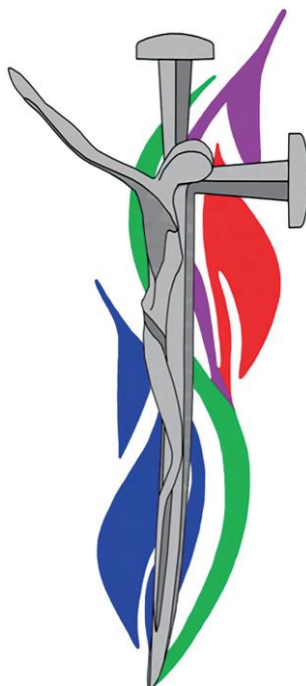


Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company

Christmas Newsletter 2021



*Achieving
together in faith*





**To all Parents, Carers, Staff,
Governors and Directors**

**At Holy Cross Catholic Multi
Academy Company Schools**

My prayers are that the Christmas break will bring each of you, rest, peace and times of joy with family and friends. I ask that God continues to bless you and sustain you and that you find renewed strength, hope and faith to meet the challenges the future may bring.

I pray especially for our children and young people and their families. May you enjoy this time of rest and remain safe and well.

Many thanks to all our staff, volunteers, governors, parents, carers, clergy and directors within the Holy Cross MAC who played again such a crucial role in the lives of our schools and the community. At this time again, we also think of our loved ones and remember all those who have died and pray for them and their families.



Thank you for supporting those less fortunate than ourselves through fundraising and charitable works that have taken place through the year. May you all find hope in this Christmas season though rejoicing in the birth of the Saviour.

I wish each and every one of you a safe, happy and holy Christmas and a New Year full of hope.

Holy Cross of Jesus, be our hope.

John Teahan.

Chair, MAC Board of Directors.



**To all Parents, Carers, Staff,
Governors and Directors**

**At Holy Cross Catholic Multi
Academy Company Schools**

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Directors

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term 2021 we pray that we will all be able to enjoy the Christmas season with our families and loved ones. It has been another challenging term for our young people and staff and families and we are very grateful for the continued support and patience shown by all as we adapt to the challenges that the Coronavirus brings. As always, our children and young people have been fantastic in adapting to any changes and we are incredibly proud of the care they show for others and all their wonderful achievements and successes. We are also very grateful to all our staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our children and school communities have remained as safe as possible throughout this term.

I would like to thank all the children, staff, Governors, Directors and parents and carers for their shared effort and support in helping to keep our school communities as safe as possible by ensuring they follow all the advice and guidance. The Omicron variant brings uncertainty to everyone and we ask everyone to be especially careful in avoiding transmission by following the advice and guidance.

We hope and pray that this Christmas there will be opportunities to be with our family, friends and loved ones and for everyone to get plenty of rest and relaxation. The joy and hopefulness of the Christmas season and the gifts of peace, love and goodwill to all people that it brings are so important and once again this Christmas, more than ever, we look forward with hope to the new year.

We particularly pray for all those for whom Christmas will be a sad and lonely time particularly those who have recently lost loved ones or who face difficult challenges in their lives.

On behalf of everyone at the Holy Cross Catholic MAC, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a peaceful, holy and relaxing Christmas and we pray that the New Year brings you all good health and happiness and an end to the pandemic.

Holy Cross of Jesus be our hope.

Marina Kelly

Catholic Senior Executive Leader



Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Mission Vision and Values Day – 1 November 2021

On Monday 1 November 2021 all staff from Holy Cross Schools gathered together for our MAC Mission, Vision and Values day. We had planned and hoped when we started organising our Inset day that we would be able to join together at Coventry Cathedral. However once again due to Covid staff had to join together virtually and we were delighted and honoured that our day was led by Sr Judith Russi. Sr Judith is a sister of Saint Mary of Namur and Director of the Catholic educational charity EducareM. She is an inspirational speaker on Catholic education.



Sr Judith has worked for many years in all fields of Catholic education and she was invited to work with a small team of primary and secondary teachers to develop Caritas in Action which is a practical resource to help teachers guide young people to know, to understand and to live out their Faith through actions based on the Social Teachings of the Church.

Long Service Awards



In the afternoon all staff gathered virtually for our Mass of Thanksgiving on the Feast of All Saints from the Pope Francis Hall at Cardinal Newman Catholic School and we were delighted to welcome back Fr Jonathan who led our mass. We were also delighted to invite all the staff who have given significant long or special service to our schools to attend mass.

After mass the Lord Mayor Councillor John McNicholas and Lady Mayoress presented the Long Service and Special

awards to staff who have given exceptional service and commitment to our young people and school communities and made a significant difference to and improved the life chances of thousands of young people.

And it is quite unbelievable that when the combined years of service of staff attending was added up it totalled a staggering 1158 years of service. That is many thousands of young people who have benefitted over the years from the commitment of our staff today to their learning and pastoral care.



A special mention to Sarah Bannigan who joined Bishop Ullathorne on 1 January 1977, initially as a P.E teacher. Sarah has had many different roles before retiring at the end of August 2021 after an incredible 44 years' service to Bishop Ullathorne. We thank Sarah for her wonderful service and wish Sarah a very long, happy and healthy retirement.

Holy Cross Celebrating 25 Years Plus Service!





**Holy Cross Catholic
Multi Academy Company**

**Thank you to the following staff for their long dedicated service to the children of
Coventry:**

Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

Sarah Bannigan Sarah Boyle Patricia Casey
Hilary Cawley Ian Cox Maria Doherty Frances Grearson
Lindsey Isabella Eileen Jeremiah Ian Kerrigan Linda Moore
Helen Penson Alison White

Cardinal Newman Catholic School

Angela Baylis Christine Bevis Christopher Courtney Angela Cramp Michael Curran
Rhys Davies Elizabeth Dwyer Martina Haggarty Mary Harris Rebekah Mason
Carolyn Minshull Martyn Shaw Christina Pears June Walsh

Christ The King Catholic Primary School

Helen Farrell-Smith Christine Hogan Susan Lewis Caroline Molloy Sharon Thompson
Elaine Williams

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Lorraine Brooks Cheryl Callen Jane De Miranda Wendy McMahon
Jacqueline Morgan

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

Mary Bolton

St. John Vianney Catholic Primary School

Emma Holmes Bernadette Kelly Tracy McCallum

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Sarah Chester Pauline Wilson-King

Schools' Building Programme Update

New Nursery at St John Vianney

The MAC are proposing to build a new Nursey at St John Vianney Catholic Primary School. Subject to planning permission the new nursery will be built adjacent to the existing school building providing a state-of-the-art area designed specifically for pre-school children.



The nursey will have capacity for 26 children made up of a combination of morning, afternoon, and all-day places, along with wraparound care before and after school hours, for children aged three and four.

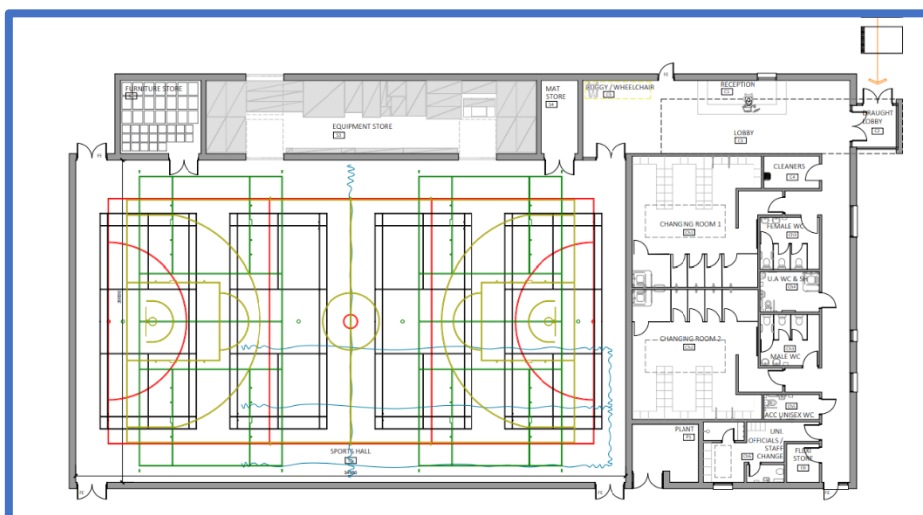


For further information and for any comments that you would like to make regarding these plans please access the following link: <https://forms.office.com/r/2psFSHHs9A>

Alternatively, if you would like to find out about a place at the new Nursery in September 2022 please contact the school on 02476 464088 or email admin@sjv.coventry.sch.uk

New Sports Hall at Bishop Ullathorne - opening in late 2022

Designs have now been approved for a wonderful new 4-court Sports Hall at Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School. The brand new £2.5m facility will open in late 2022 and will provide 600m2 of sports space as well as changing rooms and storage/office space.



The new facility will provide a wonderful new space for all indoor sports from futsal to trampolining and will also enable whole school masses to be held.

Cardinal Newman new canteen opens with brand new school on the horizon!

The new £4m canteen block at Cardinal Newman Catholic School opened in September. The wonderful new facility provides a 21st century dining experience over two floors.



Representatives from the school, HCCMAC Directors, Coventry City Council, the Diocese, the architects and the construction company were all present at the ribbon cutting event.

As we reported in the last newsletter we are delighted that Cardinal Newman Catholic School has been selected by the Government to be amongst the first 50 schools nationally to be rebuilt under the new school building programme.

A new £25m school is scheduled to open as early as September 2023. Whilst the final design is yet to be agreed we envisage exceptional new facilities replacing all the old 1960s and 1970s buildings.



Holy Cross Catholic MAC Years 4 and 5 Flow Project

Holy Cross Catholic MAC primary schools were delighted to be invited to participate in the Coventry City of Culture 2021 Imagineer **FLOW Project – Future Life of our Ocean’s Wealth in the Autumn Term 2021**. The FLOW project has raised awareness about our local blue spaces as well as helping our young people understand the important role they have to play as future stewards of our planet.



In response to a performance day which started the project in September with the arrival of a ship on school playgrounds, and to a series of water safaris visiting local rivers and waterways, the pupils spent some time in the Imagineerium at the Daimler Powerhouse exploring creative ideas in order to develop their own performances aimed at engaging the wider community with ocean recovery.

The children were also given the challenge to dream up an art installation to be displayed at ‘Turning the Tide’ an Oceans Fair in April 2022. We had hoped that all the children participating in the project would be able to gather together to share their performances but unfortunately due to Covid this wasn’t possible. Instead the children were all filmed and the link to the final film is: <https://youtu.be/hme67Yxmf7Y>

The children have really enjoyed participating in the project and the opportunity to work with a variety of artists. We are all looking forward to seeing the final pieces at the ‘Turning the Tide’ an Oceans Fair in April 2022. A huge thank you to everyone involved in the project, particularly Imagineer, Warwickshire Wildlife trust, Canals and Rivers Trust and the artists from across Coventry and for the opportunity to be involved.



News from our Schools



Achieving together in faith

Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

Christmas Community Party

Our Christmas community party was a great success. Our visitors from St Mary's, St John Vianney and Our Lady of the Assumption parishes were treated to an afternoon of entertainment from our students. A huge thank you to our Year 12 Students who led on this very special afternoon.



Rugby Success!

Congratulations to Daniel, Lorcan and Darragh for their selection to play for the Coventry Schools U14 rugby squad. Well done, we are all very proud of you!

Feed the Hungry

Our Sixth form volunteers today were amazing school ambassadors. Students spent the day at the Coventry Foodbank helping to put together hampers. The students and staff worked so hard all day and managed to pack a staggering 400+ hampers. Two of our Sixth Form students were interviewed about volunteering at Coventry Foodbank by Midlands today.



Cardinal Newman Catholic School

Cardinal Newman gathered as a whole school community to have a special Remembrance Service on Remembrance Day.

They welcomed the families of Isabelle Boshell and Mason Scott, as well as remembering former pupil Connor O'Shea.

Fr. Pat led the prayers, and the school community listened to special readings and prayed for all those that have gone before them.

This year 3 doves were released in memory of our three past pupils that the service was dedicated to.

Remembrance Day 2021



"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow we gave our today."

Rudyard Kipling

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Well Done Erin, Cardinal Newman's own DoE Ambassador who had the following article published in The Telegraph recently. The article highlighted the benefits for pupils who have completed the DoE Award and how it helped them particularly through the challenges of the last two years and become more resilient.



"During the pandemic, it got to the point where I didn't want to get out of bed or take a shower or even feed myself. I thought "What is the point? I'm not doing anything so I might as well just stay tucked away." Even when we could go out again, there was the anxiety of whether it was actually safe, whether I could pass Covid on to anybody that I love or have to lose anyone because of it. I was so down and I couldn't sort myself out.

I was in the first year of those who didn't do their GCSEs, didn't get a prom or leavers' ceremony or any of that. It was really hard. The other classes had home-schooling, but for our year group it was radio silence.

When I was at my lowest point, DofE started popping up, sending me emails giving advice, support and a place for community. I've been getting more involved: I've become a centenary ambassador for DofE; I've worked on our Youth Manifesto; I'm doing the COP26 social media takeover; I'm doing as much as possible.

Duke of Edinburgh really helped me with my confidence. Doing all this has brought me out of my shell and out of my comfort zone.

The resilience that DofE gives you, you take and you use everywhere. Right now I'm doing four A-levels and I plan to go to university and study to be a doctor, and if it wasn't for the grit that DofE gave me, I wouldn't be doing any of this.

It's silly things: I get lost all the time and that was always a big cause of anxiety for me, but being out in the wilderness helped me. I learned it's OK not to take a phone or track your location; you can just figure it out.

Prior to doing DofE I was quite a shy and reserved person. I started doing my bronze award at school with people who I'd been around but I wouldn't have called them friends, but doing our awards together has created a bond for life. Once you've been through hell and got chased by cows together, it's hard to let those people go."

The following link takes you to the full article:

[How the Duke of Edinburgh's Award helped me turn my life around \(telegraph.co.uk\)](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2021/05/11/how-the-duke-of-edinburghs-award-helped-me-turn-my-life-around/)

Christ the King Catholic Primary School



A Peaceful School

Christ the King Year 5 Chaplaincy Team and Mrs Williams visited Coventry Cathedral and participated in a workshop 'How to be a peaceful school'.

Plas Dol y Moch

Year 6 had a fantastic time at Dol-y-Moch. The children challenged themselves to complete a mountain walk to the summit, beach scrambling, orienteering, canoeing, the Dol-y-Moch dive, a nightline walk, a labyrinth challenge and even managed to find time for an ice cream!



Feast of Christ the King

All pupils made a crown to celebrate the Feast day of Christ the King. The children also gave to other less fortunate than themselves by donating Christmas food items to the Coventry food bank and Carriers of Hope.

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

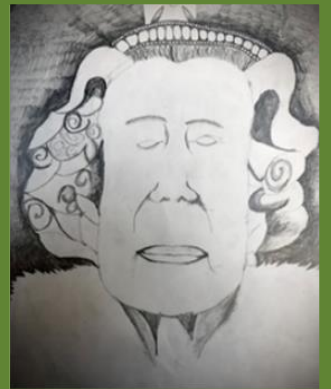
Amazing art work with our resident artists Dana and Laura

Year 6

Our Year 6 have just finished some fantastic portraits of the Queen.

The artist they are studying (Chris Levine) has responded commenting on good the portraits are.

We are so proud of our Year 6!



Year 2

Not to be outdone, one of the artists that Year 2 have been studying (Hope Blamire) has also commented positively on their work. We don't think there are many primary schools getting this kind of feedback!

What talented children we have 😊



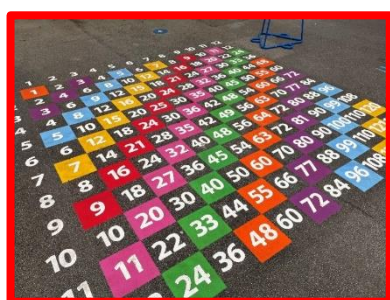
Deacon Owen Visit

Deacon Owen from the Diocesan Vocations Office visited Year 6 to tell them more about vocations. He contacted Mrs Carey after the visit to express how impressed he was with the children and how eager they were to explore vocation. They asked some great questions and were a real credit to the school!

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

Swimming Pool Fun

After so many years of being asked by school council children if we could have a swimming pool at school, we decided to try and make that wish come true and hired a swimming pool for two weeks in November. Our children have missed out on so many things due to the pandemic and bringing the pool onto the school site proved an instant hit! Our children in years 4, 5 & 6 enjoyed daily intensive lessons and their enjoyment and progress in the pool was very clear to see. It proved such a hit we look forward to welcoming the pool back later this year to further develop water safety awareness and further improve stroke techniques.



'Coventry Counts' with the Coventry Building Society

We have been delighted to receive support from Coventry Building Society as part of their 'Coventry Counts' mathematics programme.

We identified outdoor mathematics as an area of potential development across the school and through the generosity of Coventry Building Society we were able to purchase an active mathematics scheme of work and a number of playground markings to further enthuse and encourage outdoor learning in mathematics.

The response from our children to their additional outdoor lessons has been very positive, for example, M in Year 6 commented "I love Active Maths because it's fun and I enjoy it. We use it at school but can also do games at home. We learn a lot of maths from it but in a fun way."

O also commented, "I think that Active Maths is a great addition to our maths lessons because it makes our mind and physical body healthier in a different and creative way."

Thank you to Coventry Building Society once again for their support of St Elizabeth's and mathematics across Coventry.

St John Vianney Catholic Primary School

Go Green Challenge

We accepted CAFOD's challenge to 'Go Green' for the Harvest at St John Vianney. Thank you to our very kind and generous parents and children for their donations to the Food Bank.

We used these to create the world.



Forest School Fun

Year 1 have had a brilliant Forest School session, making Christmas trees and finding festive accessories.

Protecting Our Oceans

Our Year 5 children participated in another amazing experience this week at Daimler Powerhouse, as they continued being part of the City of Culture Project FLOW (Future Life of our Oceans Wealth). The team of experienced artists at Imagineer Productions helped the children learn more about how to protect our oceans and the environment by participating in a carousel of creative activities. The children



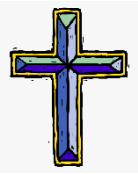
imagined what the ocean would look like before, during and after pollution and created some beautiful collage pieces of art to display in our school. Through the art of movement, music and dance they



imagined what it would be like to be part of the ocean. They also got to create an Ocean Soundscape by entering a recording studio becoming Foley Artists using water sounds, rain sticks and an ocean drum. As Sound Engineers they learnt how to record using music production equipment such as Hydrophones, Microphones and a Mixing Console. The children were enthusiastic and passionate all day, enjoying each experience.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Catholic Life, Collective Worship and Religious Education - Section 48 Inspection



This half term, St Thomas More welcomed two inspectors from the Diocese to complete their Section 48 inspection. The inspectors looked at the Catholic Life of the school, the provision for RE and the Collective Worship that takes place. The inspectors were very impressed with what they saw, with the pupils and staff making a very positive impression. Inspectors noted that 'pupils' behaviour is exemplary.

They are reverent and respectful in their attitudes and behaviours, and they are attentive during lessons. Pupils are highly supportive of each other,' and 'were very respectful when talking about those who hold different beliefs.' In RE 'a high percentage of pupils achieve work at or above diocesan expectations,' and Collective Worship is delivered in 'a high quality, enthusiastic and thought provoking' way enabling pupils to 'become more knowledgeable about their faith' with pupils reporting that 'prayer makes me feel happy, helps me to concentrate, stay focussed and joyful.'

Christmas Tricks

Children in Year 4 at St Thomas More were shocked to discover there had been an intruder in their classrooms! Someone had wrapped the classroom in Christmas wrapping paper and left behind mysterious footprints, scraps of red fabric and beard-like fluff!

Year 4 quickly acted to investigate this strange phenomenon and got straight down to some important detective work. Working together to use the evidence to eliminate Mrs Webb, Mrs Evans, Mrs Rushfirth, Mr Tallentire and Mrs Collins from their enquiries, they concluded that an elf had been

up to some Christmas tricks! Year 4 produced some wanted posters to help people stay alert in case the elf tries to make a sneaky return. Be on the lookout!



Go Parks : Active School Challenge

St Thomas More were delighted to have completed the Go Parks: Active School Challenge, finishing in third place in our area. Pupils and staff visited local parks in Coventry during the October half term to earn points for the school. Three pupils in particular - Vinny, Evie and James - deserve a special mention for all the points they managed to collect! Well done!

Walk with Me Prayer

Advent 2021

The following prayer is taken from the Advent 2021 edition of Walk with Me.

We wish all our young people and staff and all their families a very happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas season and good health and happiness in 2022.

*Lord God, our light and our salvation,
We praise you for your gifts of life and faith.*

*We thank you for the desire
That you have planted in our hearts,
Our yearning to see your face.*

*Help us to meet you in prayer,
To walk in your ways,
And to speak to others of our joy
And consolation in your presence.*

*Give us faithfulness in this present life
So that we may come to know
And praise your beauty,
With all our brothers and sisters,
In the life to come.*

*We make this prayer through Christ our Lord
Amen*