

More News 29th November 2024

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Advent Day - Thank You!

The children have enjoyed Advent Day today, with learning, Advent wreath making, Christmas Card making and much more! They looked fantastic in their Christmas jumpers too!

Thank you for supporting the day and for contributing to the Parish Bazaar next Friday by donating chocolate and bottles. Your contributions are a very important part of making the Parish Bazaar a success.

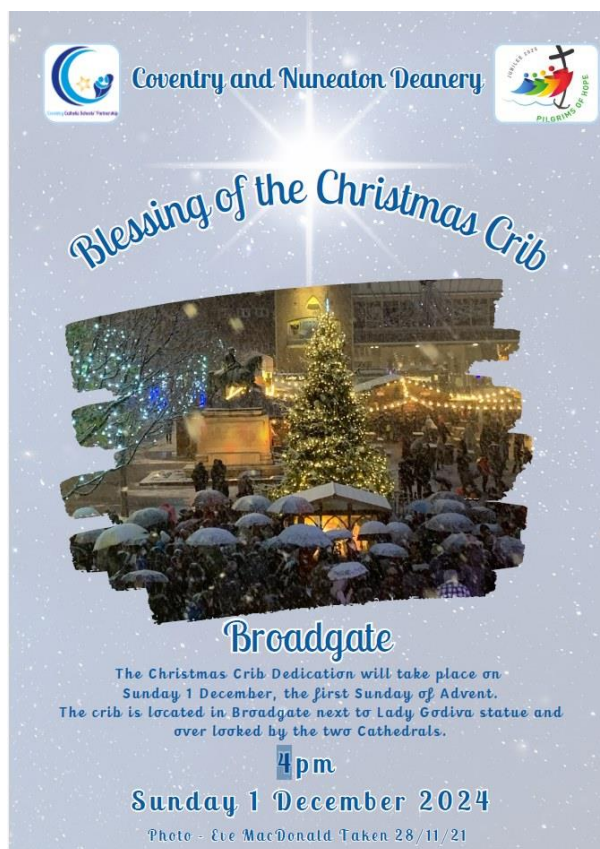






Invitation to Coventry City Centre Blessing of the Crib

Families from Catholic schools across the city are invited to attend the annual blessing of the crib in the city centre on Sunday, 1st December 2024 at 4pm.



Reverse Advent Calendar

For the first two weeks of Advent, we will be running a reverse advent calendar by inviting children to bring to school donations of toiletries to be given to Fr Hudson's Caritas to support people living on the streets or those newly arrived in the country as refugees or asylum seekers.

During the third week of Advent, all donations will be given to Carriers of Hope, a local charity that supports displaced people in Coventry.

An Update on Mrs Staines

I know the whole school community has been missing Mrs Staines' caring presence over the last few months. We had hoped to welcome her back to school this week, but sadly, her Mum passed away early in the week and so Mrs Staines' return will be delayed. I know you will join the staff at STM in sending love and prayers to Mrs Staines and her family.

Eternal Rest

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.
Amen.



Star Vision Photography - Deadline Sunday

Don't forget Sunday is the last day that orders can be made for photographs.

Christmas Lunch

The Holy Cross Catholic MAC have kindly offered to pay for all STM children to have Christmas lunch on Weds 11th December and the PTFA have provided crackers. The annual Christmas lunch is always a popular event and children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers again to help them enjoy the music, crackers, good food and general festivities.

If your child does not usually have a school dinner but would like to enjoy the Holy Cross Catholic MAC Christmas lunch, please let the admin team know by emailing them by the end of Weds 4th December.

PTFA Lotto

As classes have had a special class Collective Worship today for our Advent Day, the PTFA November Lotto was drawn in front of Y1.

First Prize, £50: No. 99 - Nina Senyk

Second Prize, £10: No. 43 - Claire Hughes

Third Prize, £5: No. 23 - Delia Poolton

Congratulations to the winners.

If you would like to take part and be in with a chance of winning, please see the details on our [PTFA Lotto page](#).

Santa's Grotto - Hurry, Only a Few Spots Left!

The booking for slots to visit Santa in his grotto are selling fast. If you would like to book one of the last few spots, you can do this via Arbor.

Children will be able to visit Santa in small groups for ten minute slots. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Child Friendly Cov - Safe Spaces

Please see the information below from Children's Services:

Child Friendly Cov is our commitment as a whole city to make Coventry the best place in the UK for children and young people to live and grow up. One of the Child Friendly Cov pledges is that all children and young people in Coventry should **'be and feel safe'**. Findings from the One Big Voice Survey which was completed earlier this year with children and young people from across Coventry, identified many primary and secondary aged children and young people, do not feel safe when travelling and walking around the city. As a result, Coventry City Council and West Midlands Police collaborated to create the 'Safe Spaces' initiative.

Safe Spaces are places, spaces, and venues across the city where young people can go if they feel they need support, if their phone needs to be charged, or if their parent/ carer needs to be contacted. All Safe Spaces have completed training and received a Safe Spaces pack, which includes a window sticker to ensure the Safe Space is identifiable.

To raise awareness about Safe Spaces the two videos have been developed, one aimed at young people, and one aimed at parents, carers and professionals. Please help to get the word out about Safe Spaces by sharing these videos far and wide and with any of your own family or friends who live in Coventry.

Young Person Video: [Safe Spaces Video for Young People](#)

Parent/ Carer and Professional Video: [Safe Spaces Video for Parents, Carers and Professionals](#)

More information about Safe Spaces can be found on the website: [Safe Spaces — Child Friendly Cov](#)



Looking Ahead to Christmas

Information about the Early years and Year 1 Nativity and about the Carol Service (Y2-6) will be sent out next week via email. Please keep an eye on your emails.

Parish Christmas Bazaar

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 mandjhulme1@gmail.com.

Please remember to return sold raffle ticket stubs and the money to school by Friday 6th December. More books are available from the school office if you would like to sell more. Please note, all raffle tickets **must be sold to adults (over the age of 18)**. The name on the tickets **must** be the adult's name.

Thank you for your support.



Christmas Concert

Please see below for information about a Christmas concert in the church to be performed by the Rock Choir.



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 on **Tuesday 17th December at 6pm**.

IMPORTANT - Reception Applications (September 2025)

Children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021

The [application process](#) to apply for September 2025 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](#).

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%

Attendance this week is as follows:

- Year R - 84.33%
- **Year 1 - 99.26%**
- Year 2 - 93.33%
- Year 3 - 91.25%
- Year 4 - 96.95%
- Year 5 - 93.1%
- Year 6 - 95.86%

Important Dates

- Sunday 1st December - Coventry City Centre Blessing of the Crib (at 4:00pm)
- Friday 6th December - Parish / School Christmas Bazaar
- Wednesday 11th December - Holy Cross Catholic MAC Christmas lunch
- Thursday 12th December, pm - EYFS & Y1 Nativity
- Friday 13th December, am - EYFS & Y1 Nativity
- Tuesday 17th December - Carol Service (Y2-6)
- Friday 20th December - last day of term