

# More News 6th December 2024

## St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



### Staffing Update

We have been delighted to welcome Mrs Staines back this week - it has been lovely to have such a key member of our STM ethos back in school and the children have been very keen to share their news and catch up with her.

As has been shared today in an email, Mrs Parker is unable to start at St Thomas More until just before Easter and so Mrs Staines will be leading the school and providing consistency as Acting Headteacher in the interim period. I know you will offer Mrs Staines (and Mrs Parker when she arrives) your ongoing support.

I am pleased to share that Mr Murphy will be teaching Year 2 after Christmas. Mr Murphy joined our school in September and has been teaching across the school during this time. We are very pleased to be able to be confident that Year 2 will be taught by a proven teacher who already knows the children in Year 2 and the way we work at STM.

### Parish Christmas Bazaar

Don't forget our Parish/School Christmas Bazaar is this evening in the school hall!

The event promises to be great fun. Remember it is a cash-only event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for your support.



## Blessing of Advent Wreathes

Yesterday, the school gathered together for our Advent Mass. During Mass, Fr Simon kindly blessed the Advent wreathes that the children made on our Advent Day last week. His homily asked us to think about the window to Jesus that Advent offers and how we can get ourselves ready for the coming of Jesus. We are getting ready, watching and waiting...

## Thanksgiving Mass

As you are aware, Mrs Collins will be leaving Saint Thomas More school at the end of the term. To show our appreciation and thanks for all she has done for our school community and parish we are celebrating a Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday 19th December at 2pm. All are welcome to attend with our school/ Parish community.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you for your donations of toiletries that have already been given to support vulnerable people in our local area.

For the first two weeks of Advent, the items donated for our reverse advent calendar will 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.

## **STM's Got (Artistic) Talent!!**

One of our talented Y6 children has put his skills to great use to help enhance our school environment and demonstrate our Catholic ethos. He spent many weeks working away at home to produce this fantastic depiction of our patron saint, St Thomas More. The art will hang in pride of place in our school hall to remind us of the qualities St Thomas More showed that we try to embody in our school.

Thank you to our school artist!



## **Christmas Jumper Day - Wednesday 11th**

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.

To help everyone (including those who aren't taking the option to eat Christmas lunch) celebrate, children and staff are invited to wear their Christmas jumper with the rest of their uniform on Wednesday, 11 December 2024. There is no need to pay or bring anything in - this is just for fun!

## Looking Ahead to Christmas

### Early Years and Year 1 Nativity

Parents and carers of children in Early Years and Year 1 will have received information about the performances of the Nativity next week. The children have spent lots of time practising and are looking forward to sharing their performance with you.

### Carol Service

Sadly, we have been forced to cancel our **evening** carol service on 17th December (apologies for sending out the incorrect date in our initial communication). However, all are welcome to attend the **afternoon** Carol Service at 1.30pm.

## Bags 2 Schools

Will you be having a clear out over Christmas to make room for the new clothing that will arrive on Santa's sleigh?

If you are, there is an easy way to manage those bags of unwanted clothes and raise some money for school.

The PTFA have organised for [Bags 2 Schools](#) to collect bags of unwanted, good quality clothing from STM on Tuesday 21st January. Please bring in any (bin)bags of unwanted clothes to the Community Room from Friday 17th January. The following items are all accepted: men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.

## 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](#)



## Christmas Concert

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



## 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 95.78%**

Attendance this week is as follows:

- Year R - 82.96%
- *Year 1 - 90.44%*
- Year 2 - 89%
- Year 3 - 94.06%
- **Year 4 - 97.46%**
- Year 5 - 88.62%
- Year 6 - 94.98%

## Important Dates

- Friday 6th December - Parish / School Christmas Bazaar
- Wednesday 11th December - Holy Cross Catholic MAC Christmas lunch
- Thursday 12th December, 2pm - EYFS & Y1 Nativity
- Friday 13th December, 10am - EYFS & Y1 Nativity
- Tuesday 17th December, 1.30pm - Carol Service (Y2-6)
- Friday 20th December - last day of term