

Holy Cross Catholic Multi Academy Company

EASTER NEWSLETTER

2024



Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay



LEARNING & GROWING
AS GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE

**HAND IN HAND WE LISTEN TO GOD'S CALL
WE LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD AND WE
SHARE GOD'S LOVE THROUGH SERVICE**



**CARDINAL
NEWMAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

**KNOWLEDGE
THROUGH THE
LIGHT OF FAITH**



ACHIEVING TOGETHER IN FAITH



**LEARNING, GROWING
& PRAYING TOGETHER
WITH CHRIST OUR KING**



**LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU**



**ACHIEVING OUR BEST UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIAL
REVEALING WHO GOD WANTS US TO BE**



Message from our Chair of the Board of Directors

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Directors

Welcome to our Easter newsletter. It has been an extremely busy and productive spring term for all our schools and MAC, especially with six Ofsted visits. As the term draws to a close, it is essential to look back and reflect on our many successes and achievements over the last few months. There is much to be proud of, as always, and some of the activities and achievements are reflected in this newsletter.



Again, "Thank you" to all our staff, governors, directors, and volunteers for all your incredible hard work and support; you play such a crucial role in the lives of our young people and our communities.

During the season of Easter, we are reminded that God loved us all so much that he sacrificed his only son on the cross to save us. This Easter, we pray for all those who have sadness or difficulties in their lives, we particularly pray for Peace

around the world.

I hope all of you have a very Happy and Holy Easter, take time to rest, we look forward to welcoming you back in the Summer Term.

Holy Cross of Jesus, Be Our Hope.



John Teahan



Message from our Catholic Senior Executive Leader

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Directors

As we come to the end of the Spring Term 2024, there is much to celebrate across our school communities. Our schools are very busy places and there is always so much extra going on to support our young people in addition to their normal lessons. Over the last seven weeks we have welcomed Ofsted inspectors to six of our schools and they have all been impressed with every school they have visited and our wonderful young people and staff. We look forward to sharing all their reports with you when they are published.

In addition, during the season of Lent it has been wonderful to witness the response of our school communities to pray for others as well as donate to those in desperate need. So many people are in need of our support and every item donated and every penny given will be deeply appreciated by the people receiving it.

As we prepare for Holy Week, we reflect on Jesus' suffering and the pain of his crucifixion, followed by the joy of the Resurrection and the hope of new life that it brings. This Easter we pray for everyone who faces challenges and hardship that they may have some joy in their lives over Easter – particularly those who are affected by the natural disasters and for those living in war torn parts of the world. We continue to pray for peace, reconciliation and healing across our troubled world.

Once again I would like to thank all the pupils, staff, governors, directors and parents and carers for all their support.

And finally we wish all our exam years good luck with their revision over the Easter holidays as they begin final preparations for their important end of key stage tests and exams starting on Monday 13th May and GCSE and A level exams that start on Thursday 9th May. Many thanks to all the staff who are giving up their own time and Easter holiday to provide additional lessons and support.

On behalf of everyone at Holy Cross Catholic MAC, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a peaceful, holy, and relaxing Easter.

Holy Cross of Jesus be our hope.

Marina Kelly



Ofsted, Ofsted and even more Ofsted Inspections!

Ofsted Calling!

Wow, what a busy few weeks and months we've had at our schools since we've come back from the Christmas break, six Ofsted inspections in 7 weeks! This now means that all our schools have received their first Ofsted inspection since the Holy Cross Catholic MAC was formed back in 2019.

Three of our school reports are publically available, while the rest are still going through the quality assurance processes at Ofsted and the published reports are available on schools websites.

Date	School	Outcomes	Reports
03/04 July 23	St Augustine's	Continues to be a good school	Click here
30/31 January 24	St Elizabeth's	Good with Outstanding Features	Click here
07/08 February 24	St Thomas More	Good with Outstanding Features	Click here
27/28 February 24	Cardinal Newman	Awaiting report	
27/28 February 24	Bishop Ullathorne	Awaiting report	
05/06 March 24	Christ the King	Awaiting report	
19/20 March 24	St John Vianney	Awaiting report	

Whilst it's been an exceptionally busy term, it's also been extremely rewarding being in our schools and seeing the fantastic opportunities that our pupils have every day. Our staff truly provide an exceptional service for our young people, and this has been clearly evidenced to inspectors in all inspections.



National School Rebuilding Programme: Both HCCMAC Secondaries are being Rebuilt!

Holy Cross Catholic MAC School Rebuilds

We are very excited that both Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School and Cardinal Newman Catholic School are being rebuilt under the DFE National School Rebuilding Programme.

At Cardinal Newman only the existing £4m canteen/dining block will be retained with the rest of the school completely rebuilt as a two storey block with an extensive inner courtyard and a separate Sports and Sixth Form block. Initial commissioning works such as drainage improvements have already begun. Construction works start this summer with the new school opening in 2026.



Bishop Ullathorne have started an extensive site surveying programme with the exciting news that it too will be completely rebuilt around the new £3m Sports Hall. The project is expected to go to tender this year with work starting next year for a 2027 opening.

Both new schools will be Carbon Net Zero!



It really is an exciting time for the schools and their communities

Capital Works 2024

We are investing over £1,000,000 into our school estates this year. With both secondaries being rebuilt, it's a great time to improve our primary sites!

At **Christ the King**, we are installing new lockers to help with pupil circulation and a brand new fire alarm system at Scots Lane. The Westhill Road trim trail area will also be completely redeveloped.

St Augustine's has just taken possession of its new £40,000 soft play area with more outdoor works, such as a new gazebo planned shortly.

At **St Elizabeth's**, the demolition and construction of the adjacent church hall are allowing us to undertake works to improve the first-floor teaching spaces and improve fire exit routes.

Also at **St Elizabeth's**, we are looking to improve the site drainage so that the school field area does not flood when we have heavy rain.

St John Vianney is having drainage improvements and a completely renovated outdoor Reception area.

At **St Thomas More** we are looking to improve site security and upgrade the Nursery facilities.

Minibuses

We are purchasing two new Holy Cross MAC minibuses to help all primary schools get students to the many events, school visits and sports fixtures that take place on a daily basis. Our primary schools are very excited about the arrival of the new minibuses!



Energy efficiency works

Energy efficiency works are planned with some new LED lighting areas at St Thomas More, Christ the King, St John Vianney and Saint Augustine's. We are also looking at new heating solutions such as air-source heat pumps for St Elizabeths to replace the rather ancient underground boiler. We have carried out an insulation survey across the whole MAC estate and identified areas for improvement such as the Nursery area at St Augustine's School. Some of our SSO (Caretaker) houses are also quite energy inefficient and we are looking at improvements such as new roof and insulation.



Don't just feel
local pride,
teach it.

Teaching 
Every Lesson Shapes a Life


Department
for Education

Make a difference at Holy Cross Catholic MAC.
Search: Get Into Teaching



School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)

We are thrilled to collaborate with the Bishop Challoner Training School Alliance to bring School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) to our Multi-Academy Company (MAC) of schools. This partnership represents a significant step forward in our commitment to educational excellence.

The Alliance itself is a vibrant collective of over 60 schools, which includes 30 primary schools predominantly located in Birmingham and Coventry.

Primary programmes offered:

- Primary with SEND
- Primary with Math
- Primary with PE

Secondary programmes offered:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Art & Design | • History |
| • Biology | • Mathematics |
| • Chemistry | • Modern Languages (French, Spanish) |
| • Computing | • Music |
| • Drama | • Physical Education |
| • English | • Physics |
| • Geography | • Religious Education |

Apply now: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training>

In collaboration with

Teaching 

Every Lesson Shapes a Life



Our ECO Heroes

Our MAC ECO group have been hard at work this term and doing their bit to save our planet! This has included participating in the **Keep Britain Tidy** campaign. We have lots more activities lined up throughout the year, including Earth Day, Water Fortnight and Team Recycle. Our MAC ECO group is led by our pupils for our pupils, supported by our Eco staff in their schools.



EARTH DAY

World Earth Day is Monday
22nd April.

Resources will be shared linked to 'Great Women Who Saved the Planet' links to history and good as an example of diversity.

Prayer Service will be shared to use in classes - link to CST and Stewardship



A chance to get children gardening and planting in prayer area and school entrance.

Sunflower seed competition



A template for pledges will be shared for all children to make an eco promise.



ACTIONS FROM LAST MTG

- Form Council
- Recycle crisp packets, pens and batteries
- check recycling at school and staffrooms
- complete Environmental Review
- create Action Plan

MAC ECO HEROES

KEY INFO

WATER FORTNIGHT Severn Trent Workshops



Assembly for whole school at 9am, followed by 45 minute workshop with KS2 Eco Heroes.

4th June - St Thomas More Primary School

6th June - St John Vianney Primary School

10th June - St Augustine's Primary School

13th June - Christ the King Catholic Primary School

14th June - St Elizabeth's Primary School

WATER FORTNIGHT Cafod Talk



Christine Scullion from Cafod is an experienced teacher and will refer to the links between our Catholic Social Teaching and all having a responsibility to be Stewards of God's Planet.

Water focused Assembly.

4th June - Cafod assembly 1:00 PM ish.

St Thomas More

7th June - Cafod Assembly 9:00am St John Vianney

10th June - Cafod Assembly 1:00pm St

Augustine's

13th June - Cafod Assembly 1:00pm ish Christ the King

14th June - Cafod Assembly 1:00pm. St Elizabeth's

TEAM RECYCLE

Please make sure all plaques are delivered and displayed ASAP.

NEXT MEETINGS

Wed 24th April 12:30-2:30 @CN

Wed 22nd May 9:30-11:30

Thurs 13th June 12:30-2:30

Eco Conference 11th July 2024 @ BU.

Our School Nurseries

Deciding whether to send your child to nursery is a big decision for parents, but sending your child to a school nursery can have a range of benefits:

- Builds your child's self confidence
- Prepares them for school
- Improves social skills
- Opportunities for your child to try new activities
- Develops your child's emotional intelligence
- Helps to build their immune system

We are very proud that all five of our primary schools offer a nursery provision for 3 and 4 year olds, and we are currently taking applications for places from April and September 2024.

All 3 & 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare, which you can use at any of our nurseries. Some parents receive an extended entitlement of 30 hours free childcare - you can check your eligibility at the following link: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

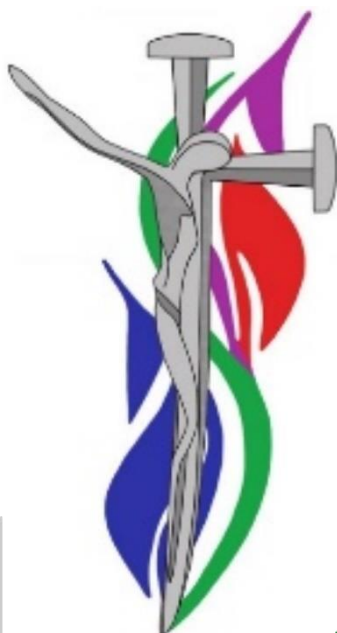
All of our nurseries have 3 starting points throughout the year - September, January and April, so you can apply for a place ready for the term after your child's 3rd birthday.

We warmly welcome prospective parents and their children to visit our nurseries and look around the provision - to find out more or to arrange a visit, please contact the relevant school office:

- Christ the King: 024 7633 5790
- St Augustine's 024 7659 6988
- St Elizabeth's: 024 7668 7527
- St John Vianney: 024 7646 4088
- St Thomas More: 024 7684 9910



News from our Schools



CARDINAL
NEWMAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Achieving together in faith



Christ the King Catholic Primary School

The School Football Team

Christ the King school football team travelled to Southampton Academy where they represented Coventry City in the regional finals of the Utilita Kids Cup. The team had a fantastic experience and placed 5th overall.



Presented to: Christ the King Catholic Primary School
For: Completing Your Rudolph Run

Thank you for your support which will help to provide Gabe's Chemo Duck Program™ to children with cancer across the UK.

Total £ 3853.00

Date: 9/1/24 Signed: [Signature]



Give a Duck Charity fundraising from our Reindeer dash

We were delighted to be able to raise funds to a charity close to our hearts, as it has supported two of our Christ the King families over the last two years. It was an incredible demonstration of how our community comes together to support one another.

Alton Castle

Our Year 5 children experienced a wonderful retreat at Alton Castle in February, focusing on the theme of 'Come close, listen to the story'. They enjoyed participating in a range of outdoor activities such as archery, rock climbing, trekking, low ropes and developing their survival skills. The children celebrated Mass with Father Simon, who encouraged the children to proudly profess their faith.

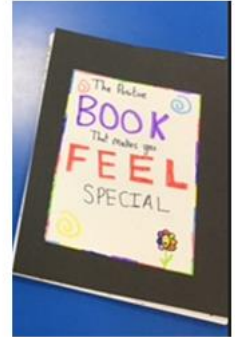


St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

World Book Day

The reading team delivered a brand-new book to all classes around the school - The Extraordinary Book That Makes You Feel Happy. Inside were 30 activities that classes were able to test out to help build resilience, confidence and positivity.

The reading team then set each class the challenge of designing their own books, which they secretly posted to their chosen classes.



Author Visit



In March, we were visited in school by Alex T Smith. He completed an interactive workshop with the year 1, 2 and 3 classes. Children had the chance to purchase a signed copy of Alex's new book from his new series - Astrid and the Space cadets. Alex also left behind some wonderful artwork which he created alongside the children.

Miss Bitulu (year 3 teacher) said, "We had a delightful morning at St. Augustine's when we welcomed Alex T Smith to our school. He engaged our children with stories of his upbringing, his passion for books, and how he transformed into an accomplished author and illustrator. The children thoroughly enjoyed their time with Alex T Smith. He graciously shared his new book with us and led an engaging drawing session. It was a fantastic opportunity for our children to connect with a real-life author, which was rare during my own childhood. As someone who has always cherished the joy of reading, this was an incredibly special and exciting day for me."



Lenten Fundraising

During Lent, the children have been encouraged each week to make Lenten pledges and promises. We have fundraised for our Lenten charities - Coventry Foodbank and The Good Shepherd Appeal. We took part in a mad hair day and non-uniform day to help raise donations for our chosen charities. Thank you to all our families for your generous donations. The children also created Easter cards which have been delivered to members of our Parish community.

St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

Science Week

St Elizabeth's kicked off their Science Week with a fabulous activity assembly, the children worked on a number of time investigations throughout the week, with staff particularly keen to help out with the 'best biscuit for the staff room' challenge!



STEM Lego League

Well done to one of our Year 5 pupils for her fantastic performance at the STEM Lego League competition in Cumbria who designed & built a working, programmable lego robot. A wonderful achievement!



Junior PCSO

Thank you to the local West Midlands Police unit for providing another exciting Junior PCSO experience for our Year 5 children.

Dol y Moch

An enormous thank you to Martin & Poppy at Dol y Moch for the fantastic experiences our Year 6 children enjoyed at Dol y Moch! Their work and the work of the DYM team provided life-changing experiences and memories that will last and last!



St John Vianney Catholic Primary School



KS2 Swimming Gala

St John Vianney Key Stage 2 swimming team recently participated in the annual swimming gala, and pupils performed exceptionally well. A huge congratulations to everyone who participated and who were wonderful ambassadors for their school.

Science Week

Year 6 led science week with an assembly on TIME. Congratulations to all who participated - we may have future teachers among us.



World Book Day 2024

St. John Vianney had a very successful World Book Day celebration with a great turnout of excellent entries. It is always very exciting to see the creativity and enthusiasm displayed by the participants on such occasions.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Neurodiversity Week 2024

As part of Celebrating Neurodiversity Week 2024, 3T have learned about how we are all unique and that our brains work differently. Pupils completed some mindful colouring together.



Fun with Animations

3T have been having fun with their animations this term by bringing their drawings to life using technology.

World Book Day 2024 – well done to everyone who participated!



Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

SongSlam

SongSlam students performed at the sharing event at Draper's Hall in Coventry alongside other schools. It was wonderful to see students perform their song 'Lights' which they have arranged and composed collaboratively over the last 2 months. Students demonstrated our Ullathorne Value of eloquence when they explained what they had learned through the process, and are very grateful to Talking Birds and Coventry Music for their support and guidance throughout the project.



Warwick University Visit

Year 12 students visited Warwick University where they had a tour of the campus, participated in academic activities, and gained a greater insight from student ambassadors about studying at a Russell Group University.

Primary Schools Sports Afternoon

A big thank you to all the year 9 sports leaders who helped run the recent primary schools sports event and who were fantastic ambassadors for their school. Well done everyone!



Cardinal Newman Catholic School



Litter Picking

Year 9 students had a busy morning litter picking in the local community during Keep Britain Tidy week. It was also part of students' Lenten charity fundraising. Local businesses were very pleased with their efforts and they even got free pizza for their efforts!



Francis Drake Play

Year 11 Historians had lots of fun in the Francis Drake play at school. It was great to see our students get actively involved in the performance!



EAFC24 tournament

A huge congratulations to Briton D and Calvin D who are this year's champions of our much loved EAFC24 tournament and who walked away with their Amazon gift cards. The student leadership team did a fantastic job organising, leading and running the tournament. Briton and Calvin beat over 63 other competitor pairs to crown themselves the champions of Newman. Well done boys!

Holy Cross Catholic MAC Prayer

Dear Lord

Let us be guided by your wisdom to
be united as the family of God.
Help us to use our gifts and talents
to spread friendship, peace and
justice across our Holy Cross
schools and communities.
Give us the strength and courage
to always do our best and be the
best person we can be.

Amen

**Holy Cross of Jesus
be our hope**