

More News 18th October 2024

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Sacramental Preparation

Please keep the children in our parish who are preparing to receive the Sacraments this year in your prayers.

Fr Simon met with confirmandi and parents last night and the confirmandi will be attending Mass on Saturday at 5pm.

There will be a meeting for parents and carers of children in Year 3 who wish to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion on Thursday 7th November at 5.30pm in the church. The Year 3 children will then attend Mass at 5pm on Saturday 9th November.

Parish Poppy Project

Parents and children are invited to take part in the Parish Poppy Project where the church is asking parishioners to make poppies. They can either be knitted, crocheted or just coloured in. In time for Remembrance Sunday and 11 November, the poppies will be gathered together in a display in the corner of church.





Non-uniform Day - rescheduled

Our postponed non-uniform day will now take place on Friday 25th October. Children who wear non-uniform are asked to bring in a donation of £1, which will be used to fund the little extras in school that the budget cannot accommodate.

Year 1 Visit the Herbert Art Gallery

Year 1 enjoyed a trip to the Herbert Art Gallery this week. They learnt about patterns in large pieces of artwork and every day objects. They then drew their own patterns onto polystyrene board and used printing ink to print their pattern onto coloured paper. The children were in awe of their own work.






Parent/Carer Consultations

Our Autumn Term parent/carer 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.

Bookings can be made in the Arbor app.

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/carer consultations as you have already had the information that will be shared at this meeting.

Half Term Music Fun!

COVENTRY Music 

HALF TERM HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS




ALBANY THEATRE

Tuesday 29th October

Sparks! fun session 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
IF YOU PLAY 3 OR 4 NOTES ON ANY INSTRUMENT, COME AND JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF FUN MUSIC MAKING

Have a Go workshop 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
COME AND TRY SOME MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
IF YOU ALREADY PLAY SOMETHING, WHY NOT TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT LIKE BASS CLARINET, TUBA OR OBOE.
EVERYONE WELCOME

www.coventrymusic.co.uk
contact us at music@coventry.gov.uk for more information

Supported using public funding by
    **THE ALBANY theatre**

Looking Ahead to Christmas

Parish Christmas Bazaar

While it might seem far away, Christmas is fast approaching!

The Parish/School Christmas Bazaar will be held on Friday 6th December in the school hall. Plans are already underway to make this year's Bazaar as much fun as last year's was. If you would like to buy a stall for the evening, please contact Mary at mandihulme1@gmail.com

Christmas Bazaar raffle tickets will be sent home with your child (1 booklet per family) in the coming weeks. Please return counterfoils, payment and unsold tickets to school by Friday 6th December. No **tickets** can be sold to or by anyone under the age of 18 - The name on the ticket must be the adult's name.

There will be lots of opportunities for you to support in making the Bazaar great, so watch this space for more information over the coming weeks!

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.

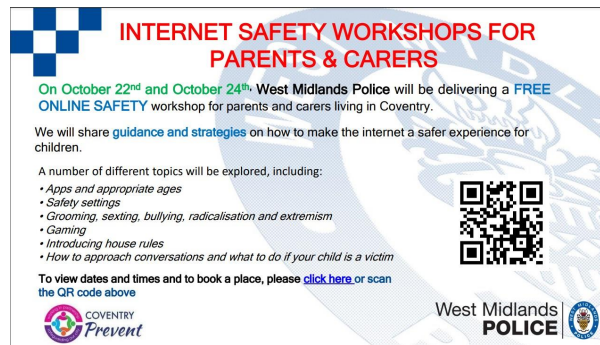
Bike and Scooter Helmets

Please remember that children may only come to school on a bike or scooter if they wear a helmet. Please support us in keeping your child safe.

Free Virtual Online Safety Course for Parents and Carers

Please see the information below about a free online safety (virtual) course for parents and carers.

We find that nearly 100% of the online safety issues we deal with in school happen outside of school, so it is important that parents and carers know how to keep their children safe online. This course gives lots of important information that can help.



INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS & CARERS


On **October 22nd** and **October 24th** 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**



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 complete 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

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 is taking place this evening. As always, the event can only run with enough willing helpers.



FRIDAY 18TH OCT

STM PTFA PRESENTS:

£3 PER CHILD

CASH & CARD PAYMENTS

SCHOOL DISCO!

POCKET MONEY TREATS

WITH A PRE-LOVED UNIFORM & XMAS JUMPER SALE

Featuring DJ Steve

DROP OFF COMMUNITY ROOM

PICK UP STUDIO DOORS

DISCO 1: 17:15-18:15 - NURSERY, RECEPTION, YEARS 1+2
DISCO 2: 18:30-19:30 - YEARS 3+4
DISCO 3: 19:45-20:45 - YEARS 5+6

NURSERY & RECEPTION PARENTS MUST STAY
ALL CHILDREN TO BE SIGNED IN & COLLECTED BY AN ADULT

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.



PTFA TUCK SHOP

EVERYTHING 50P

SCHOOL GATES
FRI 25/10/24
@ 15:20

Potato

Orange juice

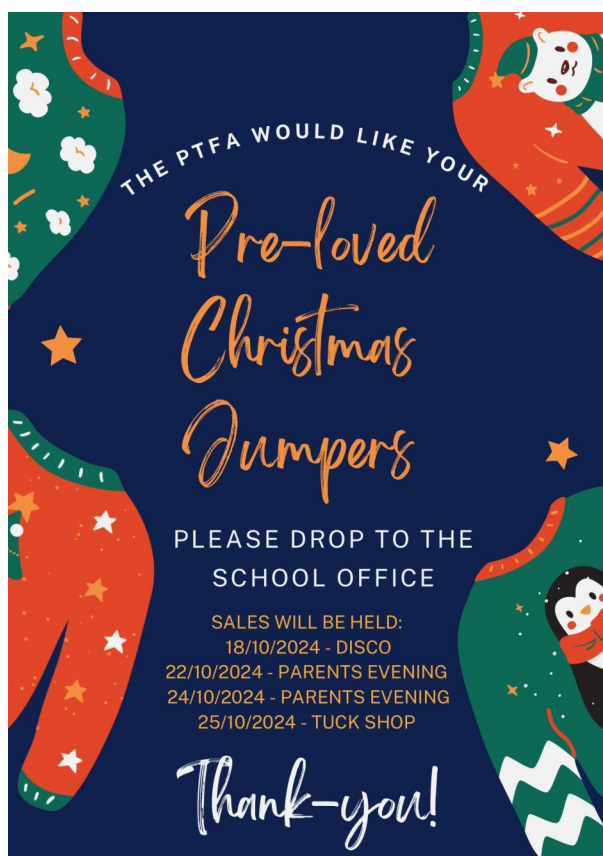
Pre-loved Sales - Donations Needed

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, 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!**

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.

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 96.5%

Attendance this week is as follows:

- Year R - 92.5%
- **Year 1 - 99.6%**
- Year 2 - 97.4%
- Year 3 - 95.1%
- Year 4 - 99.4%
- Year 5 - 94.2%
- Year 6 - 96.9%

Important Dates

- 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 - non-uniform day
- Friday 25th October - last day before half term
- Monday 4th November - return to school

- Thursday 7th November, 5.30pm - First Holy Communion meeting in the church
- Saturday 9th November, 5pm - Year 3 children attending Mass