



# Templars Primary School

## Newsletter 17.1.26

Date: 17th January 2026

Email: [admin@templars.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:admin@templars.coventry.sch.uk)

Dear all,

### **Why fighting back makes things worse - a personal reflection before we begin**

I want to start this piece honestly.

My husband and I have children of our own, and like many parents, we have *absolutely* used phrases in the past such as “*You need to stand up for yourself*” or “*If someone pushes you, push them back.*” Those instincts come from love. They come from wanting our children to be strong, confident, and not taken advantage of. I completely understand where both children and parents are coming from.

However, over many years working in schools – and through experiences that have profoundly stayed with me – my thinking has changed.

Some years ago, we were visited by a woman who came to speak to staff and pupils about the death of her son. He was 16 and had been tragically stabbed. What struck me most was her honesty. She spoke openly about the fact that her son had significant behavioural difficulties and had been known to services. She also spoke about the other boy involved – a young person who had never been in trouble before, had never caused concern at school, and had not been known to any agencies. As she put it, he was a “good boy”.

That evening, following an argument at a party, the situation escalated. The other boy left, returned with a knife, and in a moment of unmanaged conflict, a life was lost. One family lost a son to death. Another lost a son to prison. As she said so powerfully, "*both families lost their children.*"

What stayed with me most was her reflection that the young person who committed the offence had never been explicitly taught how to manage conflict, how to walk away, how to de-escalate, or how to stand up for himself *without* fighting back. The tragedy was not just the moment itself, but all the missed moments before it where different skills could have been taught.

That experience, alongside my professional experience, is why I feel so strongly about this issue. At Templars, we will not encourage children to push back or retaliate. Not because we want them to be passive, and not because we want them to accept poor behaviour – but because fighting back increases risk, and teaching safer ways to respond can genuinely change lives.

Knife crime in this community - for present and past pupils and their families is one of my biggest fears, as it is for many of you too.

What follows explains the alternatives we actively teach, and why **choosing calm, controlled responses is not weakness, but real strength.**

When a child is pushed, shouted at, or hurt, the instinct to *fight back* can feel completely natural. We understand that impulse. However, experience – and evidence – shows us that fighting back nearly always escalates **risk** rather than resolving it.

When a child pushes back, retaliates, or shouts in return:

- emotions rise on *both* sides
- more children are drawn in
- adults have less time to intervene safely
- the chance of injury or serious upset increases

What might begin as a small incident can quickly become a much bigger one.

At school, we explicitly teach children that **walking away, seeking an adult, or using calm words is not weakness – it is strength**. These strategies reduce risk, keep everyone safer, and allow adults to step in quickly and fairly.

We also want to be clear:

👉 **Not fighting back does not mean doing nothing.**

👉 **It does not mean accepting unkind behaviour.**

It means choosing the response that protects *you* and stops the situation from escalating.

Our role as adults is to deal with the behaviour, apply consequences where needed, and support children to repair relationships. Children's role is to keep themselves safe and let us help.

This is a message we repeat often in school, and we appreciate your support in reinforcing it at home. When children understand that calm responses reduce risk, everyone benefits – especially them.

### **If not fighting back... what *can* children do?**

We want children to feel confident that choosing calm, safe responses is **a sign of strength, not weakness**. These strategies help children stay in control, reduce risk, and get adult support quickly.

### **Strong alternatives to fighting back**

**1. Walk away with purpose** This is not running away. It is choosing safety. Walking away denies the situation fuel and gives adults the chance to step in.

**2. Use firm, calm words** Short, clear statements such as:

- *"Stop. I don't like that."*
- *"Leave me alone."* Saying this calmly shows confidence and self-control.

**3. Get an adult immediately** This is a protective action, not "telling tales". Asking for help keeps everyone safe and allows the situation to be handled fairly.

**4. Put space between bodies** Stepping back, turning sideways, or moving towards a group or safe area reduces physical risk.

**5. Stay with others** Moving closer to friends or adults makes escalation far less likely.

**6. Use agreed school signals or systems** We teach children how to signal that they need help. Using these systems shows they are following the rules and protecting themselves.

**7. Breathe before reacting** One slow breath can be enough to stop an impulsive reaction that might make things worse.

### Why this is not weakness

- **It shows self-control** – staying calm takes more strength than lashing out.
- **It shows good judgement** – choosing the safest option protects everyone.
- **It keeps children on the right side of the rules** – retaliation often brings consequences, even when the child was originally upset.
- **It allows adults to act** – staff can only step in effectively when situations haven't escalated.

We consistently tell children: **strong choices keep you safe**. We are grateful when families reinforce this message at home so children hear the same clear, supportive guidance from all of us.

Thank you for taking the time to read. I am looking to book the lady mentioned to speak to adults and children again this year.

### Headteacher's Award 2025-26



Every week, members of staff nominate children for effort and achievement to join me for Celebration Tea on a Friday afternoon. If your child brings home a certificate, they come on the following Friday. Parents, carers and supporters are welcome to join us at the tea from 3pm in the Community Centre. Stay for a while or collect early - it's all part of the treat!

1C Logan E for his amazing work in Squirrels

1S Ivy-Rose for excellent participation in all lessons. Well done!

1KW Nelson for getting into great routines at home - ready for learning!

2S Ava for wonderful writing

2S Thomas for a wonderful start to 2026

2M Tommy for showing teamwork and friendship and helping others

2P Tia -Grace for fantastic effort in her Maths lessons

3D Gracie-Mae for your amazing progress and for being a good friend

4H Ella for showing great confidence in class earlier in the week, and for showing a can do attitude when things get tough

4A Poppy for brilliant effort in Maths this week

4H Diyana for always doing the right thing and for being a super role model to others

5G Grayson for fantastic effort with your handwriting

5H Jackson for consistently making right choices

5F Lewis for increased focus in class and trying really hard with his handwriting

6T Blake for an improved resilience and attitude to learning

6B Hamed for presenting such a mature approach to work

6M Noah for a great attitude and excellent effort

## Lunch Menu for next week

Spring TERM MENU - WEEK 3				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef burger with curly fries and salad (halal option available)	Chicken nuggets, chips and beans (halal option available)	Sausage and mashed potato with vegetables	Sausage roll with wedges and beans	Fish fingers with chips and spaghetti hoops (halal)
Jacket potato with cheese/beans (halal, vegetarian)	Qoorn dippers, chips, and beans (halal/vegetarian)	Vegetarian sausage with mashed potato, vegetables and gravy. (halal/vegetarian)	Jacket potato with cheese/beans (halal, vegetarian)	vegetable nuggets with fries and spaghetti hoops (Vegetarian, halal)
Cheese panini with crisps	Cheese panini with crisps	Ham panini with crisps	Cheese panini with crisps	Cheese panini with crisps
	Ham panini with crisps	Cheese panini with crisps		Ham panini with crisps
Served with a rainbow salad				
<b>Potato choice</b>	Potato wedges, roast potatoes, chips, mash, curly fries (different potato choice each day)			
<b>Vegetable choice</b>	Carrots, peas, green beans, broccoli, sweetcorn, kale, cauliflower, swede, savoy cabbage, broad beans (different vegetable choices each day)			
<b>Dessert choices</b>	Sponge cake, & custard/cream, yoghurt, cheese & crackers, chocolate brownie, cookies, apple crumble, ice-creams, shortbread, egot mess, muffins, chocolate fudge cake, sticky toffee pudding, custard, jam coconut sponge, jam tarts, jam donuts, waffle, jelly, pancakes, banana bread, rocky road, chocolate moussé, keef doughs, gingerbread, flapjacks, chocolate crisp, fruit salad (different dessert choice each day)			

## Dates and Events

Event	Dates
Panto!	Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> January
Teacher Training Day – school closed for pupils	Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> January
Children's Mental Health Week	WB Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> February
Yr 4 Scratch Lessons	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> February
1C to Warwick Arts	Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> February
World Number Day	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> February
Reception Dentist	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> February
Internet Safety Day	Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> February
Severn Trent Assembly and Year3 workshop	Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> February
Yr 4 Scratch Lessons	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> February
Break up for Half Term	Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> February
BACK to SCHOOL for PUPILS	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
BOOST Day	During this week
Year 2 Transport Museum trip	Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> February
1S 1 to Warwick Arts	Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 1 Be Our Guest – phonics	Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> March Change of date to Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
1x Year 1 to Warwick Arts	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
World Book Day	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 1 Zoo Trip	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 2 Be Our Guest 2.30pm	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Photo Day	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> March Change of date from 25 <sup>th</sup> March
Parents Evenings: Wed 3.30pm to 6.30pm and Thurs 3.30 – 5.30 pm (no after-school activities)	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 4 Roman Lunt Fort Campout	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> March
STEM Week	W/B 23 <sup>rd</sup> March

Photo Day	Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> March Change of date from 25 <sup>th</sup> March
Be Our Guest Events	WB Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
Break up for Easter Holidays	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> March
BACK to SCHOOL for PUPILS	Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> April
SPARK Day	During this week
Bank Holiday	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> May
KS2 SATs for Year 6	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> May
Whole School Art Day	Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> May
Break up for Half Term	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
BACK to SCHOOL for PUPILS	1st June
BOOST Day	During this week
Yr 4 Multiplication Check	Begins 1 <sup>st</sup> June
Yr 1 and 2 Phonics Screening	Begins 8 <sup>th</sup> June
Dol-y-Moch Yr 6	Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> to Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
Year 2 to Kenilworth Castle	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> June
Transition Day	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> July
Sports Days	WB 8 <sup>th</sup> July
Be Our Guest Events	13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 6 Performances	13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> July
Summer Fayre	15 <sup>th</sup> July
Yr6 Leavers Lunch	17 <sup>th</sup> July
School Ends for Summer	17 <sup>th</sup> July

**Breakfast Club Drop-Off between 8.15am and 8.25am**

**Morning Drop-off between 8.40am and 8.50 am.**

**Gates shut at 8.55am. Registers Close 9am.**

**Collection between 3.15pm and 3.30pm.**

# Community Activities for Children

**CENTRE AT7**

## Term Time Activities

Session	Day	Time	Age	Price per session
<b>SEND Fun Session</b>	Tuesdays	5:00pm - 6:00pm	5 - 13 years	£3.50
<b>Gymnastics</b> <small>Limited spaces available. Must provide a receipt to coach for this session otherwise you will not be able to enter.</small>	Tuesdays & Thursdays	5:00pm - 6:00pm	5 - 11 years	£3.50
<b>Inspire Trust Football</b>	Thursdays	4:00pm - 5:00pm	7 - 11 years	£2.00

**Connect with us anytime & anywhere**

For the latest news, offers and programme changes for children's activities follow us at:  
@cvlfecommunity  
[www.cvlfe.co.uk/childrens-activities/](http://www.cvlfe.co.uk/childrens-activities/)



**Book now in-centre!**

For SEND Fun Session Enquires:  
[morman@cvlfe.co.uk](mailto:morman@cvlfe.co.uk)

For General Enquires:  
[community@cvlfe.co.uk](mailto:community@cvlfe.co.uk)



**Life Community Engage! Life**

# Parental Support

## Selective Mutism Family Groups



Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend our *Selective Mutism Family Group*, a remote session delivered via **Microsoft Teams**, designed specifically for Coventry families of children and young people with Selective Mutism. **These sessions are for adults only and are not suitable for children or young people to attend.**




The group is jointly facilitated by practitioners from Coventry Educational Psychology Service and the Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service.

Sessions offer a safe and supportive space to talk about Selective Mutism and to share ideas and lived experiences.

This is not a therapy session. There is no pressure to speak, and participants are welcome to join in whatever way feels comfortable. You can contribute to discussions, use the chat function, or simply listen with your camera and microphone turned off.

### Spring Term 2026 Sessions (held online via Microsoft Teams):

To join a group, please use the details below or visit <https://bookwhen.com/parent-carer-training-sessions>.

<p> <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – 4:00 – 5:00pm</b></p>	<p>Meeting ID: 390 488 688 285 68 Passcode: ue7Xi7T4</p>	
<p> <b>Tuesday 17th March – 4:00–5:00pm</b></p>	<p>Meeting ID: 353 483 689 791 48 Passcode: 7Kd2c5Pq</p>	

We look forward to welcoming you.

## Sleep tight workshop for parents/carers of children aged 1 year and over

**Wednesday 25 February 1:30-3:00 PM at  
Templars Primary School, Templar Ave, CV4 9DA**

This session will be delivered face to face in a small group

Sleep issues are common for children and young people and can have a huge impact on the quality of family life.

This two-hour workshop looks at the importance of sleep, understanding sleep cycles, causes of sleep issues and what you can do to support your child to sleep better.

This session will be delivered by a parenting practitioner who has been trained by The National Sleep Charity.

### For more details or to book:

Please email:  
[parenting@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:parenting@coventry.gov.uk)

- Please include the following information in your email:
- Preferred workshop date
  - Your name, address and postcode
  - Parent's/carer's email address
  - Child's name and age



# Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre Drop In Advice Sessions.



Support with GP registration, help with benefits, housing, energy advice and legal referrals.

All Sessions held on Mondays 10am - 11.30am

- Aspire Family Hub CV1 2SF 5<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb and 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- Families for All Family Hub CV6 5LB 12<sup>th</sup> Jan and 9<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Harmony Family Hub CV1 9GR 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 16<sup>th</sup> Feb and 16<sup>th</sup> March
- Pathways Family Hub CV6 1HD 23<sup>rd</sup> March

## Contact Us

No need to book, just drop into any of the sessions above or visit [www.coventryfamilies.co.uk](http://www.coventryfamilies.co.uk) for more information.

