



More News 10th January 2025

[St Thomas More Catholic Primary School Newsletter](#)



Happy New Year

It has been a privilege as Acting Headteacher, to welcome back all pupils and start 2025 together. I will be in this role for the Spring term until Mrs Ewa Parker takes up her position as Headteacher on 7th April. I look forward to working with you all during this transitional period. Please introduce yourself to me if you have recently joined our school community in the Autumn term as I was absent due to surgery. I am aware of new faces I cannot put names to yet.

Mrs Clare Staines



Thank you from Staff

All of the staff at STM would like to thank parents, carers and children for their kind Christmas cards, wishes and gifts.

Epiphany

At Mission assembly on Tuesday, we remembered the visit of the Magi to Jesus and considered how we can be inspired to also worship, honour and give time to Jesus in our lives. One way the children shared was by praying and coming to mass. We are very lucky to have a children's liturgy at the 9am mass here at Saint Thomas More Church. It would be wonderful to see families attend especially those in Sacramental year groups.

Mass Times

- Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm STM
- Sunday 9am Mass with children's liturgy STM
- Sunday 11am Mass at St Joseph the Worker.

It was beautiful to see some families attend the lantern lit Carol Service in church last Sunday. Something to look out for next year and try and attend. A reflective way to end the Christmas period before returning to school.








Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Holy Father Pope Francis has dedicated this year as a Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope.' The Jubilee Year of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026. As a school/ Parish Community we will walk together during this year of Hope. It is a year of hope and trust for a world currently suffering the impacts of war, ongoing impacts from COVID-19 pandemic and the increased threats to the climate around the world.

You could also visit the [website](#) for more information.




THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
OFFICE for MISSION
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."



JUBILEE YEAR
2025

"PILGRIMS OF HOPE"

To find out more about how your parish, family or school can celebrate the Jubilee Year, visit:



www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year

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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>



The games have helped make phonics fun. I am amazed by how much my son can do!

Country City Council ONE COVENTRY Ofsted Great Provider West Midlands Combined Authority Start Life Education & Skills Funding Agency matrix

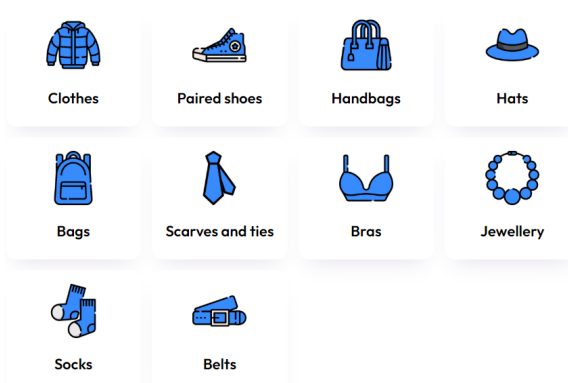
Fill in this reply slip and return to the school (assume you have a place unless we contact you)
 I would like a place on St Thomas More/ Family Learning 'English in primary School'
 Your name Contact number
 Child's name Class

Bags 2 Schools

Are you having a New Year clear out ?

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 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.



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.



The poster is titled "MENTAL HEALTH Matters" and is a call to action for a survey. It features a cartoon brain character wearing glasses and lifting weights. The text is organized into several sections: a header with logos, a main title, a definition of mental health, an importance statement, a survey link and QR code, a call to action "CAN YOU HELP US?", and a closing statement.

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_vVx1BjItRbf9MPBU7R16tgPmuIBIDSzg/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.

PTFA Lotto

The results of the PTFA December Lotto are as below:

- First Prize - £50: No. 76 - Joe Staines
- Second Prize - £10: No. 18 - Mrs Marajh
- Third Prize - £5: No. 70 - Mrs Sarah Boyle

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](#).

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 95.43%

Attendance this week is as follows:

- Year R - 96.11%
- Year 1 - 92.5%
- Year 2 - 96.67%
- Year 3 - 91.41%
- **Year 4 - 97.41%**
- Year 5 - 93.97%

- Year 6 - 90%

Important Dates

- Friday 10th January - Y6 - DYM Residential - Teams Meeting at 17:30
- Friday 17 - Monday 20 January - Bags2School Collection
- Tuesday 21 January - Football Match - STM vs All Souls
- Sunday 26 January - Thursday 30 January - Y6 Plas Doly-Moch Residential
- Wednesday 29 January - GB Athlete Launch
- Monday 3 February - PTFA Meeting - 6.30pm at the Community room. All are welcome
- Thursday 6 February - Football Match - STM vs Holy Family
- Tuesday 11 February - Netball Match Vs St John Vianney
- Thursday 13 February - Y6 Confirmation at 7pm (STM Church)
- Friday 14 February - GB Athlete Sponsorship Event
- Friday 14 February - Half Term Break