



MORE NEWS 23rd OCTOBER 2026



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Celebration of the Word - Give to God what is God's.

In this week's Celebration of the Word, we listened to the Gospel from Matthew 22:15-21, where the Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by asking whether people should pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus responded by asking whose image was on the coin. When they replied, "Caesar's," Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God." This powerful message linked beautifully to our learning in the new Religious Education Directory topic, Discerning Disciples, where we have been reflecting on Creation. The children explored what it means to be made in the image and likeness of God and the responsibilities that come with this gift. We considered how we can give ourselves back to God through the way we use our time, talents, love, actions and hearts. This week, we are all challenged to give back to God by showing kindness to others, making good choices, and growing closer to Him through our words and actions.

Wednesday Word & Children's Bulletin

Each week, we share links to the [Wednesday Word](#) and the [Children's Bulletin](#), which provide child-friendly Gospel reflections, prayers, puzzles and activities linked to the Sunday liturgy. These resources are a great way for families to continue exploring and discussing the Word of God together at home, helping children to deepen their faith and understanding of the Gospel message.



Pupil Leaders- Giving back through service of others

We are delighted to announce our Pupil Leadership Team for this year, a fitting reflection of Monday's Mission and the many ways our children give back to God through service to others. This year, we received an overwhelming number of applications from our Year 6 pupils for leadership roles. Reading their applications and interviewing them was a truly uplifting experience and made me incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Their enthusiasm, commitment and desire to serve our school community shone through in every application.

Unfortunately, there were not enough positions available for all applicants. However, I have reassured those who were unsuccessful that there will be many opportunities throughout the year for them to represent the school and use their gifts and talents in other important ways. We are blessed to have so many children who are eager to lead, serve and make a positive difference within our school community.

Head Girl: Isabella **Head Boy :**Max **Deputy Head Girl :** Zara **Deputy Head Boy:** Michael

House Captains:

Fatima: Yeva and Maimie **Lourdes:** Scarlett and Brianna **Rome:** Ollie and Vinayak
Walsingham: Abdulmojeed and Leo

School Council:

Alina, Amelie, Carina, Freya, Grace, Ignacy, Maxie, Nathan, Nathaniel, Nevaeh, Oshae, Peter and Sam.

This year our school council have formed sub groups of OPAL, Fundraising, SEND Support and representatives for each class. We hope to share some of the work they have been doing over the year.

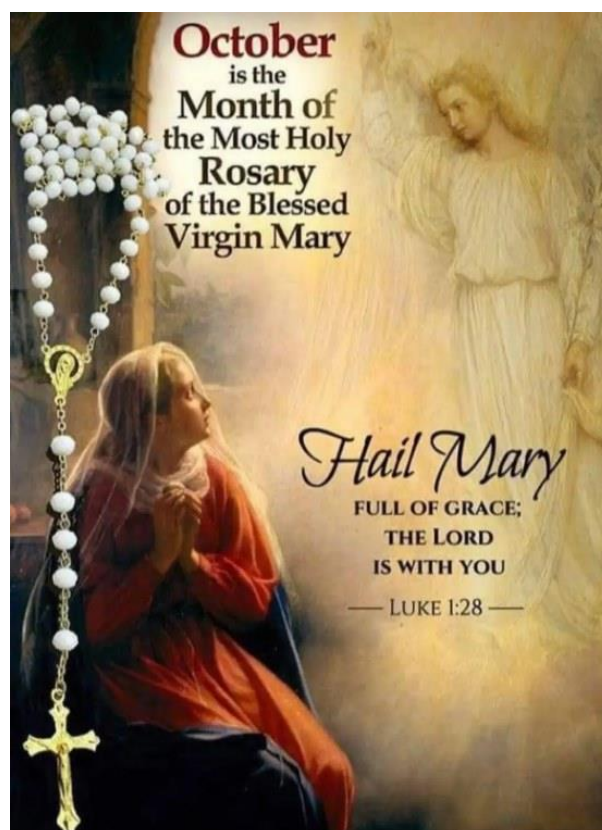
Congratulations to Our New GIFT Team Leaders

*We are delighted to congratulate our newly appointed Year 5 GIFT Team Leaders: **Mia, Nel, Charlotte, Paisley, Blessing and Sophia**, who successfully completed their interviews with **Fr Simon and Mrs Towers**.*

*The children impressed us with their enthusiasm, faith and commitment to serving our school community. From now on, they will meet with Mrs Towers **each Thursday at 8:30am** to help plan and discuss whole-school initiatives, Catholic Life and Mission, prayer and liturgy, and ways to support the faith life of our school.*

Over the coming weeks, they will work alongside our current Year 6 GIFT Team Leaders, learning from their experiences before taking on their new leadership roles at the beginning of Advent. We look forward to seeing all that they will achieve in this important ministry.

October - The month of the Holy Rosary



So many of the Rosary Challenge Charts have been ticked in classrooms. Well done so far. There is one week left of the challenge and this falls during our half term holiday. Please do remind your children about the challenge and this might be a wonderful opportunity for you to pray a decade a day as a family. Children can use the [Rosary Challenge Record Sheet](#) to keep track of their progress throughout the month.

We would love any photos of shared experiences at home whilst using the prayer bags (without any faces) so we can share in the newsletter or display in the prayer room.

This week we have focussed on the Sorrowful mysteries.

1. The Agony in the Garden

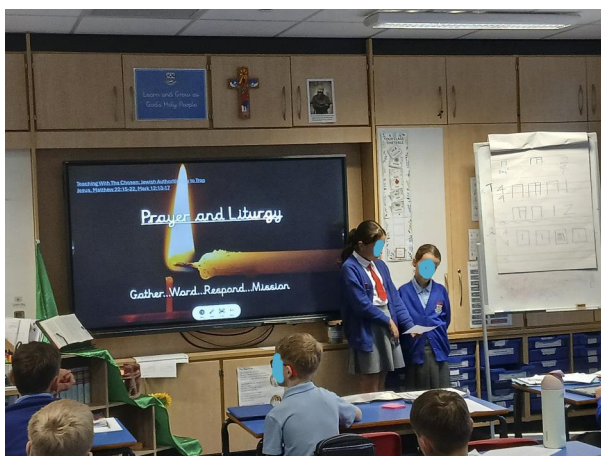
2. The scourging at the Pillar

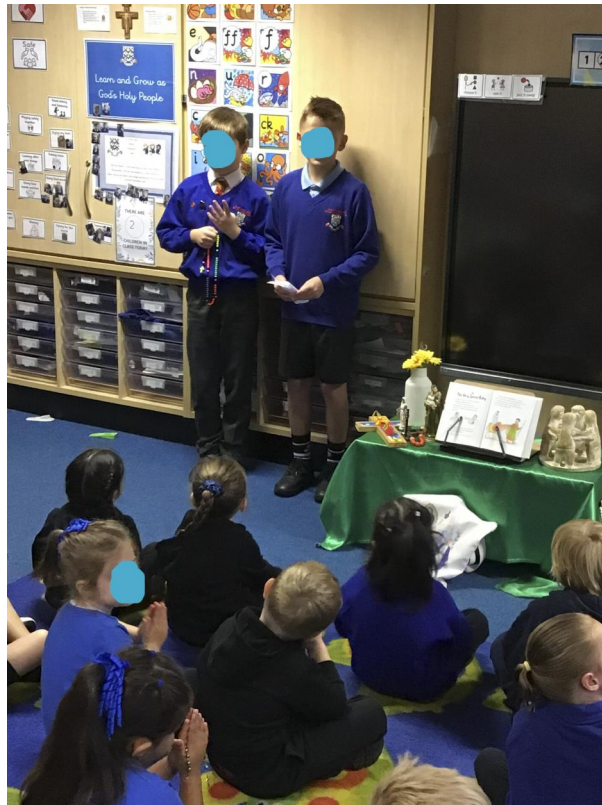
3. The crowning with Thorns

4. The Carrying of the Cross

5. The Crucifixion

Throughout October, our GIFT Team have visited classes across the school to lead a decade of the Rosary. It was wonderful to see children leading prayer with such confidence, reverence and faith, helping our whole school community take part in the Rosary Challenge together.







THE ROSARY CHALLENGE

RECORD SHEET

The Rosary Challenge is to pray a decade of the Holy Rosary, each weekday in October.

SCAN ME



JOYFUL MYSTERIES

☐ THE ANNUNCIATION
 ☐ THE VISITATION
 ☐ THE NATIVITY
 ☐ THE PRESENTATION
 ☐ FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

☐ THE RESURRECTION
 ☐ THE ASCENSION
 ☐ DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 ☐ ASSUMPTION OF MARY
 ☐ CROWNING OF MARY

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

☐ AGONY IN THE GARDEN
 ☐ SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR
 ☐ CROWNING WITH THORNS
 ☐ CARRYING OF THE CROSS
 ☐ THE CRUCIFIXION

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

☐ BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN
 ☐ WEDDING AT CANA
 ☐ PREACHING OF THE KINGDOM
 ☐ THE TRANSFIGURATION
 ☐ INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

Walking with the Saints – A Special Family Resource

The Feast of All Saints is just around the corner, and CELEBRATE Trust have put together a brand-new family pack to help you celebrate it, and to keep walking with the saints all year round.

*When Pope Leo spoke at Mexico's National Youth Day, he reminded young people that we are all called to holiness. The saints show us how. They're our heavenly family, cheering us on, and **Walking with the Saints** is packed with simple ideas to help your children get to know them.*

The family pack includes:

 *Saint-inspired crafts, games and activities*

 *Prayers and ideas for family prayer*

 *A Night of Light activity for All Saints*

 *Short saint stories and podcasts for children*

 *Book and film recommendations*

 *Ideas suitable for different ages, from young children to grandparents*

It is a lovely opportunity to spend some time together as a family, learning about the saints and discovering how their lives can inspire us in our own journey of faith.

The pack is completely free to download.

[Download the Walking with the Saints Family Pack](#)

We hope families enjoy exploring these resources together and celebrating the wonderful example of the saints.

“The saints show us how.”



Loving and Compassionate

We have had some uplifting examples of children being loving and compassionate.

*We had some of our Y6 pupils, **Nevaeh, Amelie, Farah and Freya** creating a welcome poster for a returning child to their class. I hope they like it and it helps them to feel welcome.*

***Peter** in Nursery has been looking after all of his friends, especially the ones who have been a bit upset. He has shown care by helping them to put on their coats.*

***Penny** in Y1 is consistent being loving and compassionate towards others in the class.*

Catholic Social Teaching- Stewardship



Stewardship

Today marks the end of the half term where we have focussed on Stewardship and looking after the wonderful world God has created. Whilst we will move onto our next Catholic

Social Teaching principle we will continue to be good stewards trying to reuse, reduce and recycle.

*Some of our children have been creative in forest school and wanting to share their celebration of creation through their messages and art work. We have a lovely art creation of a flower by **Scarlett and Grace**.*

***Stash, Yarik and Zac** created an artwork on the playground and wrote messages to celebrate the life of magpie Jimmy that had died in forest school.*



Sustainability News

*A warm welcome back to our **Sustainability Team in KS2** and to our newest members in year 3. This is the name now given to our Eco Team.*

Children from Yr 3 to Yr6 with a keen interest in looking after the environment volunteer to meet up at lunchtimes on a regular basis to work out ways we can do this, from litter picking, encouraging “reduce, reuse recycle” to gardening.

They also have termly opportunities to meet other Sustainability Team members from across the MAC to share ideas, take part in workshops and celebrate their achievements.

On Tuesday 10th November Year 5 will be joined by the Holy Cross MAC Sustainability Lead to mark COP 31.

If you would like to support our team we would be very grateful for any donations of ... compost ! Even partially used bags would be very much appreciated thank you !

November - Month of Remembrance



*As we return to school, we enter the month of November, a special time when we remember and pray for loved ones who have died. The whole school will attend a **Mass of Remembrance** for all past pupils, staff, parents and members of our school community who have died on **Thursday 5th November at 10.00am**. Following Mass, there will be a short prayer of remembrance in our Prayer Garden, where Father Simon will bless the memorial plaques dedicated to members of our STM family who have died. Families with memorial plaques in the Prayer Garden, both new and existing, are warmly invited to attend.*

*On **Wednesday 11th November at 10.45am**, we will gather in the Prayer Garden for a **Remembrance Prayer Service and Moment of Silence**. This will provide an additional opportunity for pupils to remember and pray for all those who have lost their lives in war and conflict.*

*If you have photographs of loved ones who have died and would like them to be included in our **Remembrance Book**, please send them into school with the person's name and details of their connection to our school community. These will be added to our special Remembrance Book, which will be displayed in the **Prayer Room** throughout November.*

Parish 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

Little Church- Sunday 9am- This is the Liturgy of the Word with children, offering them the opportunity to listen and respond to the Sunday Gospel at an age appropriate level. The Children and a Prayer Leader are called forward at the beginning of Mass and process to their sacred space where the scriptures are explored through reflection, discussion, song and other appropriate activities. An adult may accompany a very young child until they are settled. All return to Mass at the Procession of Gifts for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



Community Day- Autumnal Demolish and Build!

*Following the wonderful success of our Community Days last year, we are delighted to invite families, friends and members of our wider community to our first Community Day of the academic year on **Sunday 8th November, from 10.00am to 3.00pm.***

*This year's theme is "**Demolish and Build**", as we work together to create exciting new opportunities for our children. We plan to build a dedicated storage unit for construction materials, enabling our older pupils to enjoy more hands-on building and design experiences. We will also be demolishing several old sheds to make way for a brand-new replacement shed, generously purchased and donated by a kind anonymous benefactor.*

In addition, we hope to continue developing our Forest School area by creating new planting beds and enhancing this valuable outdoor learning space.

Whether you can spare an hour or stay for the whole day, your support would make a tremendous difference. Community Days are always a wonderful opportunity to work together, meet other families, and help improve our school environment for all of our children. We would be delighted to see as many volunteers as possible join us.



Sports News

School Holiday Fun Days - 27th to 29th October

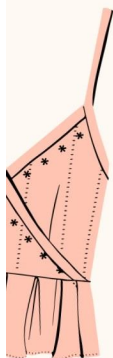


Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA)

Bag 2 School

*It's that time again to have a good cupboard clear-out! Your child would have come home with Bag 2 school this week. Please note the dates in the poster below. No donations will be accepted after Thursday, 12th November. **Bags can be dropped off in the Community Room on the specified days only please.***

The more we collect, the more we raise for our school. Thank you for your support!



St Thomas More
Catholic School

Bag 2 School

Donation Dates:

Mon 9th Nov to Wed 11th Nov

Collection Date:

Thursday 12th November

Donate your pre loved clothes,
shoes and accessories to raise
funds for the PTFA!

The more we collect, the more we raise.

Drop off point:
School Office

**2 House
Points for
each bag**



Clothes



Paired shoes



Handbags



Hats



Bags



Scarves and ties



Bras



Jewellery



Socks



Belts

STM PTFA Lotto - CONRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS (OCTOBER)

1st prize - No. 27 - Liss Jose

2nd prize - No. 47 - Shengnan Huo

3rd prize - No. 49 - Laura Donegan

*If you haven't already signed up for the **STM PTFA Lotto 2026–27**, there's still time to join!
For just **£1 per month**, you'll have the chance to win prizes while helping to raise valuable
funds for our school.*

Sign up or renew your membership here:

<https://forms.gle/KZASWVGaDud9UeDm6>

You can also scan the QR code on the attached poster.

STM PTFA PRESENTS



THE STM

LOTTO

**FOR FULL DETAILS & TO SIGN UP
SCAN / PRESS THE QR CODE**

£1 month		WINNER
11 draws a year		1st prize £50
Sept-July		2nd prize £10
Allocated number		3rd prize £5
No number limit		Amazon e-Gift
Must be aged 16+		Voucher

**ANY QUERIES EMAIL
stm-ptfa@hccmac.co.uk**

Other Notices

Product Recalls and Safety Alerts

Parents and carers are encouraged to check the latest product recalls and safety alerts issued by the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS). This information includes products that may pose a risk to health and safety, along with details of any action that may need to be taken. [View the latest Product Recalls and Safety Alerts on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/product-recalls-and-alerts)



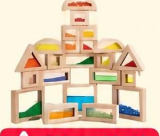
Product Recalls

Information for Parents

Please check at home

The UK Government regularly issues product recalls and safety alerts for products that may be unsafe. Please check the latest information on the government website to see if any items you have at home are affected.



Love to Dream Sleep Machine (2609-0065)  Risk: Fire	Smyths Toys Wooden Cornhole Board with Bean Bags (2609-0108)  Risk: Health risk	SHEIN Children's Wooden Acrylic Rainbow Sensory Blocks (2609-0191)  Risk: Health risk
YongnKids Theme Scene Sandbox Toy Kit sold via Amazon (2609-0148)  Hazard: Asbestos	Sophie Allport Doorstops and Draught Excluders (2608-0008)  Risk: Health risk	HTI Toys Fun Sand Art Bottle Kit (2607-0020)  Risk: Health risk

**Check for the latest product recalls and alerts at:**
www.gov.uk/guidance/product-recalls-and-alerts

**Top tips for parents and carers:**

- ✓ Regularly check the government website for updates.
- ✓ Check toys, baby products and household items you have at home.
- ✓ If a product you own is recalled, follow the advice on the website to keep your family safe.
- ✓ Share this information with friends and family.



Calling All Diwali Celebrators

After half term, we will be learning about Diwali and how it is celebrated by people around the world. Throughout the week, children across the school will explore the festival in a variety of ways, including listening to traditional stories, creating colourful rangoli patterns, and learning about the importance of light overcoming darkness.

We would love to hear from any parents or family members who celebrate Diwali and would be willing to come into school to share their experiences, traditions, or stories with our children. If you think you may be able to help, please let us know. We would be delighted to hear from you.



CALL OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for parents and grandparents who may be able to volunteer a little of their time to support our children with activities such as reading, times tables and spelling practice.

If you would be interested in helping, please contact the school office. Volunteers will be required to complete the necessary DBS checks before supporting children in school.

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDER

For the safety of all our children, Nursery and Reception pupils must be accompanied by a parent or carer to their respective drop-off points. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep all our children safe.

After the October half term any Y6 child attending an after school club will not be allowed to walk home on their own as the evenings will be getting much darker. Thank you for your understanding.

AUTUMN ESSENTIALS: COATS AND WELLIES

As the autumnal weather creeps in please send your child to school with a named coat as we go outside in all weathers. We would also encourage children to bring their own pair of wellies into school so they will be able to go into our forest school and mud kitchen. Children without wellies will not be allowed to use these areas.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

*A gentle reminder to all parents and carers that, in line with our school attendance policy, **evidence of medical or other appointments should be provided to the school office** when a child needs to leave school during the school day.*

*If you are planning a holiday during term time, please email the school office in advance, stating the dates your child will be absent, their expected return date and the reason for the request. Please remember that **term-time holidays will not be authorised** and, in many cases, will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) being issued.*

Thank you for your cooperation and support in ensuring good attendance at school.

Coventry Family Hubs Digital Offer Discovery Event

Come along to our FREE family event for a fun-packed session with activities for all ages.

Tuesday 27 October 1.30pm to 3.30pm
At The Salvation Army, Upper Well Street, Coventry, CV1 4AG

The Coventry Family Portal is your one-stop place to discover services, activities and support for families across Coventry. From family relationships advice and health support to activities for children and young people, there's something for everyone.

Take part in our Digital Treasure Hunt!

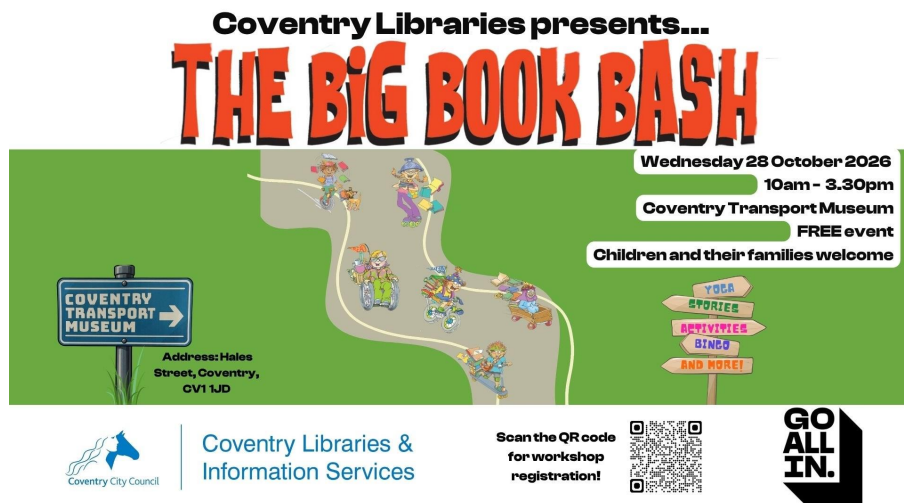
- Explore the Coventry Family Portal, follow the clues and see what you can discover. Complete the treasure hunt for your chance to WIN a special prize!
- **Free to attend - no booking required.**

Fun and activities for children

- Under 5s activity area
- Create your own tote bag
- LEGO
- Pool table
- Football table
- Crafts for older children
- And much more!





Baby week family events - save the date



Libraries will be attending the **launch event** for families on **Saturday 14 November, 11am to 2pm**, at **The Salvation Army, Upper Well Street, Coventry CV1 4AG** and will be taking along information encouraging families to join the library and participate in activities.

We will also be providing space for families to enjoy books, stories, and rhymes together. Do come and find us on the day!

Libraries have also been invited to host **Chat, Play, Read** sessions aimed at babies and toddlers. These are to take place at the following libraries during the week:

- **Aldermoor Library** – Tuesday 17 November, 10.30am to midday (rhymetime/stay and play is usually 10.30am to 11.30am)
- **Stoke Library** - Tuesday 17 November, 10.30am to midday (rhymetime/stay and play is usually 11am to midday)
- **Central Library** – Wednesday 18 November 10.30am to midday (rhymetime is usually at 11.30am)
- **Canley** - Friday 20 November. 10:30am to midday (rhymetime is usually at 11am)

ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT!

As you are aware attendance is crucial for your child to achieve their maximum potential. We aim to achieve 95% or more each year. It would be wonderful if we aim for each child was able to improve on last attendance by 1%. 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.

*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 96.18%.

Attendance this week is as follows:

- Year Reception - 92.09%
 - Year 1 - 96.21%
 - Year 2 - 95.52%
 - Year 3 - 94%
 - Year 4 - 95.31%
 - Year 5 - 98.06%
 - Year 6 - 96.18%
-

IMPORTANT DATES

October

- Friday 23rd October PTFA Tuck Shop after school - CANCELLED

- **Half Term Break (26th to 30th October)**
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November

- **Tuesday 3rd November 9am** Arden Penguin Appeal Launch Assembly
 - **Tuesday 3rd November** Parent/Carer Consultations 3:40-5:40pm
 - **Thursday 5th November 10am** Mass of Remembrance Led by Y5
 - **Thursday 5th November Parent/Carer Consultations 3:40-5:40pm**
 - **Sunday 8th November - Community Day 1- 10am-3pm** All hands welcome.
 - **Tuesday 10th November** Year 5 COP 31 Afternoon Event
 - **Wednesday, 11th November** - Individual and sibling photo session
 - **Wednesday 11th November-** Remembrance Day- 2 min silence
 - **Friday 13th November 1:15pm** Parent/ Carer Tour of school - please book place by contacting the school office
 - **Saturday 14th November 4pm** Confirmation Session 2
 - **Monday 16th November- 20th November** Road Safety Week
 - **Wednesday 18th Wednesday Red Wednesday-** Children to dress in red and bring a donation to Church in Need
 - **Friday 27th November-** Advent Day
-

December

- **Thursday 3rd December 9:15** Whole School Mass- Blessing of Advent Wreaths

- *Friday 4th December- Christmas Extravaganza*
 - *Saturday 5th December 4pm Confirmation Session 3*
 - *Monday 7th December 2pm EYFS Nativity for parents/ carers*
 - *Tuesday 8th December 10am EYFS Nativity for parents/carers*
 - *Tuesday 8th December- Friday 11th December Y6 visit to Plas Dol y Moch*
 - *Wednesday 16th December 4pm Advent Carol Service Y1-Y6*
-

*Please note an additional Teacher Training Day on **Friday 12th February** to enable all Holy Cross Staff to gather together.*
