



MORE NEWS 5th December 2025



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Mission - First Sunday of Advent



We started the new liturgical year with the first week of Advent when we lit our first candle - known as the Prophet's Candle. It is the candle of Hope. As Pilgrims of Hope this is particularly poignant this year. We are hopeful in this period of preparation as we wait, watch and get ready to celebrate the birthday of Jesus at Christmas and also prepare for His second coming. We reflected on how we can get prepare our hearts this Advent. Children suggested following out Advent Calendar, praying as a family, going to mass each week and trying to be the best we can be with kind hearts.

On Thursday Year 2 led the school in our Advent Mass. During the mass our classroom wreaths were blessed by Father Simon. These will be used in class prayer times including the Come and Pray sessions we are inviting you to.

*Our new **Grow In Faith Together** Leaders were commissioned as part of this mass. All of Year 5 are asked to help the rest of the school Grow in Faith together. Together they will lead the prayer life of our school and support Father Simon in his ministry.*





Advent – A Season to watch, wait and get ready

Blessing of the Crib- Broadgate

It was wonderful to unite with Catholics across the City of Coventry at the Blessing of the Crib on Sunday- the First Sunday of Advent. The crib is funded by all Catholic churches in Coventry. A big thank you to Vinny who read one of the prayers and to several of our families who took part as witnesses to their faith.



Come and Pray

This year we invite parents and carers to a short class prayer and liturgy celebration in each classroom led by your child's class teacher. Parents/ carers and grandparents who came this week found this opportunity really beneficial and a lovely way to start the day after the madness of the school run. These will take place as follows:

- **Tuesday 9th December** - 9am Y3 and Y5
 - **Tuesday 16th December** - Nursery starting at 8:45am, 9am Rec, Y1 and Y6.
-

In this busy time of year, come and join us for a moment of prayerful peace to start your day.

Reverse Advent Calendar

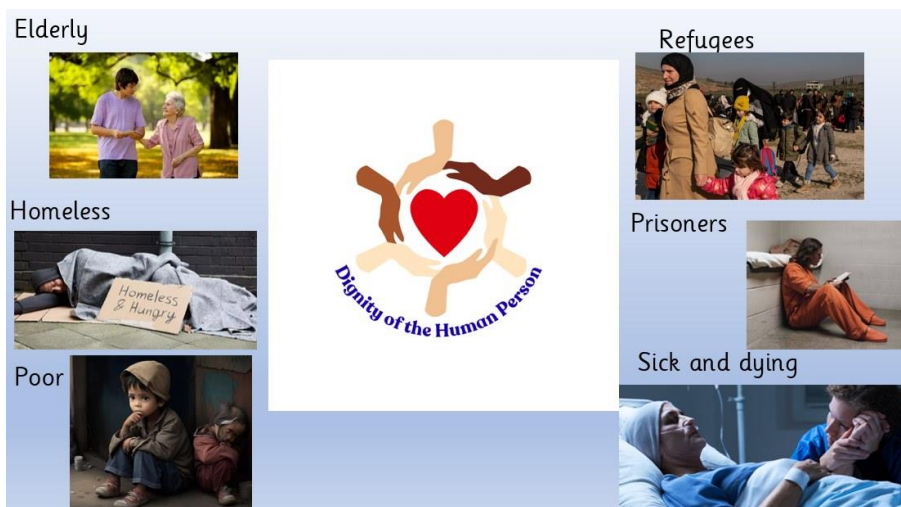
*This Advent as part of the Jubilee Year of Hope, we are joining schools across the Archdiocese in supporting **Father Hudson's Caritas** through a **Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal**. Instead of only receiving gifts, we are encouraging our children and families to **give to others in need if they can**. This links with our Catholic Social Teaching principle of the half term, dignity of the human person. Last year, together, the Diocese of Birmingham schools collected over 100,000 toiletry items – an incredible achievement! This year, all schools are focusing on **non-perishable food items** to help families in need. These include dried foods (such as pasta and rice), sauces, tinned foods, biscuits, crisps, and suitable Christmas treats. Please send your child's donation into school by **Wednesday 10th December**. Each year group has been allocated an item to support a range of donations being collected:*

- **Nursery: Pasta**
- **Reception: Rice**
- **Year 1: Tinned Vegetables**
- **Year 2: Tinned Fruit**
- **Year 3: Biscuits / Crisps**
- **Year 4: Tinned Soup**

- **Year 5:** Tinned Meat or Fish
- **Year 6:** Jars of Sauce (e.g., pasta sauce)

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us live out the BDES mission: Forming Christ-centred pilgrims of hope with kind hearts, questioning minds, a thirst for knowledge, and a hunger for justice

Catholic Social Teaching- Dignity of the Human Person



HOME PROJECT

*This half-term, the children are exploring the Catholic Social Teaching: **Dignity of the Human Person**. This focus is especially meaningful in November, a month when we remember those who have died. It reminds us that every person is created in the image and likeness of God - unique, precious and deeply loved.*

To extend this learning beyond the classroom, we invite the children to work on a home learning project answering the question: "I know God loves everyone, so why should I care for others?"

We encourage the children to work with their families in creating a joint family project, and these projects may take any form the children choose, such as PowerPoints, posters, artwork, models, or even acts of charity - we are looking forward to seeing the children's creativity shine!

Please ensure projects/ photos of charity work are brought into school by **Monday 8th December**. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Mass Times



A reminder weekend Mass times are:

Saturday

5:00pm - Vigil Saint Thomas More

Sunday

9:00am - Saint Thomas More (includes Little Church)

11:00am - Saint Joseph the Worker

Advent Prayer Bags

During Advent, the children will have the opportunity to take the class' Advent prayer bag home. This is a prayer and liturgy resource for you to use, with your child at home, to grow in faith as a family. There are various resources inside the bag, as well as guidance and suggestions.

Each day, the Advent prayer bag is sent home with a different child. We ask that you take a few minutes away from your busy lives to support your child in leading prayer and liturgy.

Afterwards, we ask that each child draws or writes a reflection about their prayer and liturgy in the book provided. **Please ensure your child returns the Advent prayer bag the next day, so that another family may use it.**

If you do take any photos of your child's prayer and liturgy, please do send them to the office for Miss Allison's attention - I would love to see them! Have a blessed Advent!



Parish Christmas Bazaar - Friday 5 December

We look forward to seeing you this evening at our Parish Christmas bazaar from 6-8pm.

We know many children have booked to see the very special start of the event- Father Christmas in our PTFA grotto.

COLOURING COMPETITION

Last week your child would have been sent home a colouring competition sheet. We invite all children to participate in this mindful colouring activity. **Hand in completed colouring sheet along with £1 by Thursday, 11 December.** The winners will be announced during the Monday Mission Assembly on 15th December.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Please make sure sold and unsold raffle tickets are returned to the school office as the draw will be held after 9am mass on Sunday 7th December.



First Holy Communion Meeting

Thank you to all those parents/ carers who attended the meeting on Wednesday in the MRR. Father Simon shared the importance of the Sacraments in our lives and how they help us to grow closer to God. He also shared some important dates and that the forms to sign up for your child to make their First Holy Communion will be available from him after mass over the

*next three weekends **6/7th December, 13/14th December and 20/21st December.** Please make sure you attend mass and collect a form and return it to him. We are so grateful to Father Simon for supporting you as a family on your journey of faith.*

Other important dates are

Sunday 11th January 9am- Mass of Enrolment

Saturday 7th March 12 noon- Reconciliation

Sunday 17th May 9am First Holy Communion

Children's Boot Fund



We are delighted to share that the Coventry Children's Boot Fund is now fully open and ready to support families once again.

*They are pleased to announce their new partnership with **Clarks**, enabling them to continue providing high-quality shoes for children across Coventry.*

*Families are encouraged to submit their application forms **as soon as possible.***

Please visit [their website](#) for more information.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

COVENTRY ROCKS - THINGS TO DO IN COVENTRY



DECEMBER 2025



**COVENTRY
ROCKS™**

THINGS TO DO IN COVENTRY

THE ULTIMATE WHAT'S ON GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

www.coventryrocks.co.uk

MAKE IT A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER!

Christmas is here - are you ready? The Coventry Rocks website is BURSTING with ideas to help you make the most of family time this Festive Season!

- Places to See Santa
- Christmas Events & Activities
- Theatre Shows for Kids
- Christmas Markets & Fayres
- Carol Concerts
- Best Places for Christmas Lunch
- Christmas Gift Ideas - Shop Local!
- Family Days Out to Suit Any Budget
- Holiday Clubs & Sports Camps
- Parks, Walks & Play Areas
- Family-friendly Restaurants & Cafés
- PLUS discounts & offers just for you!

Discover all of this and more at www.coventryrocks.co.uk

**FIND FESTIVE FUN
AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON**



www.coventryrocks.co.uk



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period. This guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Please click on each image below for more information.



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.



Parents please contact your school if you would like to attend a parents internet safety workshop or have any concerns.

Schools please [contact us](#) if you would like a SKIPS Safety Net session delivered to your parent groups or staff.

Skips Educational

Web: www.skipssafetynet.org
Email: info@skips.com
Tel: +44 121 227 1941

142 Newton Road
Great Barr
Birmingham B43 6BT

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Developed in partnership with



Keeping children safe online

www.skipssafetynet.org

FREE ONLINE COURSES - COVENTRY CITY COUNCIL

Find out more about raising happy,
secure and well-behaved children

free
online
course

Join our free 10-week online course
'Positive Family Foundations'

This course is for

All parents and carers with children aged 0 - 10
in Coventry

What you'll learn

How children develop with practical examples
to support behaviour, well-being and mental health

What we do

- email you a new 30-minute course video
each week
- give you digital resources to help your learning
- answer any questions you've got by email

Where it is

A pre-recorded online course to watch where and when you like

When it is

Emails sent on Mondays, containing all the information for that week
From Monday 12th January for 10 weeks

How to join

Scan the QR code to enrol

View all Family Learning courses and enrol online at
www.coventry.gov.uk/adulted



*'I found out loads
of different ways
to help my son
feel calmer'*



Assume you have a place unless you hear from us



Find out more about supporting your child with primary school maths

Join our free 10-week course **'Maths in the Primary School'**

This course is for

Parents and carers with children at school in Coventry

What we do

- give you more maths confidence
- explain the maths methods used
- learn and understand maths words used in school
- give you fun games to take home and play with your children

Where it is

Coffee Tots @The Wave Waterpark, New Union St, Coventry CV1 2PS

When it is

12.30-2.30pm every Thursday from 15th January

How to join

To enrol click the QR code or go to <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/adulted>

For further information email aeslifeskills@coventry.gov.uk



'I felt really comfortable – they made the maths easy to understand. The great games didn't feel like homework at all'



*Assume you have a place unless you hear from us *



Find out more about supporting your child with primary school maths

Join our free 10-week online course -
'Maths in the Primary School'

free
online
course

This course is for

All parents and carers with children in Coventry

What you'll learn

The maths words and methods used in primary schools and how you can help at home

What we do

- email you a new 30-minute course video each week
- give you digital resources to help your learning
- answer any questions you've got by email

Where it is

A pre-recorded online course to watch where and when you like

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View all Family Learning courses and enrol online at www.coventry.gov.uk/adulted

To find out more email aeslifeskills@coventry.gov.uk



'I learnt a lot – now it's much easier to help my son with his maths'



Assume you have a place unless you hear from us



Find out more about supporting your child with reading and writing

free
online
course

Join our free 10-week online course-
'English in the Primary School'

This course is for

All parents and carers with children aged 2-10 in Coventry

What you'll learn

The phonics, reading, grammar and spelling used in primary schools and how you can help at home

What we do

- email you a new 30-minute course video each week
- give you digital resources to help your learning
- answer any questions you've got by email

Where it is

A pre-recorded online course to watch where and when you like

When it is

Emails sent on Mondays, containing all the information for that week
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To find out more email geslofeskills@coventry.gov.uk

'This was great as I work full-time and couldn't go to the daytime classes.'



Assume you have a place unless you hear from us



Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA)

SANTA'S GROTTO SUPPORTERS

We are delighted to share that four wonderful local businesses have generously supported this year's Santa's Grotto. Their kindness and community spirit have helped us create a magical experience for our children, and we are truly grateful for their contribution.

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- *Octanauts Swim School*
 - *Coventry Swim School*
 - *Soccer Rockz Totz*
 - *Centurion Fast Fit*
-

Attached are flyers about them.





SCHEDULE

2-3 YEARS REC 26 STARTERS

<p>MONDAY 10-10.30 Jaguar Sports and Social Club, CV5 9PS</p> <p>MONDAY 5.30-6 Risen Christ Church, CV2 3AE</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 5.30-6 Holbrooks Community Centre, CV6 4PE</p> <p>THURSDAY 5.30-6 Allesley Park Community Centre, CV5 9NG</p> <p>FRIDAY 10-10.30 Allesley Park Community Centre, CV5 9NG</p> <p>FRIDAY 1-1.30 Allesley Park Community Centre, CV5 9NG</p> <p>SATURDAY 10-10.30, 10.30-11, 11-11.30, 11.30-12 Stoke Heath Primary School, CV2 4PR</p>	<p>MONDAY 6-6.30 Risen Christ Church, CV2 3AE</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 6-6.30 Holbrooks Community Centre, CV6 4PE</p> <p>THURSDAY 6-6.30 Allesley Park Community Centre, CV5 9NG</p> <p>SATURDAY 9-9.30, 9.30-10 Stoke Heath Primary School, CV2 4PR</p> <p>SUNDAY 9-9.30, 9.30-10, 10-10.30, 10.30-11 Stoke Heath Primary School, CV2 4PR</p>
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07854221643

soccerrockz.ryan@gmail.com

 @soccerrockztotz
 






COVENTRY SWIM SCHOOL

PATHWAY TO
CITY OF COVENTRY SWIMMING CLUB

Lyng Hall School, Blackberry Lane
Coventry CV2 3JS

Alan Higgs Centre Allard Way,
Coventry CV3 1HW



Scan this QR code
Learn to Swim
Assessment enquiry form



Why choose us?

Experienced Teachers.

We have very experienced teachers, some of which swim at national level!!
We have 2 former Olympians as part of the Coventry team.

Fast-Track Your Child's Swimming.

We have a proven scheme to accelerate your child's swimming skills.

Seamless Path to Competition.

We partner with Coventry Swimming Club, offering your child a direct pathway into competitive swimming.

www.coventryswimschool.co.uk

Further information is available by emailing
enquiries@coventryswimschool.co.uk

CENTURION
FAST FIT

4.8/5 *FACEBOOK RATINGS
4.7 *GOOGLE RATINGS

NEED AN MOT, SERVICING
OR VEHICLE MAINTENANCE??
CENTURION FAST FIT ARE
HAPPY TO HELP

CALL 02476,638999

WWW.CENTURIONFASTFIT.COM
FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM MESSAGES

VEHICLE TESTING STATION
DIESELS TESTED
CATALYSTS TESTED

CENTURION FAST FIT, KEEPING YOU ON THE ROAD

PTFA

PLEASE SCAN

TO JOIN

FOR FULL DETAILS & TO SIGN UP SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO: <https://forms.gle/Huw9CGvriqzq5k47>
ANY QUERIES PLEASE EMAIL: stim-ptfa@hcamc.co.uk

THE SIM

LOTTO

£1 month
11 draws a year
Sept-July
Allocated number
No number limit
Must be aged 16+

WINNER

1st prize £50
2nd prize £10
3rd prize £5
Amazon e-Gift
Voucher

ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT!

Congratulations to many of you as your child's attendance is improving. We do appreciate all your support and encouragement to get your children into school. This is typically the time of year that our children pick up bugs as they tire towards the end of term. So if your child is genuinely too poorly to be in school, please keep them at home. However, if in doubt send them in and we will always call you if we need to.

As on today the overall attendance of the whole school is 95.6% which is higher than the national average of 94.9%. To celebrate this achievement, each class will be taking part in a disco/ karaoke session in the hall over the next two weeks. Mr Brown is kindly volunteered to be the Master DJ.

We aim to achieve 95% or more each year. 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 95.56%

Attendance this week is as follows:

- Year Reception - 95.33%
- Year 1 - 91.33%
- Year 2 - 94.33%
- Year 3 - 92.73%
- Year 4 - 92.81%
- Year 5 - 92.66%

- Year 6 - 97.41%
-

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

- *Friday 5th December Parish Bazaar 6-8pm.*
 - *Monday 8th December 10am EYFS and Yr 1 Nativity for Parents/Carers performance 1*
 - *Tuesday 9th December 10am EYFS and Yr 1 Nativity for Parents/ Carers performance 2*
 - *Wednesday 10th December Pantomime for the whole school in school hall-*
 - *Saturday 13th December 4pm- Confirmandi Session 3.*
 - *Tuesday 16th December Years 2 to 6 Carol Service in Church 2pm and 6pm. The expectation is all children attend.*
 - *Wednesday 17th December- Christmas Dinner Day- Wear your Christmas jumpers.*
 - *Thurs 18th Dec EYFS/KS1 School Trip - Hatton World Christmas Extravaganza*
 - **TERM BREAK (22 Dec to 2 Jan)**
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JANUARY

- *Monday 5th January Pupils and staff return to school*
- *Tuesday 6th January- The Feast of the Epiphany- Whole school mass at 10am led by Y1*

- **Sunday 11th January 9am Year 3 mass of Enrolment**
- *Monday 12th January 11am- Prospective parent/ carer tour of school*
- *Monday 19th January 6:30pm PTFA Meeting*
- **Friday 30th January Mass with Archbishop Bernard to launch the year of the 75th birthday of Saint Thomas More School**

FEBRUARY 2026

- *Friday 13th February Break up for Half Term Break*
- *Half Term Break (16 to 20 Feb)*

MARCH

- *TERM BREAK (30 Mar to 10 Apr)*

MAY

- *Mon 04 May - Bank Holiday*
- *Mon 25 to Fri 29 - Half Term Break*

JULY

- *Fri 03 July- INSET DAY (School closed for students)*

- *Mon 20 Jul - INSET DAY (School closed for students)*
-