

More News 13th December 2024

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Christmas Mass Times

When we keep the coming of Jesus at the heart of our Christmas celebrations it allows us to find those important moments with God in the midst of what can be a very busy period. Attending Mass gives true focus to the meaning of Christmas and is such a lovely tradition to keep with the family, young and old.

You can find Mass times at St Thomas More below:

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5.00pm - Vigil Mass with Carols
- Midnight - First Mass of Christmas with Carols

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9.00am - Mass of the Dawn with Carols concluding with procession to the Crib

Christmas Carol Service

Years 2 to 6 are looking forward to sharing their Christmas spirit at our Carol Service on Tuesday, 17 December 2024 at 1.30pm in the church. All are welcome!

Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity

This week we have been treated to some very special acting and singing with Nursery, Reception and Year 1 performing the Nativity for parents and carers. They have shown just what wonderfully engaged and excited learners they are with the way they have approached their performance and shared a beautiful version of the Christmas story. Well done KS1 and EYFS!





Christmas Lunch - Thank You Holy Cross Catholic MAC!

Holy Cross Catholic MAC paid for all pupils who wanted one to have a Christmas lunch on Wednesday. We made the meal even more festive by wearing our Christmas jumpers, pulling the crackers kindly funded by the PTFA (thank you PTFA!) and being accompanied by Timmy's excellent Christmas piano playing. We had a wonderful time!





We Loved the Panto (Oh No We Didn't...)

The children from Year 1 to Year 3 enjoyed a special Christmas treat and learning beyond the curriculum this afternoon with a visit from the panto, watching Dick Whittington with joy and enthusiasm.



Christmas Safeguarding

While many look forward to the opportunity to spend time with family at Christmas, it can be hard to know where to turn for help if something challenging happens or you are worried about a child. The following numbers can be called to contact help during the Christmas period:

- Coventry's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) 02476 788 555
- EDT (Out of Hours Social Care) 02476 832 222 (state that you have concerns about a child and want to speak to Children's Social Care)
- **If a child is in immediate danger or left alone, you should contact the police on 101 or 999**
- Safe to Talk 0800 111 4998 or <https://www.safetotalk.org.uk/>
- Childline 0800 111 1
- NSPCC 0808 800 5000
- NSPCC FGM Helpline 0800 028 3550

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

The first two weeks of reverse advent calendar donations (toiletries please) will be collected to be sent to the Fr Hudson's charity on Tuesday. Please do remember to bring something in and show compassion and bring hope to people in need.

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

Parking Safety

A polite reminder that cars must not park on the yellow zig-zags marked on the road at the beginning and end of the school day. We have plenty of parking available, so please use it. Parking on the yellow zig-zags is dangerous and puts the safety of our children and families at risk.

Thank you.

Alice In Wonderland Theatre Visit

Children in Y4, 5 and 6 will be stepping into Lewis Carroll's imaginative Wonderland on Wednesday 18th December. A lovely way to celebrate their hard work this term. Coaches will leave at 9:45am and children will arrive back ready for a later lunch. If your child usually has a school dinner the kitchen are providing them with a 'takeaway' box. Children who have packed lunches should bring them to school as normal. Please can you make sure your child is sent to school with their school water bottle and a nut free snack/ small packet of sweets. If you are yet to pay the voluntary contribution please do so asap. We look forward to hearing all about it.

Early English Parent Course

After the brilliant success of the Positive Family Foundations course that has been happening during autumn term, we are delighted to bring to St Thomas More an Early English course designed to support parents in supporting their child to make good progress and, more importantly, enjoy learning in the English curriculum in the earlier years of school. The

course is open to everyone, but the content is aimed at parents of children from Nursery to Year 2. If you would like to know how you can make the most out of talking, reading and writing with your child and really support their first steps as readers, writers and orators, this is the course for you!

Please see below for more details.

Find out how to support your child with reading and writing
 Join our free 10-week course – **'English in the Primary School'**

This course is for
 All parents and carers with children at St Thomas More School

What we do

- learn the correct phonics sounds
- explore ways to help your child with reading
- focus on the grammar, spelling and handwriting taught in English primary schools
- give you fun games to take home and play with your children
- share a drink and snack

Where it is
 In school - come to the main school office

When it is
 1-3pm every Monday from 13th January 2025

How to join
 Fill in the reply slip below and return to the school (assume you have a place unless we contact you)

To find out more email aeslifeskills@coventry.gov.uk or speak to Ms Hoare in school

See all Family Learning courses at <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/adulted>

Logos: Coventry City Council, ONE COVENTRY, Ofsted, West Midlands Combined Authority, Start Life, Education & Skills Funding Agency, matrix

Fill in this reply slip and return to the school (assume you have a place unless we contact you)
 I would like a place on St Thomas More/ Family Learning 'English in primary School'
 Your name Contact number.....
 Child's name..... Class

Winter HAF Activities

Coventry's Winter Fun programme, which will run **from Saturday 21st December 2024 to Sunday 5th January 2025**, includes free sessions to The Wave, Planet Ice, and day trips to pantomimes, farms, and trampolining! They've also got clubs for multi-sports, coding, cooking, skateboarding, performing arts, photography, and so much more.



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 95.68%

Attendance this week is as follows:

- Year R - 92%
- Year 1 - 98%
- Year 2 - 96%
- Year 3 - 90.94%
- **Year 4 - 98.31%**
- Year 5 - 93.1%
- Year 6 - 91.33%

Important Dates

- Tuesday 17th December, 1.30pm - Carol Service (Y2-6)
- Thursday 19th December, 2pm (STM church) - Mass of Thanksgiving
- Friday 20th December - last day of term
- Tuesday 7th January - back to school