

Templars Primary School

Newsletter 06.11.26

Date: 6th November 2026

Email: admin@templars.coventry.sch.uk

NSPCC Speak Out. Stay Safe. Assembly

On Monday morning, all children will be taking part in the NSPCC's *Speak Out. Stay Safe.* assembly. This important programme helps children understand their right to feel safe, recognise when something isn't right and know who they can turn to for help. We encourage parents to reinforce these important messages at home by reminding children that they can always speak to a trusted adult if anything is worrying them.





🌦️ **There's No Such Thing as Bad Weather – Just the Wrong Clothing!**

🌳 Why We Believe in OPAL Play at Templars

A few parents have recently asked me why we don't simply keep children indoors at lunchtime when it's raining. It's a perfectly reasonable question, and I thought it would be a good opportunity to remind everyone why we introduced **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** at Templars and why we believe so strongly in it.

OPAL is based on a simple but important principle: **play is not a reward or something children do when they've finished learning. Play IS learning!**

Through play, children develop confidence, independence, imagination, friendships, problem-solving skills and resilience. They learn to negotiate, cooperate, manage disagreements, assess risks and look after themselves and one another. These are enormously important life skills that cannot always be taught sitting at a desk.

We want our children to enjoy the freedom of childhood: running, climbing, exploring, building, creating, getting muddy and having adventures. We also want them to enjoy being outdoors throughout the year, not just when the sun is shining!

🌧️ But What About the Rain?

There is an old saying that fits our OPAL approach perfectly: **"There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing!"**

Children are not made of sugar! A little rain, wind or mud won't hurt them, provided they are dressed appropriately. In fact, experiencing different seasons and weather conditions is part of learning about the world and developing resilience.

Of course, we assess the weather and conditions carefully. Extreme weather, high winds or unsafe conditions may mean we need to make different arrangements. But ordinary rain or cold weather is not a reason to cancel outdoor play.

🏫 Why Don't We Offer Indoor Play Instead?

There are also some very practical reasons why indoor play is not an option for us.

Templars is a very large school, and our indoor space is extremely limited. We have just one hall, which is needed throughout our extended lunchtime to serve meals to hundreds of children.

Our classrooms are already busy learning environments. Keeping children inside would largely mean asking them to sit at their desks for even longer, when what they really need after a morning of learning is the opportunity to move, play, stretch their legs and enjoy some fresh air.

We also have to consider safe and effective supervision. Staff need their own lunchtime breaks, and we organise our lunchtime team carefully to ensure children are properly

supervised across our outdoor play areas. Spreading children across numerous classrooms would require additional adults we simply do not have.

Our approach is not about making life easier for adults. It is about making playtime better for children, while keeping them safe.

🥾 What We Need From Parents – Please Help Us!

As we head into the colder, wetter months, we need every family to help us make OPAL work.

- **Wellies:** Every child is expected to have a named pair of wellington boots kept in school. As the ground gets wetter, children without wellies will not be allowed onto the school field. We don't want children missing out on their favourite play areas simply because they haven't got suitable footwear.
- **Coats:** Every child must come to school with a suitable warm, waterproof coat.
- **Hats, scarves and gloves:** These are very welcome as temperatures drop. Please make sure they are clearly named.
- **Waterproof suits:** If you would like to provide an all-in-one waterproof puddle suit, rain suit or snowsuit, that's absolutely fine! They are a brilliant way of keeping children warm, dry and comfortable while they enjoy outdoor play.

Please help your child to understand that **they will be going outside to play, even when it is raining**, and that being properly dressed is part of being ready for school.

👊🏽 And a Word About Lost Property...

I also want to ask for everyone's help with something that has become a real frustration in school: the enormous amount of lost property!

Every day we find coats, jumpers, cardigans, hats, gloves and other belongings that children have left behind. We collect these and place them in a central area on the playground at the end of the school day, yet we rarely see children or parents stopping to check whether anything belongs to them.

We really do need to work together on this.

Please name EVERYTHING and encourage your children to take responsibility for their belongings. If something is missing, ask your child to look for it and check the lost property collection before replacing it.

Learning to look after a coat, put gloves away, remember where wellies are kept and recognise your own belongings are all important steps towards independence. These are life skills we want to teach at Templars, but they need reinforcing at home too.

💜 Let's Keep Playing!

We are incredibly fortunate to have the outdoor space that we do at Templars, and OPAL helps us make the most of it. We want children to have exciting, active and imaginative playtimes throughout the year.

So, as the weather gets colder and wetter, please work with us. Make sure your child has their wellies and waterproof coat, help them look after their belongings and encourage them to embrace outdoor play.

A muddy pair of wellies, rosy cheeks and a big smile are often the signs of a really good playtime!

Every child. Every day. Every chance.

🥾 Wellies and Waterproofs – Can You Help?

We know that children grow quickly and that buying new clothing and footwear can be expensive. We also know that many families have perfectly good wellies and waterproofs sitting at home that their children have outgrown!

We would love to build up a small collection of **pre-loved wellies, waterproof coats and puddle suits** that we can share with families who need them.

If you have any clean, good-quality items that your children have outgrown, please consider donating them to school. Equally, if you're struggling to provide suitable outdoor clothing for your child, please speak to us. We will always do our best to help, without judgement or embarrassment.

We don't want any child missing out on the fun of OPAL because they don't have the right clothing.

🌳 Want to Know More About OPAL?

If you're still wondering why we place such importance on outdoor play, I'd really encourage you to find out more about the thinking and research behind OPAL.

It isn't simply about sending children outside to play. It's about giving them the opportunities that many of us enjoyed growing up: exploring, inventing games, building friendships, taking sensible risks and learning through experience.

The OPAL approach is designed to make playtimes happier, more active, more inclusive and more rewarding for children.

You can read more about the programme and find answers to common questions on the official OPAL website:

OPAL – Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

It's well worth a read, particularly if you're interested in understanding why we believe outdoor play is such an important part of a child's school day.

💜 **Bedtime battles? Morning struggles? Constant arguing? Help is at hand – and it's FREE!**

Does any of this sound familiar?

- 😴 **Bedtime is a battle** and you just can't get your child to settle?
- ⏰ **Mornings are stressful**, and getting your child ready for school feels like an uphill struggle?
- 🍽️ Are mealtimes becoming stressful? Is your child a fussy eater, refusing certain foods or making family meals a daily battle?
- 🎮 Are you struggling to manage gaming or screen time? Does your child become upset or angry when asked to put their device down, or seem to have lost interest in other activities?
- 😤 **Your child answers back**, argues or seems to ignore everything you say?
- 💬 **You're tired of repeating yourself** and wish you could find a calmer way to manage challenging behaviour?
- ❤️‍🩹 **You're worried about your child's wellbeing** but aren't quite sure how best to help?

If you've answered YES to any of these questions, I really want to tell you about something fantastic!

Coventry parents now have **FREE access to the Pause Parenting App**, developed with expertise from Dr Nathan Hodson, a psychiatrist and researcher at Warwick Medical School and CAMHS specialist.

What I particularly love about this app is that it doesn't just give you generic parenting advice. **It gives you practical, personalised support for the challenges YOU are facing with YOUR child.**

Simply tell the app what you're struggling with, whether that's bedtime, arguing, behaviour, anxiety or getting your child to school. Its AI-powered helper guides you towards a personalised action plan, with short videos, activities, games and practical ideas based on evidence-backed parenting strategies.

And the best bit? **It's there whenever you need it!** You don't have to wait for an appointment, attend a course or find time during the school day. You can access support from your sofa, in the evening, or whenever you have a few quiet minutes.

Parenting isn't always easy, and even small changes in how we respond to our children can make a huge difference.

I would really encourage every Templars parent to give this a try. You don't need to be experiencing serious difficulties to benefit. Sometimes we all just need a few new ideas!

📱 **Getting started couldn't be easier:**

Visit www.mypause.org or scan the QR code on the flyer.

Enter the code **CV999** to unlock your FREE access as a Coventry parent.

Then tell the app what you'd like help with and start exploring!

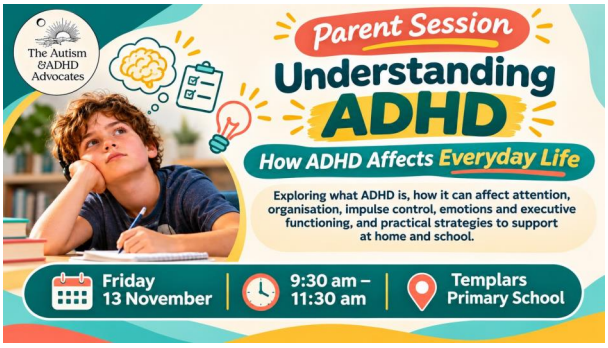
It's free, it's practical, it's personalised – and it could make family life a little bit easier.



The next meeting of the Boot Fund has been moved. The deadline for the applications has been brought forward for the next meeting from Tuesday 1st December to **Tuesday 17th November 2026.** If you need help to buy school shoes please see Claire in the school office for a form to apply - one pair, per family, per year.

📸 **School Photographs – Wednesday 25th November**

A reminder that our school photographer will be visiting on **Wednesday 25th November** to take individual and sibling photographs. These make lovely Christmas presents for grandparents and other family members, so it's a great opportunity to get some special keepsakes in time for Christmas!



1 - No diagnosis necessary to attend

Headteacher's Award 2026-27



If your child's name is listed below they have done something that has made them shine in the eyes of their teacher this week! They will bring home a certificate and be invited to tea on a Friday with Mrs Benarous and Mrs Swallow in the Community Centre. Parents and Carers are welcome to join us from 3pm and or collect your child for an early finish from 3pm - whatever they prefer.

RS Eliana for being fabulous in Phonics

RS Kayden for being kind, hardworking and respectful

RF Tavaya for always being ready to learn

RH Neyo for always showing our school values of care and having such marvellous manners

1P Christian for showing our school values of care and respect every day

1C Milo for always being a kind and caring member of our class

1S Leonardo for excellent effort in school

2L Stephen for trying so hard in Maths

2S Celeste for being caring towards others

2S Prince for great participation

3W Edie for always showing all our school values

3D Lacey-Mae for always following school rules

3D Aksyan for your curiousity and outstanding attitude towards learning

3C Isla Foskett for an amazing start at Templars

4T Landon for displaying independence in Maths and using his strategies

4T Sophie for her determination and resilience in Maths

4AR Lyall for outstanding progress in his writing

4AR Anushka for taking time to focus on her presentation

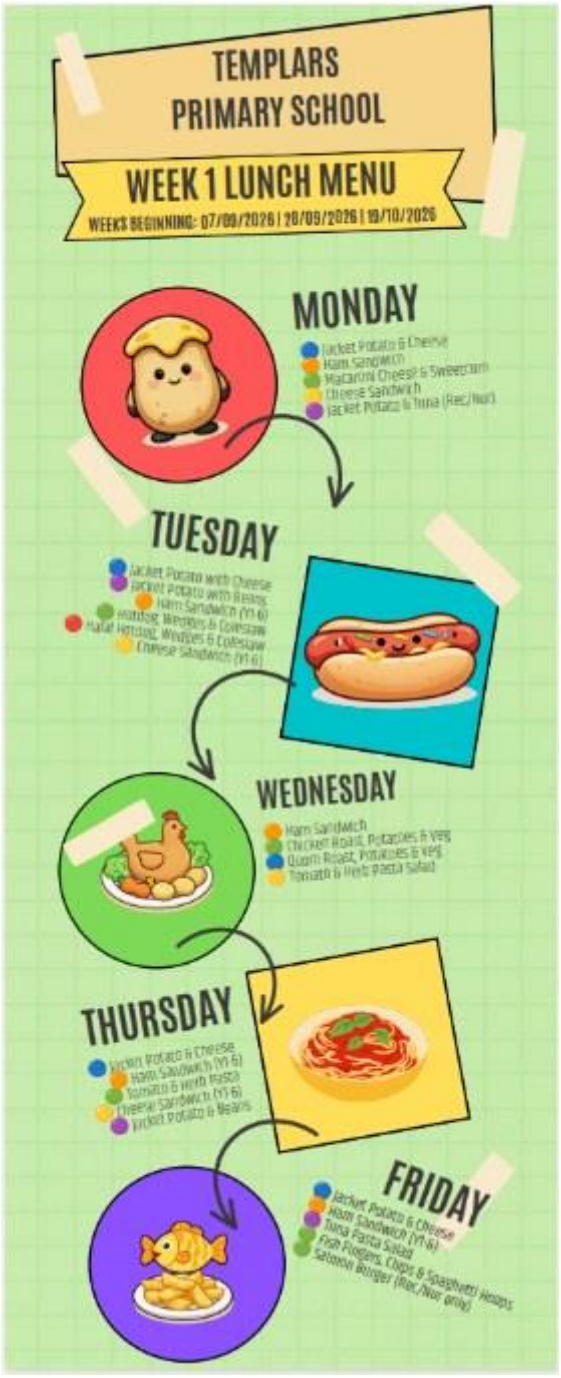
4A Daemon for his effort and attitude to learning. He has been trying so hard.

5A Avalon for being an excellent role model

6DW Lexi-Grace for overcoming her fears and attending the whole Rough Close trip. You were a superstar!

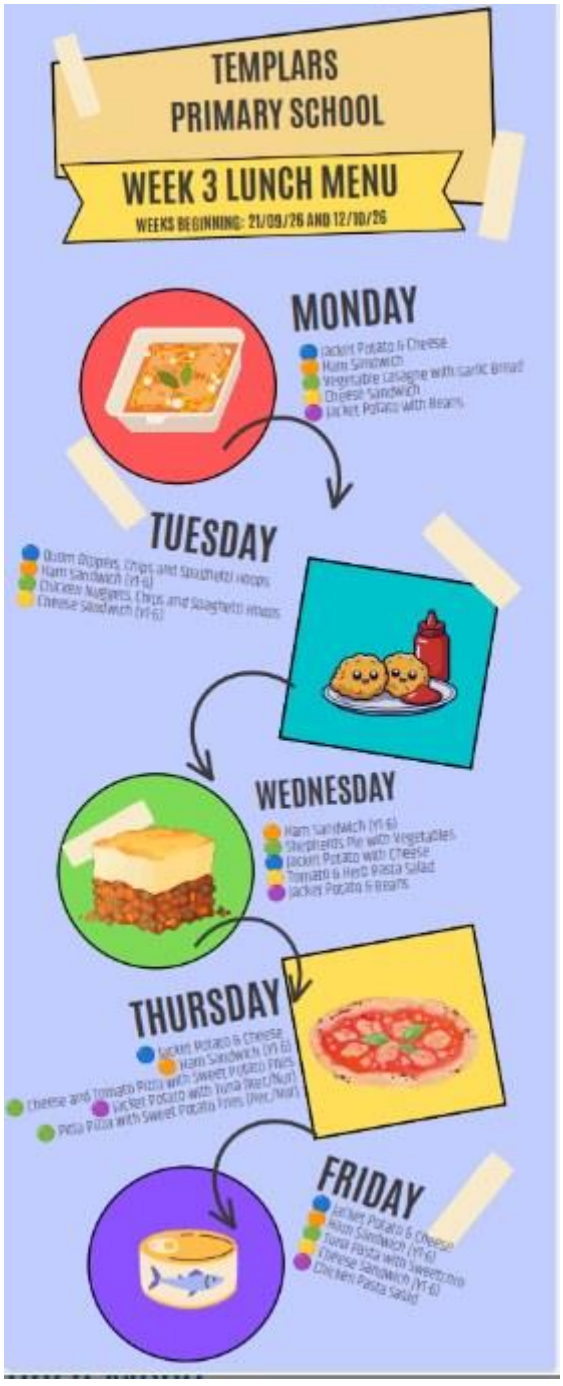
6M Mikey for being brave at Rough Close and staying overnight!

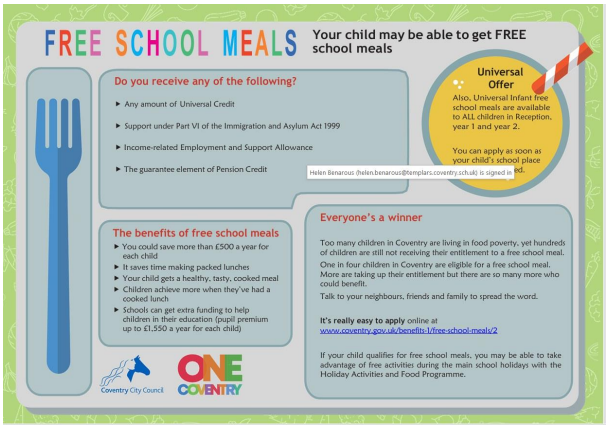
Lunch Menu - a new look for our menu. If you need nutritional advice, please look at the website version here: Lunch Menus



2 - Monday; sandwiches are for all years


TEMPLARS
PRIMARY SCHOOL
WEEK 2 LUNCH MENU
WEEKS BEGINNING: 14/9/26 AND 5/10/26
MONDAY
Ham Sandwich (Y1-6)
Chicken Curry with Rice (Halal)
Lentil & Veg Curry with Rice (Rec/Nut)
Cheese Sandwich (Y1-6)
TUESDAY
Jacket Potato & Cheese
Ham Sandwich (Y1-6)
Wholewheat Pasta Bolognese
Cheese Sandwich (Y1-6)
Jacket Potato with Beans
WEDNESDAY
Quorn Toad in the Hole
Ham Sandwich
Toad in the Hole
Tomato and Herb Pasta Salad
Roast Chicken Dinner (Rec/Nut)
THURSDAY
Jacket Potato & Cheese
Ham Sandwich (Y1-6)
Chicken Fajita Wrap with potato wedges
Cheese Sandwich (Y1-6)
Jacket Potato with Tuna (Rec/Nut)
FRIDAY
Tomato Pasta
Ham Sandwich
Fish Fingers, Chips and Spaghetti Hoops
Cheese Sandwich


TEMPLARS
PRIMARY SCHOOL
WEEK 3 LUNCH MENU
WEEKS BEGINNING: 21/09/26 AND 12/10/26
MONDAY
Jacket Potato & Cheese
Ham Sandwich
Vegetable Lasagne with Garlic Bread
Cheese Sandwich
Jacket Potato with Beans
TUESDAY
Quorn Nuggets, Chips and Spaghetti Hoops
Ham Sandwich (Y1-6)
Chicken Nuggets, Chips and Spaghetti Hoops
Cheese Sandwich (Y1-6)
WEDNESDAY
Ham Sandwich (Y1-6)
Shepherds Pie with Vegetables
Jacket Potato with Cheese
Tomato & Herb Pasta Salad
Jacket Potato & Beans
THURSDAY
Jacket Potato & Cheese
Ham Sandwich (Y1-6)
Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Sweet Potato Fries
Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayo (Nut)
Pizza Pizza with Sweet Potato Fries (Nut/Meat)
FRIDAY
Jacket Potato & Cheese
Ham Sandwich (Y1-6)
Tuna Pasta with Sweetcorn
Cheese Sandwich (Y1-6)
Chicken Pasta Salad


FREE SCHOOL MEALS
Your child may be able to get FREE school meals
Do you receive any of the following?
Any amount of Universal Credit
Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
The guarantee element of Pension Credit
Universal Offer
Also, Universal Infant free school meals are available to ALL children in Reception, year 1 and year 2.
You can apply as soon as your child's school place is confirmed.
Helen Benarous (helen.benarous@templars.coventry.sch.uk) is signed in
The benefits of free school meals
You could save more than £500 a year for each child
It saves time making packed lunches
Your child gets a healthy, tasty, cooked meal
Children achieve more when they've had a cooked lunch
Schools can get extra funding to help children in their education (pupil premium up to £1,550 a year for each child)
Everyone's a winner
Too many children in Coventry are living in food poverty, yet hundreds of children are still not receiving their entitlement to a free school meal.
One in four children in Coventry are eligible for a free school meal. More are taking up their entitlement but there are so many more who could benefit.
Talk to your neighbours, friends and family to spread the word.
It's really easy to apply online at www.coventry.gov.uk/benefits-1/free-school-meals/2
If your child qualifies for free school meals, you may be able to take advantage of free activities during the main school holidays with the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.
Coventry City Council
ONE COVENTRY

Dates and Events

Event	Dates
Back to School for staff and pupils	Mon 2nd November
Learning to Learn week and Boost Day	WB 2nd November
Year 5 to Tamworth Castle	Wed 4th November
National Outdoor Learning Day	Thurs 5th November
Free Breakfast Club Festival Week!	Mon 9th November
Year 4 Birmingham Museum	Mon 9th November
Anti-Bullying Week	WB 16th November
Year 2 to Selly Manor	Wed 18th November
Year 3 to Compton Verney	Thurs19th & Fri 20th
Children in Need Day	Fri 20th November
Yr6 Doy-y-Moch and SATs Info evening	Tues 24th November
Individual and Sibling photos	Wed 25th November
Assessment fortnight opens	WB 30th November
Training Day (school closed to children)	Mon 7th December
Nativity Performance	Wed 9th am Thurs 10th am and pm
Reception Warwick Arts Performance	Thurs 11th December
Be Our Guest Events across the week	WB 14th December
Craft Day	Mon 14th December
Musical Theatre performances	Mon 14th December
Concerts	Tues 15th December
Christmas Dinner	Wed 16th December
Party Day	Thurs 17th December
Reception classes to Warwick Arts	Thurs 17th December
Whole school Film Club and Dodgeball/Snowball tournament	Fri 18th December
Christmas Holidays begin	Mon 21st December
Return to School on	Mon 4th January
Learning to Learn Week	WB 4th January
Spark Day and Knowledge Harvests	WB 11th January
Tizz Time for Reception classes	Tues 12th January
Whole school Snow White Panto	Thurs 21st January
Children's Mental Health Week	WB 1st February
Internet Safety Day	Tues 9th February
British Motor Museum	Thurs 25th February
Half Term begins	Mon 15th February
Return to School	22nd February
Boost Days	WB 22nd February
Parents Evening (no after school activities)	Wed 3rd March 3.30 - 5.30 and Thurs 4th March 3.30 - 6.30
World Book Day	Thurs 4th March
STEM week	WB 8th March
Assessment Fortnight opens	WB 8th March
Yr 1 Twycross Zoo	Wed 17th March
Be Our Guest Events	WB 22nd March

Parents Evening (no after school activities)	Wed 3rd March 3.30 - 5.30 and Thurs 4th March 3.30 - 6.30
World Book Day	Thurs 4th March
STEM week	WB 8th March
Assessment Fortnight opens	WB 8th March
Be Our Guest Events	WB 22nd March

SpringFest	Wed 24th March
Easter break begins	Mon 29th March
Return to School	Mon 12th April
Spark Day and Knowledge Harvest	WB Mon 12th April
Whole School Art Day	Thurs 29th April
Bank Holiday	Mon 3rd May
Yr6 SATs Week	WB 10th May
Yr 6 Learning to Learn Transition Week	WB 17th May
Outdoor Classroom Day	Thurs 20th May
Year6 Dol-Y-Moch Week	WB Mon 24th May

Careers Week	WB 24th May
Half Term begins	Mon 31st May
Return to School	Mon 7th June
Year 4 Multiplication Check Fortnight opens	WB 7th June
SEN Parent Meetings	WB 7th June
Sports Day (new and improved!)	WB 5th June
Transition Day	Wed 7th July
Be Our Guest Events	WB 12th July
Year 6 Leavers events	WB 19th July
Last Day of School	Wed 21st 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 Events for Pupils

Support for Parents







3 - Come and join in.

Sarah Jane has two new groups starting at Stoke Heath Community Centre, one for younger home-educated children and their parents, and another for teenagers who are home-educated or out of school. The sessions will focus on understanding their own learning, executive functioning skills and developing confidence, as well as giving parents an opportunity to connect.

Both groups are advertised on her website, so if you know any families who might benefit, please feel free to share the page:

[Free SEN Family Support Sessions | Coventry & Warwickshire | The Autism & ADHD Advocates CIC]

