

# More News 20th December 2024

## St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter



### Thank you!

As this is my last newsletter as Headteacher, I want to say thank you for all your support, communication and partnership.

It has been an honour to lead St Thomas More over the last five years and I am so very proud of the children and the school and to work with such dedicated staff, wonderful children and fantastic families. Our Governors, Fr Simon and the PTFA also do so much to make our school the place it is. I will miss the children, families and staff enormously.

I would like to say thank you to each of you for your support and collaboration over the last 5 years and for your kind words, cards and gifts over the last few weeks and to those who were able to attend the Mass of Thanksgiving yesterday.

I will always hold St Thomas More - the children, Families and staff - in great affection and wish the school and the children, families and staff the very best. You will remain in my prayers.

### Happy Christmas!

All of the staff at STM wish our children, families and wider community a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Remember school is closed now and will reopen at the normal time (gates open at 8.40am and school starts at 8.50am) on **Tuesday 7th January**.

## 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

Thank you to all who came to our Carol Service. The children sang and read beautifully and brought Christmas peace and joy.

## Theatre Visit

Thank you to Mrs Staines, Mrs Webster and Mrs Woods, all of whom were involved in organising this week's trip for Y4-6 to Albany Theatre to see Alice in Wonderland. The children had a wonderful time.

## 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

## EFL Kids Cup Runners Up 2024!

On Tuesday 10th December, 32 teams from across Coventry and ~Warwickshire attended the EFL Kids Cup at the University of Warwick. Considering the freezing conditions, all children played exceptionally well throughout the group stage and as they progressed through the knockout phase. The team unfortunately lost in the final against St Nicholas of Nuneaton. This was the only game in which they conceded a goal in the whole tournament!

Both finalists received tickets to Coventry City's recent fixture v Hull City where players were taken pitchside at the CBS arena and sat back in their padded seats to watch Sky Blues comeback to win 2-1.





## 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 .....

## Mental Health Support Survey

The Local Authority wants to know your thoughts and experiences in receiving mental health support to help them improve mental health service for young people.

Please see below for more information.

NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Coventry City Council Coventry and Warwickshire University Warwickshire Health Foundation

**Understanding young people and their mental health**

# MENTAL HEALTH Matters



**What is Mental Health?**  
Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act.

**Importance of Mental Health**  
Good mental health is essential for overall well-being, enabling us to handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices.

**Visit our website or scan the QR code to complete the survey: END of survey 15th January 2025**  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdp9YY3ZOLNcJ6\\_vVx1BjtRbf9MPBU7R16tgPmuIBIDszg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdp9YY3ZOLNcJ6_vVx1BjtRbf9MPBU7R16tgPmuIBIDszg/viewform)



**SCAN ME**

**CAN YOU HELP US?**

**YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!** 🧠💡  
Hello there! 🌟 In Coventry and Warwickshire, we are aiming to improve mental health services for young people like YOU. 🌟

Your thoughts and experiences can assist us in developing services that will genuinely benefit you and your friends.

**What Can You Do to Help?**  
We want to hear your opinions on what matters in mental health care!

We are working hard to make our services more "trauma-informed," which means recognising the best ways to support young people who may be experiencing anxiety, stress, or sadness due to difficult situations. 🌟

**Your voice matters, and by working together, we can create services that benefit everyone.**

## 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.

**Coventry HAF Winter Fun - 21 December 2024 - 5 January 2025**



**Winter Fun**  
Free activities and food this Christmas holiday

Book on now so you don't miss out - places will fill up quickly! Visit [www.coventry.gov.uk/haf](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/haf)

Delivered with partners by Coventry City Council and funded by UK Government

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## 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](#)



## 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 95.54%**

Attendance this week is as follows:

- Year R - 89.33%
- **Year 1 - 97%**
- Year 2 - 96%
- Year 3 - 95%
- Year 4 - 93.73%
- Year 5 - 94.48%
- Year 6 - 92.17%

## Important Dates

- Tuesday 7th January - back to school