



Templars Primary School

Newsletter 22.5.26

Date: 22nd May 2026

Email: admin@templars.coventry.sch.uk



On Thursday, a team of six chess champions took part in the first Coventry Schools Chess Tournament. They had to play a series of intense games against a range of opponents, showing hard work, determination and resilience to keep going even after a loss. The team represented Templars wonderfully and were noticed for showing great respect towards their opponents (even helping them with their own moves and strategy). Special mention goes to Adrian 6B for gaining a medal for the amount of points he scored across his five matches!

Remember: Mrs Dunkley runs Chess Club on Wednesday lunchtimes. Everyone is welcome!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to be really honest this week.

Many parents may already be aware that Ofsted are due to inspect our school this term. As Headteacher, that naturally brings pressure, but I also believe strongly in being transparent with our community about both our strengths and the areas where we still need to improve. One of the areas that inspectors will rightly look at very closely is attendance and punctuality.

This year, members of SLT and I have been challenging lateness much more directly. Those conversations are never about blame and never about shaming children. In fact, we always start from the same position: it is not the child's fault. We understand that family life can be complicated, mornings can be stressful and some families face genuine difficulties. That is why we offer support, advice and help from our Family Support Worker wherever we can. We also run a Wraparound service, a Free Breakfast Club and a Nurture Breakfast Club.

But I also need to be honest and say that those conversations can sometimes be very difficult.

This week alone, we have been ignored, spoken to rudely and I have even been accused of targeting families of certain ethnicities — something that was both deeply upsetting and completely untrue. Anyone who knows Templars, or knows me, will know that our school is built on care, respect, honesty and inclusion. We are proud of the diversity of our community and proud that every child belongs here.

The reality is much simpler: we are challenging lateness because it matters.

When children arrive late, they miss the calm start to the day, phonics, early maths, reading practice, instructions for learning and opportunities to settle emotionally before lessons begin. Even being “just five minutes late” every day quickly adds up to hours of lost learning across a year. In addition, staff are pulled away from their posts and other children are impacted. Safeguarding can be compromised with doors staying open and staff unable to chase missing children ie. children who have not turned up to school and for whom we have had no communication. These children have to be home-visited in case they are unsafe.

And the impact on children is real.

Children who are regularly late are far more likely to struggle academically, feel unsettled socially and develop poorer attendance patterns over time. As leaders, we cannot ignore that simply because the conversations are uncomfortable.

- 5 minutes late every day = 3 school days lost per year
- 10 minutes late every day = adds up to over 30 hours in a year; that's 6.5 school days lost per year
- 15 minutes late every day = almost 10 school days lost per year.

Attendance is similar.

We have approximately 630 pupils:

- A child attending at 90% misses around 19 school days each year — almost four weeks of learning. We have this year already 113 pupils whose attendance is 90% or below.
- 256 pupils absent before or after a holiday
- 78 pupils repeatedly late or absent on the same days
- We are worse than most schools both in Coventry and nationally (public knowledge - that hurts). See the graph below.

Recently, we have seen a sharp increase in requests for holidays and time off during term time. Last year we had 94 requests for leave during term time for holidays and travelling abroad. Some reasons are understandable from a family perspective — cheaper holidays, quieter locations, celebrating the end of SATs or marking the end of primary school early. We know families want to create special memories for their children.

But schools only get one chance with children too.

At Templars, we teach right until the very final day. Learning does not stop after SATs. Year 6 continue all of their subjects, important transition work, confidence building, enrichment activities and preparation for secondary school. Across school, every week matters.

One of the most challenging things for school leaders nationally is that attendance has changed significantly since COVID. More families now see occasional days off, extended weekends or term-time holidays as less important than they once did. But the cumulative effect across a child's school life is huge.

To put it into perspective, around 27% of pupils at Templars have a diagnosis of ASD. We completely understand that some families may feel a quieter holiday is easier or more manageable for their child. But if every family chose significant term-time absence for understandable personal reasons, we would quickly reach a point where children were

missing substantial parts of their education and schools simply could not function effectively. (And yes — I would probably lose my job!)

I am sorry if this sounds personal but it is! It seems harsh that I, my staff and school are held to account for something that is largely out of our hands. I suppose what I am really asking this week, is that we all continue to value education together.

Not because Ofsted are coming. Not because attendance figures matter on spreadsheets. But because children only get one childhood and one education. Every day in school matters. Every lesson matters. Every morning matters.

And despite the difficult conversations at times, please know this: when we challenge attendance or punctuality, it always comes from a place of wanting the very best for children.

A message and request from the Children's Commissioner

First of all, congratulations to your Year 6 pupils on completing their SATs, and thank you to all your staff for everything you've done to support children through the assessment period. I know how much work and care goes into making the experience positive for pupils.

As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for your support in helping children at your school take part in my new survey, The Big Future. **Your pupils can take part here:** <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>.

As many of your Year 6 pupils will have recently finished their SATs, this could be a great opportunity for them to reflect on their time at primary school and share their hopes and ideas for the future in their own words.

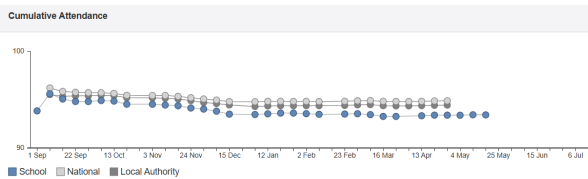
I want to hear from children aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country, and your support will help make that possible. I'm asking children about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they want to see in their communities, and what they think a good childhood should look like today.

I would be hugely grateful if you could share the survey with pupils, parents and carers across your school community. Schools with particularly high participation rates will receive formal recognition for helping amplify children's voices, along with a summary of their pupils' responses, and an invite to my final Festival of Childhood.

A reminder to all parents: We need two contact numbers for every child in case of emergency. Please update new numbers as soon as possible using the MCAS app. or emailing, phoning or calling in at the office.

Have a wonderful break everyone, and see you on Monday 1st June...on time!

Every child, every day, every chance.



Hearing Screening Clinics for Reception Children

South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust



Did you know your child is entitled to a free hearing test whilst they are in reception class? Here are signs that may indicate hearing difficulties:

- Not responding when called
- Speaking very loudly
- Frequently asking for repetitions or responding inappropriately
- Increasing volume on devices
- Appearing to daydream
- Slow to learn or unclear speech
- Frequent frustration or aggression

May	May-July 2026		July
Mon 11th May 26	Wed 17th June 26		Thurs 2nd July 26
<p>9:15am - 4:30pm Pathways Family Hub Laurence Saunders Road, Radford CV6 1HD</p> <p>Thurs 28th May 26 9:30am - 4:45pm Central Library, West Orchard Way, CV1 1FY</p>	<p>9:30am - 4:00pm Moat Family Hub, Deedmore Road, CV2 1EQ</p>		<p>9:15am - 4:30pm Harmony Family Hub, Clifton Street, Hillfields, CV1 5GR</p> <p>Mon 13th July 26 9:15am - 4:30pm Aspire Family Hub, Humber Avenue, CV1 2SF</p>

To book an appointment, contact the School Nursing team using the details below. Please include the following details: child's full name, child's date of birth, school attended by the child, contact email address, telephone number and preferred clinic location and date.

Headteacher's Award 2025-26



Each week teachers select a child who has shone and share their name with me. This might be for demonstrating our school values of pride, honesty and respect or it may be for showing super learning learning behaviours. They are presented with a certificate in class and celebrated by their peers then come to a special tea with myself and Mrs Swallow. Parents and carers are invited to join us just before 3pm on the following Friday and can choose to stay to share the moment or collect early and get a headstart on the weekend.

1C Archie for following our school rules

1S Jesse for showing fantastic puppet skills during our school trip

1C Cherry-Rose for an amazing Art Day

1KW Harshith for putting in a lot of thought and effort during Art day.

2P Lilly for fantastic effort during our Art Day lessons

2M Wiktor for good participation in Writing

3D Schenel for your hard work and for following our school rules

3A Iris for always being a superstar and showing our school values. You are a role model to all

3M Isabelle for doing really well in all her learning

4H James for amazing independence

4A Skylah for her super effort in Writing this week

5F Jack for great focus in class and trying really hard with his targets

6M Amber has worked hard on her writing and during Art Day. Keep it up!

6T Ruth for showing resilience in lessons and in SATs last week

6T Alex for showing resilience in lessons and in SATs last week

6B Kenzie for powering through his SATs

6B Ruth for always working hard and doing the right thing

Lunch Menu

SUMMER TERM MENU - WEEK 1				
Monday	Tuesday	Traditional Temples Feast Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Macaroni cheese with a garlic slice and vegetables (Halal/vegetarian)	Hot dogs with twister fries and sweetcorn (Halal option available)	Chicken roast, roast potatoes with vegetables and gravy	Southern fried popcorn chicken with rice and beans (Halal option available)	Fish fingers shaw with wholewheat spaghetti hoops (Halal)
Quorn dippers with fries and beans (Halal, vegetarian)	Jacket potato, Cheese/beans (Halal, vegetarian)	Quorn roast, roast potatoes with vegetables and gravy (Halal, vegetarian)	Jacket potato, cheese/beans (Halal, vegetarian)	Vegan sausage roll with chips and wholewheat spaghetti hoops (Halal, vegetarian)
Cheese panini with crisps	Cheese panini with crisps	Chicken and stuffing panini with crisps	Cheese panini with crisps	Mini Panini with crisps
Vegan Focaccia sandwiches		Cheese panini with crisps		Cheese Panini with crisps
Served with a rainbow salad				
Potato wedges, roast potatoes, chips, mash, curly fries (different potato choice each day)				
Vegetable choice: Carrots, peas, green beans, broccoli, sweetcorn, kale, cauliflower, swede, savoy cabbage, bread beans (different vegetable choices each day)				
Desert choices: Sponge cake, & custard/cream, waffles, cheese & crackers, chocolate brownie, cookies, apple crumble, ice-cream, shortbread, eton mess, muffins, chocolate fudge cake, sticky toffee pudding, custard, jam coconut sponges, jam tarts, jam donuts, waffle, jelly, pancakes, banana bread, rocky road, chocolate mousse, fond doughnuts, gingerbread, flapjacks, chocolate crisps, fruit salad (different dessert choice each day)				
Allergen Information:				

Nursery & Reception DINNER MENU - WEEK 1				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Macaroni cheese with sweetcorn	Chicken casserole with mixed vegetables	Roast chicken, potatoes, vegetables and gravy	Tomato and herb pasta bake	Fish fingers, chips and wholewheat spaghetti hoops
Jacket potato Tuna or cheese	Jacket potato Beans/cheese	Quorn roast, potatoes, vegetables and gravy	Jacket potato Tuna or cheese	Jacket potato Tuna or cheese
		Cheese panini		

Nursery and Reception parents - there are new, strict guidelines which we MUST follow in school in providing school lunches which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-nutrition> It is

my opinion that what is right for little ones, is right for us all and we will be reviewing menus in the Summer term - look out for the Parent Forum and other ways for you to be involved.

Right now, we are experimenting with menus to get this right. Please find below, a separate offer for EYFS pupils.

Dates and Events

Event	Dates
BACK to SCHOOL for PUPILS	Mon 13th April
SPARK Days	During this week
Yr1 Spark Day	Wed 15 th April
Bank Holiday	Mon 4th May
Parent and Pupil Trip to Warwick Arts Centre	Sun 10 th May
KS2 SATs for Year 6	Mon 11 th – 15 th May
Yr1 to Warwick Arts	Wed 13 th May
Whole School Art Day	Tues 19 th May
Yr1 to Warwick Arts	Thurs 21 st May
Chess Competition	Thurs 21 st May
Break up for Half Term	Fri 22nd May
BACK to SCHOOL for PUPILS	1st June
BOOST Day	During this week
Yr 4 Multiplication Check	Begins 1 st June
Yr 1 Boost Day	Wed 3 rd June
Yr 6 PSHE Virtual workshop	Wed 3 rd June
Year 5 and 6 Spain Trip	7 th to 12 th June
Yr 1 and 2 Phonics Screening	Begins 8 th June
Yr 2 Trip to Coventry	Wed 10 th June
Nursery Sports Days 9 am and 2pm	Mon 15 th June
Year 1 and 2 Sports days 2pm	Tues 16 th June
Yr 6 to Warwick Uni	Wed 17 th June
Reception Sports Day 2pm	Wed 17 th June
New to Nursery Parent Evening	Wed 17 th June
Yr 5 and 6 Sports Day 2pm	Thurs 18 th June
Yr 3 and 4 Sports Day 2pm	Fri 19 th June
Dol-y-Moch Yr 6	Fri 19 th to Tues 23 rd June
Year 1 to Coventry	Wed 24 th June
1KW to Warwick Arts Centre	Wed 24 th June
New to Reception Parent Evening	Wed 24 th June
Yr 3 Beach Trip to Weston-Super-Mare	Thurs 25 th June

Year 2 to Kenilworth Castle	Fri 26 th June
Transition Day	Wed 1 st July
Yr 6 Performance Dress Rehearsals	W/b 6 th July
Be Our Guest Events	13th – 17th July
Year 6 Performances	Tues 14 th July
Summer Fayre	Wed 15 th July
Yr6 Leavers Lunch	Fri 17 th July
School Ends for Summer	17th July

Breakfast Club Drop-Off between 8.15am and 8.25am

Morning Drop-off between 8.40 am and 8.50 am

Gates shut at 8.50am.

Collection 3.20pm

Community Activities for Children



A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY:

For a child to grow in faith, it is important that they are given the opportunity to be part of the greatest possible experience. Having grown up singing and praying in a cathedral choir to God, I can only commend this opportunity which could be the thing that gives their life a unique meaning. It may be the thing that brings them joy not just for today but for their life ahead.

If your child has the potential to be a chorister, we do not want to miss the opportunity to support their growth in faith. We do not want to miss the opportunity to support their growth in faith. We do not want to miss the opportunity to support their growth in faith.

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BOYS SCHEDULE

- Mondays 16:30 - 17:30
- Wednesdays 16:30 - 18:00
- Sundays 09:00 - 10:30 or 14:15 - 17:00 (alternates between AM and PM)

GIRLS SCHEDULE

- Mondays 17:30 - 18:30
- Thursdays 16:30 - 18:00
- Sundays 09:00 - 10:30 or 14:15 - 17:00 (alternates between AM and PM)

CHORISTER OPEN EVENING

Venue: Coventry Cathedral
Who can attend?
 Open to Boys & Girls in current school Years 2-6
Date: Tuesday 5th May, 18:30-19:30

- Open to all children considering auditioning for the cathedral choir
- Meet and sing with the cathedral choristers in a cathedral service
- Have a tour of the cathedral, and experience the cathedral organ close up
- Parents will hear their children singing in the cathedral choir, meet with current parents & musical Director of Music

Sign Up!

Scan the QR code to sign up for this event or click the link: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk



With every Blessing,
+Sophia Coventry



SCAN ME



WE WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM CHILDREN OF ALL BACKGROUNDS, SCHOOLS, AND FAITHS

BENEFITS OF BEING A CHORISTER

- The boys and girls receive musical tuition several times a week from specialist cathedral music staff
- There are no costs payable to the cathedral for this tremendous musical training
- Choristers also receive vocal coaching lessons from the cathedral's specialist vocal coach, free of charge
- Make friends for life!

TESTIMONIALS

"It's been transformative for our son" - Parent of Year 5 Chorister

"Singing the choir has given our daughter confidence we never expected. She's proud, and proud proudly. The musical training has been outstanding, and she's made friends for life." - Parent of Year 6 Chorister

"Our son has every reason to be confident in his singing. Being in the Choir Parents Association is very rewarding - we have great fun fundraising and knowing it supports the choristers makes it even better." - Parent of Year 4 Chorister

"Not only joined, I don't know how to read music. Now I can sing harmony, and I've been more confident at school." - Year 6 Chorister

"Going on choir tours and singing in different places is the best part. And we always get discounts after when we go." - Year 10 Chorister

TRIPS & CONCERTS PAST AND PRESENT

- Malta October Half Term 2025
- Derby Cathedral January 2026
- Christmas Concert 2025
- BBC CWR Carol Concert (broadcast on the radio)
- Germany 2025
- London 2025



COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

BECOME A CHORISTER!

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH

Music.Administrator@CoventryCathedral.org.uk
www.coventrycathedral.org.uk
  CoventryCathedralMusic

Parental Support - mostly free, all expert-led and just what our families need!

Family Hubs On Tour

Tuesday 26th May
Between 11:00am - 1:00pm
City of Coventry Health Centre,
 Ground Floor, 2 Stoney Stanton Road,
 CV1 4FS **No booking required.**

Join us to meet local partners, including **Coventry Best Start in Life Family Hubs**, and explore the wide range of free support and services available for families and young people.

A welcoming opportunity to discover local support, connect with others, and find out what's available for your family.



Contact Us



For more information, visit
www.coventryfamilies.co.uk







Templars Primary School is a large primary school with 680 children and 112 staff! It is hard to know who everyone is and therefore this guide is to help you have your queries answered more easily. We always encourage speaking to your child's teacher first because they know your child best. If after this you would like to speak to someone, please contact the relevant Assistant Head for your child's year group. The office will direct you to the right person to support you best: office 02476 466337 / admin@templars.coventry.sch.uk

To discuss...	Who should I speak to?
Reading books, learning, homework, behaviour, personal wellbeing, friendships and any worries at all	Class teacher on the door <u>after school</u> , via ClassDojo, or email on admin@templars.coventry.sch.uk
Safeguarding / Child Protection Concerns Confidential information Attendance / Lateness Family support needed Specific worries over emotional issues, mental health and counselling	Headteacher: Mrs Benarous Family Support Worker: Ms Swallow Attendance Officer: Mrs Ross Via the office 02476 466337
Lunches, change of address or numbers, trips, tickets, appointments with staff, clubs, payments	Office team: Mrs Angie Herbert, Mrs Claire Morris, Mrs Hayley Bates admin@templars.coventry.sch.uk 02476 466337
After School, Holiday and Breakfast Club	Mrs Tina Nicholson OOSC@templars.coventry.sch.uk 07572 179485
Special Educational Needs, ECHP applications, medical concerns, returns from long-term illness, support for children	SEN Team: KS2 Miss Finn, KS1 Mrs King senco@templars.coventry.sch.uk

If you have contacted the class teacher and still have concerns, please contact Assistant Head Teachers: Miss Hall (Years 5-6) Mrs Dunkley (Years 2-4) Mrs Leigh (EYFS-Yr1).

If you have any concerns, please note, in all first instances you should speak with the class teacher. The office will pass on messages on your behalf.