



# NEWSLETTER

## AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

No 15 – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

[www.stthomasmorefir.com](http://www.stthomasmorefir.com)



*Our Virtues and Values for this term are  
“Attentive & Discerning”*

### CATHOLIC LIFE

This week the School remembered the life and works of Saint Patrick, whose Feast Day was the 17<sup>th</sup> March. St Patrick is one of Ireland’s greatest sons and Europe’s greatest evangelists. The young Saint had a deeply traumatic childhood, having been kidnapped by pirates and sold into a life of slavery in Ireland. He worked as a slave shepherd in County Antrim but managed to escape to Gaul (France) and later made his way back to England. It was during this time that he heard the call to return to work among the Irish. God turned St Patrick’s trauma into the grace of conversion.



During this period of Lent, in School we have focused on supporting and developing the prayer life of the children, so that they can become closer to God. In our hall, we have a display of prayers written each week by the children, on different themes such as the use of prayer in times of difficulty, forgiveness and giving thanks to God for His gifts. As a community, country and across the world the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives forever but like St Patrick let us use the dark times to stay close to our Lord, seeking His love and protection and pray that like butterflies and saints, we will emerge stronger and give thanks to God through our lives.

### LATE FOR SCHOOL

We have a lot of children who are arriving late for school. The gates are open from 8.40am – 8.55am. Please ensure you arrive on time. If your child is late to school, they miss the start of the first lesson, therefore are having to catch up. Many of the children also find it very distressing.



### LENTEN FUNDRAISING



We are asking families to send in donations of non-perishable food items for The Trussell Trust as our Lenten charity this year. You can drop a donation off to us at the main entrance where there will be a box for you to leave it in. **Any items are welcome apart from the following which they currently have plenty of: sugar, baked beans, tea, feminine hygiene products, tinned tomatoes, passata and nappies.**

### STAFFING

Mr Blewitt will be leaving at the end of term to take up a temporary teaching post at St Peter’s Catholic First School, Bromsgrove as Deputy Head Teacher until January 2022. St John Bosco Class will be taught by Mrs Peachey and Mrs Hicking after Easter.

### PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Parent Consultations will take place on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 from 3.30 – 6.30pm** via Teams. If you have not booked your appointment yet, please call or email the school office 01527 525821 or [office@st-thomasmore.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-thomasmore.worcs.sch.uk). If your child is on the SEND register you will be given a longer appointment as we are including your PLP meeting within your consultation to save arranging another meeting. Guidance and a link to access the meeting will be sent via Parent Pay email the day before your consultation.

### SPRING/SUMMER MENU

The new Spring/Summer menu has now been published on ParentPay. You can book meals for your child up to the end of the Summer term if you wish to. Please ensure when you are making your selections that you do so carefully, it is very easy to click on a different option without realising. **All meals for the first week back after Easter must be booked by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**



## **DANCE WORKSHOPS**

The children thoroughly enjoyed the 'Alice in Wonderland' themed dance workshops led by West End in Schools earlier this week. It was a chance for the children to get creative and act out parts of the story through the medium of dance.



## **CORONAVIRUS**

With the return to school for pupils, adult household members of children and young people in nursery, school or college and those who have formed a childcare bubble, can now access free Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) for twice weekly testing at home. The tests are for use by adults only. A letter from Worcestershire County Council was sent out earlier this week on how you can order test kits.

If your child or anyone in your household goes for a test or tests positive you must self isolate and inform the school. Guidance has changed with regard to isolation. If anyone in your household tests positive or are awaiting results you must all self isolate, as well as anyone in your support bubble eg childcare providers. Please keep us informed over the weekend periods if anyone goes for a test or tests positive by contacting the school mobile number **07436 816 015** as we have to inform Public Health. For further guidance on isolation see below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

## **FAMILY LEARNING COURSES**

Worcestershire County Council Family Learning Courses are available to book for free. Please see further information at the bottom of this newsletter.

## **FACE MASKS ON SCHOOL SITE**



In order to protect children and staff at school, **you are required to wear a mask to come onto the site** - the mask must cover your nose and mouth and should not be a bandana. If you do not wear a mask, you will not be allowed through the gate. Children do not need to wear a mask but can do so if they wish. If you are exempt from wearing a mask you will be asked to provide proof of this.

Please do not be offended if you are refused entry, as this is about keeping us all safe and the school to remain open for your children.

## **WEDNESDAY WORD**



Please find a link to this week's Wednesday Word.

[www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/follow?pid=MTA101634&v=22.3](http://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/follow?pid=MTA101634&v=22.3)

## **RARING TO GO MAGAZINE**

Please see a link to the latest Spring edition of the Raring to Go magazine. They have competitions and ideas for days out and activities during the Easter break.

[Raring2go! Bromsgrove & Redditch](#)

## **OUR LADY OF LOURDES ACADEMY VACANCIES**

Trinity Catholic High School in Leamington Spa has a vacancy for a Head Teacher to start September 2021. Lourdes IT have a vacancy for an on-site Technician. For further details please visit [www.lourdesmac.org.uk/vacancies/](http://www.lourdesmac.org.uk/vacancies/)

## **ADMISSIONS**

The closing date for applications has now closed for Reception Class and Middle School. If you have not completed an application for your child to start school or move to Middle School in September 2021, then you will now have to complete a late application form. A link to this can be found below.

[School Admissions | Worcestershire County Council](#)

## **PRE SCHOOL**

We have applied to open a Pre School on site from September 2021. We will hear back at the end of April if we have been successful. If you are interested in a place for your three year old – Please register on our website.

[Pre School Consultation – St Thomas More Catholic First School \(stthomasmorefirfirst.com\)](http://stthomasmorefirfirst.com)

We will then contact parent/carers in May regarding places.

*Learning, loving and living together with Christ*



**Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Catholic Multi-Academy

# Family Learning Courses

Family Learning Courses are **FREE** for everyone

**April - July 2021**

Please tick "**course free because of Covid plan**" box to book on FREE

Please book onto each course by searching for the course title at:

[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/courses) or call 01905 728537



## Courses just for parents to support their child with school

Phonics in the Early Years for Parents  
Literacy in the Early Years for Parents  
English in Key Stage 1 for Parents  
English in Key Stage 2 & 3 for Parents

Maths in the Early Years for Parents  
Maths in Key Stage 1 for Parents  
Maths in Key Stage 2 & 3 for Parents

Transition Support for Parents  
to help their child

## Courses for parents to enjoy with their child

Science for Dads and their Children  
STEM course for Parents and their child  
(Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)

Cook with your Family Course  
Cook with your Teenager course

Yoga for Baby and Me Family Learning Course  
Sign-a-story for Families

## Courses just for parents to support their child at home

Shape - Improving Health and Exercise for  
your Family

Art Introduction course for Parents  
Family Memories COVID-19 Time Capsule  
E- Safety Family Course for Parents  
Cooking on a low budget course for Parents

## Supporting you with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

Signalong Foundation Course for Parents

SEND - Understanding Autism

SEND - Strategies for Positive Behaviour

SEND - Managing Mindfulness for Parents



 **worcestershire**  
county council

## Online Learning

Our friendly Family Learning courses are currently online using 'Zoom' on your mobile phone, ipad, tablet or laptop. We will ring you before your course starts to **help you get online** for your course and can support you to access Zoom, help you check that you can use it ok and offer you any help you need.

 **ADULT LEARNING**  
WORCESTERSHIRE