Please see the attached information to book onto the course.

**Sleep tight workshop**  
for parents/carers of children aged 1 year and over

There are two dates available:

- Monday 16th September 1 - 2.30pm
- Wednesday 16th October 5 - 6.30pm

This session will be delivered virtually on Microsoft Teams

Sleep issues are common for children and young people and can have a huge impact on the quality of family life. This two-hour workshop looks at the importance of sleep, understanding sleep cycles, causes of sleep issues and what you can do to support your child to sleep better.

This session will be delivered by a parenting practitioner who has been trained by The National Sleep Charity.

**For more details or to book:**

Please email [parenting@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:parenting@coventry.gov.uk) and include the following information in your email:

- Preferred workshop date
- Your name, address and postcode
- Parent's/carer's email address
- Child's name and age

Coventry City Council | the sleep charity | child friendly coventry

## 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 96.4%**

Attendance this week is as follows:

Year R	96.0%
Year 01	98.6%
Year 02	98.0%
Year 03	95.9%
Year 04	97.5%
Year 05	95.9%
Year 06	94.8%

## Important Dates

- Tuesday 15th October, Y1 visit to Herbert Art Gallery
- Thursday 17th October, Y6 Confirmation meeting (more details to come from Y6)
- 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)
- Friday 25th October - last day before half term