



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



Message from our Chair of the Board of Directors

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term you will be able to read in our newsletter about some of the activities that have taken place throughout the term. I particularly want to highlight our recent staff mission day which had the theme of "It's a Wonderful World".

The Mission day offered the opportunity to reflect on our responsibility to protect the planet for future generations, linked to Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudate Si and the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope and Catholic Social Teaching.



It was also the opportunity to present long service awards to staff who had worked continuously for twenty-five years or more in education in the City of Coventry. These individuals have provided fantastic service to our children over the twenty-five years, and once again, I would like to thank them.

Thank you to all the pupils, staff, volunteers, Governors, parents, clergy and Directors within the Holy Cross Catholic MAC for all your hard work.

At this time of year we think particularly of our loved ones and remember all those who are sick or are no longer with us, 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 throughout the year.

May you all find hope in this Christmas season through 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.

Best wishes,

John Teahan





Message from our Chief Executive Officer

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, Governors and Directors,

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. As we come to the end of the long and very busy Autumn Term, we hope you will enjoy reading about some of the amazing activities that have taken place across our schools and Holy Cross Catholic MAC. It has been another successful term, with many achievements to celebrate across our community.

This Advent, we have once again united as a family of Diocesan schools in our collaborative social action mission to support Fr Hudsons Caritas. As well as many other fundraising activities schools have also been supporting the Diocesan Reverse Advent Calendar by donating non-perishable food items. We have again been overwhelmed by the generosity of our staff, pupils and their families. The donated food will be used to create hampers for distribution across Fr Hudson Caritas projects before Christmas. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful cause to help those in need over the Christmas season. I know every item donated will be appreciated.

We are very grateful to all our staff, parents, Governors and Directors who work tirelessly to ensure that our schools and communities are places of love, hope and joy, living out our Mission by demonstrating faith through action. The joy and hope of the Christmas season, centred on the birth of the Baby Jesus and the gifts of peace, love and goodwill that it brings, are so important.

As always, we especially pray for all those for whom Christmas will be a sad or lonely time, particularly those affected by conflict around the world. We pray that peace may be found and that all wars and conflicts may come to a swift end.

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 Christmas. May the New Year bring you good health, happiness and continued hope and we look forward to the New Year with hope and renewed purpose.

Holy Cross of Jesus be our hope.

Best wishes,

Marina Kelly
CEO Holy Cross Catholic MAC





MAC MISSION DAY

It's a Wonderful World

We were delighted to gather for a truly inspiring Holy Cross Catholic MAC Mission Day on Friday 14 November 2025 at Bishop Ullathorne School. Under the theme 'It's a Wonderful World', colleagues from across our MAC came together in faith, reflection and unity to explore our shared responsibility to care for God's creation, rooted in Pope Francis' Laudato Si' and the Jubilee Year theme of Pilgrims of Hope. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the spirit of the day and thank you to Bishop Ullathorne for being such generous and organised hosts.

The day started off with a warm welcome and an introduction from Donna Nicol, the MAC Sustainability Lead. Donna has been working with schools and stakeholders around the MAC to improve our sustainability.



Staff were then guided by James Trewby from the Columban's, whose engaging and interactive opening sessions gave a new, thought-provoking and often fun way to learn about the fragility and wonder of our planet.

The day continued with a rich programme of workshops that invited us to reflect, question and act. Dr Dan O'Hare explored climate anxiety and its impact on young people; Regina Ebner from A Rocha UK opened our eyes to the beauty and importance of biodiversity; and the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust inspired staff through sessions on nature connection, wellbeing, and practical ways to engage young people in environmental action.

Our Climate Lobby workshop, led by pupils and staff, showed how student activism is already making a difference nationally, reminding us that activism is not optional but an essential part of our journey to justice and stewardship.

Throughout the day, staff generously supported Carriers of Hope with donations. Staff also enjoyed the sustainability-themed bake-off, and took part in our much-anticipated raffle. The sense of inspiration was unmistakable. We were left with a renewed belief that caring for the planet is everyone's responsibility, and that our natural world is a precious gift that calls us to protect, cherish and defend it.



Each of us, whatever our role, has the power to be an activist for positive change in our schools, our community, and our world.





MAC MISSION DAY Staff Bake Off

Building on the success of last year's Holy Cross MAC Bake Off, this year's competition reached new heights! The standard was exceptional, with some cakes so impressive they could have featured on the TV Bake Off. A huge thank you to all staff who entered and shared their delicious creations - every slice was enjoyed!



Well done to Donna Nicol for her first place entry and the all new Holy Cross MAC Bake-off champion!

Well done to our raffle winners and thank you to all the staff who donated items for raffle prizes. Raffle prizes included:

- Clippers Hair Salon and Beauty Voucher
- A family ticket to Coventry Rugby
- Made With Love by Sarah box of cakes
- One Wellness Spa day
- Joanne Rosemary Make-up voucher
- Mum and baby exercise class
- Bottle of Champagne
- A pamper hamper basket
- Kitchen 126 brunch voucher



Finally, thank you to everyone who dug deep before leaving the hall on the day. Overall, we raised a fantastic £1,023 for Carriers of Hope, a local charity that works with asylum seekers, refugees and migrant families to provide a much-needed warm welcome, practical support and care.





LONG SERVICE AWARDS

At the end of our Mission Day, we recognised seven members of staff for their remarkable commitment and dedication to education. It was a special moment for us to come together and celebrate those who have served tirelessly in education for an incredible 25 years, inspiring generations through their unwavering service.

A huge thank you to the staff for their unwavering support and hard work, which have helped shape the lives of countless young people.

Paul Carpenter – Bishop Ullathorne
Paul Weston – Cardinal Newman
Deborah Galvin – Cardinal Newman
Neil Minshull – Cardinal Newman

Mary Noone – Christ the King
Claire Carey – St Augustine’s
Baljit Gill – St Elizabeth’s





*In loving memory of
Theresa Boland*

26th December 1961 - 21st November 2025



It is with deep sadness and a profound sense of loss that we remember Theresa Boland, who passed away following a short illness.

Theresa first joined the governing body at Cardinal Newman as a parent governor in 2010, bringing with her a keen insight, a compassionate approach, and an unwavering commitment to the wellbeing of every child and family. Her dedication and integrity quickly became apparent, and it was no surprise when she was appointed as a Foundation Governor in 2014 and subsequently Chair of Governors, a role she fulfilled with distinction.

Theresa's tenure as governor and later as chair was defined by her selfless dedication. She championed the needs of pupils and staff alike, always striving for excellence and fairness. Through her leadership, she fostered a spirit of collaboration, helping to guide the school through challenges and celebrate successes. Her wisdom, patience, and good humour made her both a trusted leader and a dear colleague.

Beyond her official roles, Theresa was a friend to many. Her warmth, kindness, and empathy touched the lives of all who knew her. She took the time to listen, support, and encourage, making each person feel valued and heard. Her legacy lives on in the positive changes she made and the compassion she showed.

At Theresa's funeral the family launched a JustGiving page in memory of Theresa and the money raised will be divided between Myton Hospice and the Cardinal Newman Governors Fund that supports students from disadvantaged backgrounds .

We extend our deepest condolences to Theresa's family, her husband Mark and children Jack, Max and Tara and all her friends.

Thank you, Theresa, for your years of service, your steadfast leadership, and the boundless kindness you shared with our community. You will be greatly missed, fondly remembered, and forever cherished.

**Eternal rest grant unto Theresa, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May she rest in peace. Amen.**





St Chads Cathedral Year of jubilee



We gathered at St Chad's Cathedral on Monday 8 December as 'Pilgrims of Hope' to celebrate the fruits of this past year. This special occasion marked the Feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, one of the Archdiocese's most significant Feast Days.

A Chapter Mass is always held at the Diocesan Mother Church on this Feast Day, but yesterday's celebration carried extra meaning. As a diocese, we came together to give thanks for the Jubilee Year, reflecting on its blessings and the many ways it has inspired renewal and hope.

Representatives from across the Archdiocese were invited, including those from our parishes, schools, and communities. All have embraced the Jubilee Year with enthusiasm, undertaking countless activities, events, and pilgrimages. This shared commitment has strengthened our faith and deepened our sense of unity as we journey together as Pilgrims of Hope.

The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Longley, joined by the Chapter of Canons who form the governing body of St Chad's Cathedral. Their presence highlighted the significance of this occasion, reminding us of the enduring traditions and leadership that guide our Archdiocese in faith and service.



This Feast Day also marked the 16th anniversary of Archbishop Bernard's installation as Archbishop of Birmingham, a milestone that added further joy to the celebration. We give thanks for his leadership and for the blessings of the Jubilee Year, looking forward with hope to the opportunities the coming year will bring.

His Grace said "This year we are celebrating our Patronal Feast in thanksgiving for the Jubilee Year which is His drawing towards its close. I thank the representatives of different communities and organisations for joining the Cathedral Chapter in this Mass as we offer our thanks for the many different graces that we have received through this Holy Year. Together with the Feast of St Chad in March, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is our annual day of thanksgiving when the diocese recalls and celebrates its identity as a community of faith and we give thanks for the mission entrusted to us by our Lord."

Members of the cathedral choir led the singing and several diocesan schools were represented including St Chad's Catholic Primary School, Holy Cross MAC Coventry and St Patrick and St Edmund, Winson Green.





Father Hudson's Caritas Reverse Advent Calendar



This Advent season, our schools united to support Father Hudson's Caritas through the Reverse Advent Calendar initiative. Instead of receiving gifts, pupils and staff donated essential items to help families in need. The generosity shown across our community truly reflects the values of kindness and compassion that we strive to uphold.



The Reverse Advent Calendar encouraged everyone to give rather than receive. Each day brought thoughtful contributions such as food, toiletries, and household essentials. These donations will provide comfort and support to those experiencing hardship during the festive season, reminding us all of the importance of sharing and caring for others.



Our pupils embraced the spirit of giving wholeheartedly, and staff worked tirelessly to coordinate collections. Families also played a vital role, ensuring the initiative was a success. Together, we demonstrated that even small acts of kindness can create a big impact, strengthening the bonds within our school communities and beyond.





Father Hudson's Caritas Reverse Advent Calendar



Father Hudson's Caritas will distribute these donations to vulnerable individuals and families, offering hope and relief during Christmas. We are proud of everyone who contributed and made this possible. Thank you for showing that generosity and empathy remain at the heart of everything we do as a collective school family.



Our Holy Cross Catholic MAC Community donated approx. 8,000 individual items.





Pilgrims of Hope Holy Year of Jubilee



As the Holy Year of Jubilee 2025 draws to a close, we look back with gratitude on what has been an extraordinary journey for our Catholic schools. Declared by Pope Francis, the Year of Jubilee began with the opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome on 24 December 2024 and invited us to live out the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" in our daily lives.

Schools have embraced this call with enthusiasm and creativity. Working alongside others across the Birmingham Diocese, pupils have set the tone for a year rich in prayer, reflection, and action. Through assemblies, liturgies, and classroom activities, children have explored the meaning of the Jubilee and discovered their role as pilgrims on a journey of faith.

Throughout the year, schools have organised events that brought the theme to life. Pupils took part in local pilgrimages, created displays celebrating hope and wrote prayers for peace and justice. Many schools linked their Jubilee celebrations to charitable projects, raising funds for those affected by poverty and conflict. These acts of kindness showed that the message of hope is not just words but something we live out in service to others.



As the Jubilee comes to an end, we celebrate all that has been achieved. Our schools have not only marked a historic tradition but have made it real and relevant for today's world. The Holy Year has given pupils and staff the chance to grow in faith, strengthen community and share hope with those around them.

Although the official celebrations will conclude on the Feast of the Epiphany on 6 January 2026, the spirit of the Jubilee year will continue and part of our legacy will include all our Holy Cross schools applying to become Schools of Sanctuary in 2026. The lessons learned and the friendships formed will shape our schools for years to come. Together, we have shown that hope is powerful and that our Catholic schools are places where faith truly flourishes.





National School Rebuilding Programme Updates

We are very fortunate in that both our secondary schools are being rebuilt under the national School Rebuilding Programme with both projects costing in excess of £87 million.

Cardinal Newman Catholic School

Work on the new main block is progressing exceptionally well and remains on schedule for completion, ready to welcome students in September 2026.

The main body of the school comprises of 81 teaching spaces over two floors. The design is set around an impressive central courtyard that will house an outdoor LRC reading area, a food garden, an outdoor SEND space and the Peace Garden.



The outer brick skin is nearing completion and the building is now watertight with extensive solar panels being installed onto the roof to make the whole building zero-carbon operation.

Once the new main building is complete the school will also operate in the existing Sports Hall during the 2026/27 academic year whilst the existing school is demolished and the brand new Sports Hall and Sixth Form Centre are constructed ready to open in September 2027.



The school is funding new ICT, purpose-built storage walls in every classroom, and new furniture to give the new school the best possible appearance and functionality when it opens.

Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School

We are pleased to announce that the DFE has appointed Kier Construction as the contractor to build the new Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School.

Initial meetings have taken place and the design stage now starts in earnest ready to get boots on the ground. We are aiming to open the new school in September 2028.





National School Rebuilding Programme Ministerial Visit

Cardinal Newman Catholic School

We were honoured to welcome Josh MacAlister, Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing, to the Cardinal Newman new build in October. The visit marked a significant milestone in the journey to create a state-of-the-art learning environment for the young people of Coventry.



The Minister spent time touring the site and meeting with key stakeholders, including the BAM Construction Team, representatives from the Department for Education, and members of the School and Trust. The Minister expressed his admiration for the collaborative effort on this project, noting the commitment to delivering a school that meets the highest standards of design and functionality.

During the visit, the Minister highlighted the importance of creating spaces that inspire learning and support wellbeing. He was particularly impressed by the innovative design features of the new building, which prioritise sustainability, accessibility, and modern teaching requirements.

Building for the Future

The new school is more than just bricks and mortar, it represents a commitment to the future of Catholic education in Coventry. With cutting-edge classrooms, collaborative learning spaces, and enhanced technology infrastructure, the building is designed to empower both students and staff.



This project is a testament to what can be achieved when schools, government, and industry partners work together. The BAM team's expertise, combined with the Department for Education's guidance and the Trust's unwavering support, has ensured that every detail reflects our ambition to create a world-class learning environment.





Christmas is here!

St Augustine's KS1 - Bodgie, Woogie Nativity!

This year's production was bursting with energy, colour, and Christmas cheer. Our talented children spent weeks practising their lines, songs, and dances, and their hard work shone through in every moment on stage!



St Thomas More - Born in a Barn

There's a good deal of commotion but plenty excitement in a Bethlehem stable, when the animals realise there's a baby in their barn! The cows, sheep, cat and cockerel all learn about their special guest from the donkey that brought him and the guests that follow. As more and more visitors arrive to greet the new King, the animals slowly realise what a privilege it is to share their home with such an important baby.

St Elizabeth's - Nativity

Our busy Advent preparations culminated in our final week of school term with performances of our infant Nativity for our parents, carers, family members and parishioners on Tuesday. Our younger children sang, acted and performed wonderfully and shared the story of Christmas in a truly beautiful way.



St John Vianney - Nativity

Our KS1 pupils delivered a truly magical Nativity performance, bringing the story of the birth of Jesus to life with joy and enthusiasm. Their singing, acting, and heartfelt narration captured the true meaning of Christmas. A big thank you to staff and families for supporting this special celebration of faith and community.

Christ the King - Nativity

Our KS1 children captivated everyone with a beautiful Nativity performance, filled with joy, music, and meaning. Their storytelling reminded us of the true spirit of Christmas—love, hope, and togetherness. Thank you to our talented pupils, dedicated staff, and supportive families for making this cherished tradition so memorable.





18 DECEMBER 2025

www.hccmac.co.uk

NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE

We will **NOT** tolerate behaviour that is:

-  threatening
-  abusive
-  violent

Our school environment must be a safe and secure place for everybody.
We WILL take action when necessary.



**HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC MAC**

Achieving together in faith





Holy Cross Catholic
Multi Academy Company
Achieving together in faith

TRAIN TO TEACH AT HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC MAC



In collaboration with
Teaching
Search: Get Into Teaching

Teaching offers you...

- ✓ Great benefits
- ✓ Excellent job satisfaction and career progression
- ✓ Opportunities for you to use a wide range of skills
- ✓ The chance to inspire pupils in the subject you love
- ✓ A way to make a difference and inspire the next generation

Contact HCCMAC

☎ 02475 186555
 ✉ info@hccmac.co.uk
 🌐 www.hccmac.co.uk



News from our Schools



Holy Cross Catholic
Multi Academy Company

Achieving together in faith





18 DECEMBER 2025

www.hccmac.co.uk



Bishop Ullathorne
Catholic School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Advent Calendar Appeal

Our A-level Art Textiles students enjoyed an inspiring day in London! Highlights included the Fashion and Textile Museum's stunning film costumes, from Downton Abbey to Pirates of the Caribbean, a scenic Thames walk, Tate Modern visit, and Covent Garden lights. A creative, memorable trip that left students brimming with ideas!



Mental Health Ambassadors

Our Year 9 Mental Health Ambassadors spent an inspiring day at Warwick University for the Mental Health Champions event. They explored wellbeing strategies, stress-busting techniques, and mindfulness, while enjoying interactive workshops and sensory tools. The experience boosted confidence and sparked ideas to make our school even more supportive!

Medjugorje

Our Medjugorje pilgrimage began with an early flight to Croatia, followed by a scenic coach journey and peaceful adoration at St James' Church. Over the next days, students enjoyed prayer, Mass, reflections, & interactive activities, deepening their faith while bonding through games, journaling, and shared experiences.



Highlights included climbing Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain, praying the Rosary and Stations of the Cross, and moments of quiet reflection. Confession brought emotional relief, while adoration and evening prayers offered peace. The trip was both challenging and rewarding, leaving students inspired, connected, and spiritually enriched. A truly unforgettable experience!





18 DECEMBER 2025

www.hccmac.co.uk



Cardinal Newman
Catholic School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Advent Calendar Appeal

Staff and Pupils at Cardinal Newman have donated an amazing 675 advent calendars. Calendars will be for delivery to the Children's Hospital, local foodbanks and to families in our community.



Mauricare Ashfield House

Pupils visited Mauricare Ashfield House to spread festive cheer, helping residents decorate for Christmas. Their creativity and kindness brought smiles and warmth, making the home sparkle with joy. This heart-warming visit strengthened community bonds and reminded everyone of the true spirit of the season - sharing happiness and creating memories together.

Litter picking with Mr Davies

Pupils took to the streets, lending a hand to keep the local area clean and tidy. Their efforts reflect a strong sense of responsibility and community spirit, making a positive impact and setting a great example for others to follow.



Birmingham Diocese KS4 Maths Challenge

Schools from across the Birmingham Diocese were welcomed to Cardinal Newman for the annual KS4 Maths Challenge. Sixteen teams tackled complex problems and fiendishly difficult questions set by Mr Rojek. We're incredibly proud of our Year 10 representatives, who secured third place, a brilliant achievement against such strong competition!





Dodgeball Festival

Year 4 pupils enjoyed a fantastic morning at the **Your School Games Dodgeball Festival**. They demonstrated outstanding teamwork, honesty, and respect throughout the event. We're so proud of their effort and sportsmanship. Well done team! A brilliant example of living out our school values in action.



Pantomime

Year 6 had an amazing time at the pantomime! The performance was full of laughter, excitement, and festive fun, creating wonderful memories for everyone. A big thank you to the organisers and staff who made the trip possible, it was a truly magical experience for our pupils!

Getting Santa Ready!

Nursery children have been busy helping Santa in his workshop! From sorting toys to spreading festive cheer, they've shown amazing enthusiasm and creativity. It's wonderful to see their excitement as they prepare for Christmas, what a magical way to learn and celebrate the season together!



Sustainability Heroes

Christ the King pupils joined the MAC Sustainability Heroes Meeting at Cardinal Newman. They engaged with the catering team, explored climate change and waste recycling, and brainstormed creative ideas for next term's Water Week. A fantastic opportunity to learn, question, and contribute towards building a greener, more sustainable future together!





18 DECEMBER 2025

www.hccmac.co.uk



St. Augustine's
Catholic Primary School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Alton Castle

At Alton Castle, our children spent the weekend at Alton Castle and enjoyed exciting outdoor activities, including archery, before sitting down to a delicious Christmas dinner. The celebrations continued with a beautiful Mass in the parish church and a fantastic Christmas party featuring a very special guest, Santa! In the morning, they were up early for their final adventure; a wet and windy trek through Toothill Wood.



Coventry Blitz Exhibition

Year 6 enjoyed an incredible trip to the Coventry Blitz Exhibition, stepping back in time to 1940 to hear powerful first-hand accounts of that tragic night. The children listened with great interest and asked thoughtful questions throughout. Their exemplary behaviour was praised, making the day both educational and memorable!

Cross of Nails

We were deeply honoured to receive a Cross of Nails from Coventry Cathedral. At the end of Mass, our children led a beautiful service, sharing all the wonderful ways we promote peace, inclusivity, and reconciliation at St Augustine's. A heartfelt thank you to the ICON team and our School Councils for 2024/25 and 2025/26 for their dedication and leadership.





18 DECEMBER 2025

www.hccmac.co.uk



St. Elizabeth's
Catholic Primary School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

Church in Need

Together with Aid to the Church in Need and thousands of children across the world, we joined in praying the Rosary. This global initiative focused on peace and unity, inspired by the words of Our Lady of Fatima: that through prayer, peace can be brought to our world.



Young Ambassador

A fantastic group of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils have successfully completed their Coventry Young Ambassador training. We are excited to see them in action as they represent our city with pride, working alongside the City Hosts to welcome visitors and showcase Coventry's spirit.



Celebrating 25 Years of Faith and Service

We were delighted to mark the 25th anniversary of Fr Moses' ordination. First ordained in Juba, Sudan in 1999, Fr Moses has devoted nearly 22 years of his priesthood to serving our schools, parish, and the wider Coventry community. We give heartfelt thanks for his unwavering commitment and dedication to God.





18 DECEMBER 2025

www.hccmac.co.uk



St. John Vianney
Catholic Primary School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC



An Unforgettable Dol-y-Moch Adventure!

Our pupils had an incredible time at Dol-y-Moch, embracing a range of exciting activities. From orienteering through stunning landscapes to kayaking on calm waters, every moment was filled with challenge and fun. A delicious Christmas dinner added festive cheer, making this outdoor adventure a truly memorable experience for all involved.



Year 1 Learn About Hindu Traditions

Year 1 welcomed special visitors who shared insights about the Hindu faith. The children were fascinated to learn about traditions, beliefs, and celebrations, asking thoughtful questions throughout. A big thank you to our guests for helping us deepen our understanding and appreciation of different cultures and faiths within our community.



KS2 Pupils Take on the Annual Wolf Run

Our KS2 pupils showed incredible determination and teamwork during the annual Wolf Run at St John Vianney. Tackling mud, water, and challenging obstacles, they embraced the spirit of adventure and resilience. A huge well done to everyone who took part in this unforgettable experience, it was muddy, fun, and full of smiles!





18 DECEMBER 2025

www.hccmac.co.uk



St. Thomas More
Catholic Primary School
Part of Holy Cross Catholic MAC

EFL Cup Champions!

Congratulations to our fantastic football team for winning the EFL Cup hosted by Coventry City FC! Their skill, teamwork, and determination were outstanding, and we are proud they will represent Coventry City in the regional finals.



Advent Mass

We gathered today to celebrate Advent Mass, a beautiful start to the Church's new year. Father Simon blessed each class Advent wreath, reminding us of the hope and joy this season brings. Our Grow In Faith Together (GIFT) Leaders were also commissioned, ready to support the faith life of our school alongside Year 5.

Blessing of the Crib

We began Advent in a truly special way with the blessing of the Crib at Broadgate. It was wonderful to see families from STM come together to share this moment of faith and community. This beautiful tradition reminds us of the hope and joy that the season of Advent brings.





Term Dates 2025 - 2026

Term	Dates	Length	INSET Days
Autumn	Monday 1 September 2025 to Friday 24 October 2025	8 Weeks	Monday 1 September 2025 Tuesday 2 September 2025
	Monday 3 November 2025 to Friday 19 December 2025	7 Weeks	Monday 14 November 2025
Spring	Monday 5 January 2026 to Friday 13 February 2026	6 Weeks	
	Monday 23 February 2026 to Friday 27 March 2026	5 Weeks	
Summer	Monday 13 April to Friday 22 May 2026	6 Weeks	Bank Holiday: Monday 4 May 2026
	Monday 1 June 2026 to Friday 17 July 2026 (1 July Y6/7 Transition Day)	7 Weeks	Friday 3 July 2026 Monday 20 July 2026



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