

# News Romero

News and events from across The Romero Catholic Multi-Academy Company



**SAVE THE DATE**

#RomeroBelongs 8th April 2024

**WELL DONE BETH!**

Chaplaincy Team

**LIVESIMPLY AWARD**



Saint Patrick School Celebrates

**ROMERO  
CELEBRATES NINTH  
YEAR OF OPERATION**

WINTER 2023



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# Welcome to our Winter Newsletter



A highlight of this term was in October, when the whole of the Romero MAC gathered as a community in Christ to pray for the year ahead. Prayers were offered for the staff and pupils as we embark on a new school year. This year the Mass was held on October 13th at Saint Patrick's Church with representatives from the GiFT team or Chaplaincy team receiving a blessing of commission in each school; the shared services team and governors were in attendance too. A photo is on our front cover.

The Mass, celebrated by Father George, Father Stephen and Father Tony, was streamed live to all schools in the MAC. The event was a faith-filled occasion and one that firmly places Christ and our prayers at the heart of the work we do.

This year, has been a change in our Parishes, we want to take this opportunity to give thanks to Father Des for the years of service he gave to Saint John Fisher parish and the strong pastoral support he gave to the two schools of Saint Gregory and Saint John Fisher. We now extend a warm welcome to Father Sebastian, who takes up the role of Parish Priest; we look forward to getting to know him more in 2024.

As 2023, draws to a close, we thank all teachers, support and central team staff who work so tirelessly in our schools supporting our children and students. We particularly thank you for the additional time and effort that goes in to planning, preparing for, and taking part in Christmas events and the LiveSimply activities. Your time, skill, patience and dedication have created moments that capture and spread happiness, joy, a sense of togetherness and wonder.

Many of the events have at their heart, sharing, worshipping and celebrating with others: parents and carers, friends, grandparents, other schools, parishioners, vulnerable and groups from the local community. These activities are active demonstrations of our faith and how we are living Romero's words to 'aspire not to have more, but to be more'.

We ask for God's blessings on you, your families and loved ones through these joyous days of Advent and Christmas and keep you safe throughout the Year of Our Lord 2024.

**Brendan Fawcett**

**CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**





# An Inspector calls... five times!

During the Autumn term, as expected, we were visited on a number of occasions by Inspectors from Ofsted and the Catholic Schools' Inspectorate. The school reports are accessible by clicking on the report image below.

Our vision is that all our schools to be more than just places where pupils are equipped with learning and skills for the workplace and responsible citizenship. Through our curriculum and Romero Child Charter, we seek to serve communities where the spiritual, cultural and personal worlds from within we live, provide firm foundations on which our values, motivation, aspirations and the moral imperatives that inform our choices and actions as persons (*Gravissimum Educatinois, Declaration of Vatican II on Catholic Education §19*). Whilst we are delighted that Ofsted have validated the good and outstanding work in our schools by pupils, staff and governors, we are committed to always providing a highly inclusive quality Catholic education, in which all members of the faith community flourish. An Ofsted provides a snapshot in time, but we are relentless in our ambitious pursuit to be a MAC that is a 'beacon of excellence for Catholic education' year on year, with each generation that passes through our schools.



## Saint John Fisher

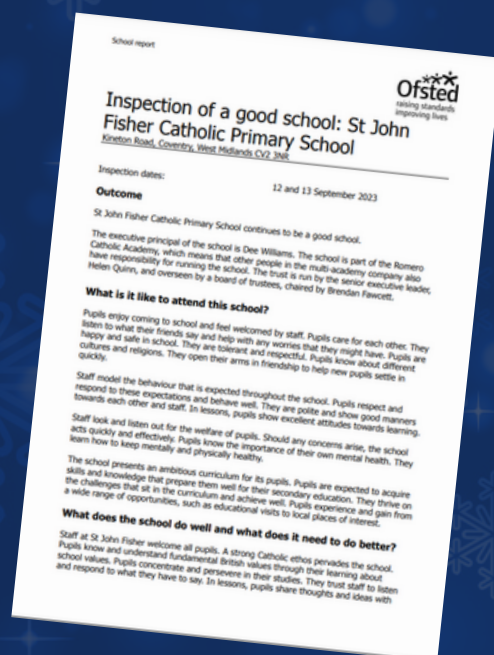
The report confirms, the inclusive and Catholic nature of the school:

"Staff at St John Fisher welcome all pupils. A strong Catholic ethos pervades the school."

The pupils themselves, make an active contribution to the inclusive nature. The inspector, Jeremy Bird noted:

"Pupils enjoy coming to school and feel welcomed by staff. Pupils care for each other. They listen to what their friends say and help with any worries that they might have. Pupils are happy and safe in school.....They open their arms in friendship to help new pupils settle in quickly."

This means that the culture in the school is one that places children instinctively at the heart of decision making and leadership thinking at all levels to ensure that pupils thrive and flourish in a safe environment.



## SS Peter and Paul

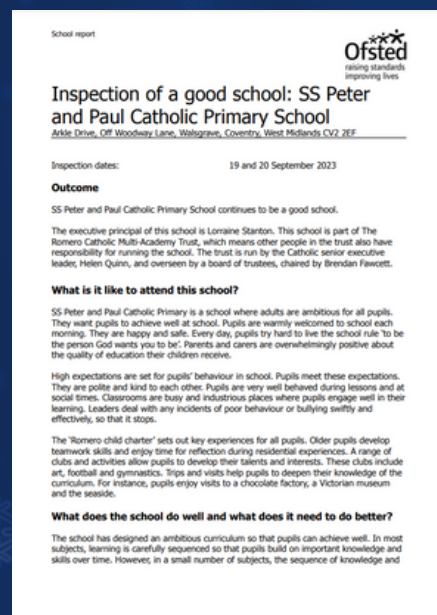
The Catholic dimension of the school is praised:

"Pupils are warmly welcomed to school each morning. They are happy and safe. Every day, pupils try hard to live the school rule 'to be the person God wants you to be'."

The pupils themselves, reach the high expectations set by the staff. The inspector, Lorraine Lord noted:

"They are polite and kind to each other. Pupils are very well-behaved during lessons and at social times. Classrooms are busy and industrious places where pupils engage well in their learning."

This means that the culture in the school is one in which not a single moment is missed; pupils are surrounded by loving, supportive relationships, structures and systems which enable pupils to flourish in a thriving faith-filled community.







## Saint Gregory

On reading the report, it opens with:

**"Saint Gregory's Catholic Primary school is aspirational for all pupils. Pupils are happy and safe. Every day they 'create moments that become memories'. Staff care deeply and respond effectively to any worries or concerns pupils raise."**

The report highlights that the curriculum is made memorable, which in turn creates a vibrant place to learn. It enables pupils to recall and retrieve key knowledge and skills as pupils transition through the school so that the journey of learning and faith is built on strong foundations. This is all under the watchful eye of attentive, well-trained and skilled staff who instinctively put the interests of pupils first and foremost in the purposeful way they plan and deliver the curriculum, carefully sequencing learning to ensure it builds up over time.

## Corpus Christi

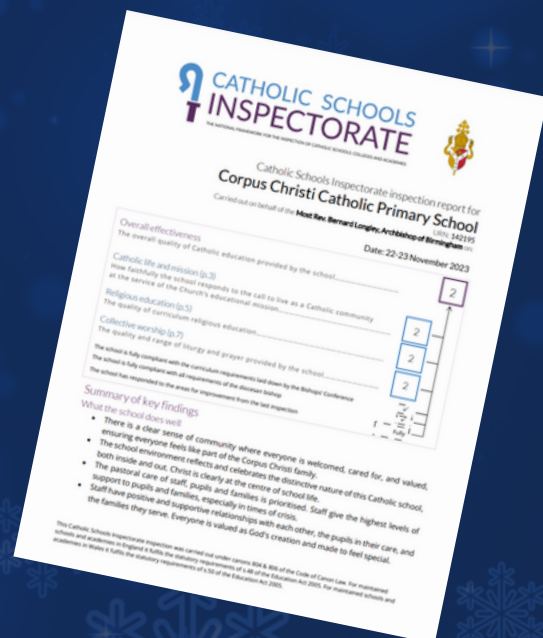
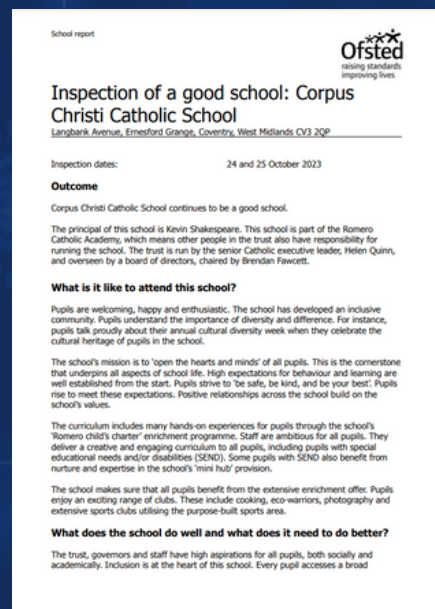
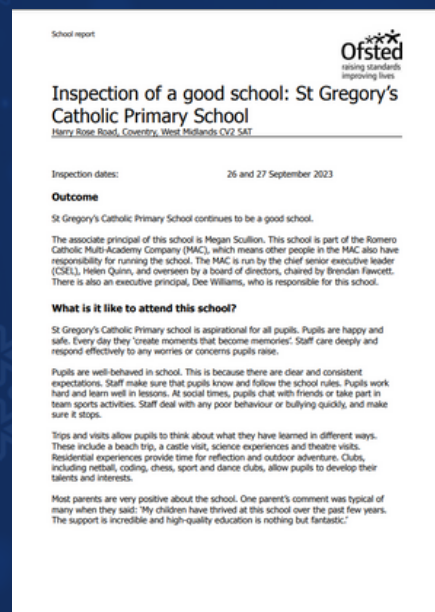
In the report the inclusive dimension of the school is clear, **"There are effective procedures in place to identify pupils' barriers to learning. Leaders offer timely and effective support to ensure that pupils with SEND can take part in the same learning as their peers. For example, the school makes use of practical equipment to ensure that mathematics is accessible for all."**

This means that the culture in the school is one in which pupils are championed relentlessly so they can reach their individual God-given potential through the universal offer or a tailored approach that meets their needs individually.

## Corpus Christi CSI

What the school does well:

- There is a clear sense of community where everyone is welcomed, cared for, and valued, ensuring everyone feels like part of the Corpus Christi family.
- The school environment reflects and celebrates the distinctive nature of this Catholic school, both inside and out. Christ is clearly at the centre of school life.
- The pastoral care of staff, pupils and families is prioritised. Staff give the highest levels of support to pupils and families, especially in times of crisis.
- Staff have positive and supportive relationships with each other, the pupils in their care, and the families they serve. Everyone is valued as God's creation and made to feel special.
- Early career teachers and staff new to the school are well supported. The robust induction programme leaders and the multi-academy company (MAC) offer ensures everyone is valued and welcomed into this Catholic community.





# Mass times

Link here for all Parish Mass times

CLICK HERE



Corpus Christi Parish  
Langbank Avenue, Ernesford  
Grange,  
Coventry, CV3 2QP.

## Christmas Eve (Sunday)

- 8pm Carols
- 8.30pm Christmas Mass

## Christmas Day (Monday)

- 10am Christmas Day Mass

## Boxing Day (Tuesday)

- 10am Mass

Sacred Heart Parish  
Harefield Road,  
Coventry, CV2 4BT.

## Christmas Eve (Sunday)

- 3.00pm Carols around the stable in the Hall for very young children (this is not a Mass).
- 4pm Mass
- 7pm Mass

## Christmas Day (Monday)

- 10.30am Mass

St Elizabeth's Church  
St Elizabeth's Road, Foleshill,  
Coventry, CV6 5BX

## Christmas Eve (Sunday)

- 5:30pm Carol Service
- 6:00pm Mass
- 11.30pm Carols and 00:00 Mass

## Christmas Day (Monday)

- 9.15am Mass
- 11.15am Mass

St John Fisher Parish,  
Tiverton Road, Wyken,  
Coventry, CV2 3NR

## Christmas Eve (Sunday)

- 5.00pm Mass
- 8.00pm Mass.

## Christmas Day (Monday)

- 9.00am Mass
- 11.00am Mass

St Patrick's Parish  
Deedmore Road, Bell Green,  
Coventry, CV2 2AA

## Christmas Eve (Sunday)

- 5pm Children's Mass
- 10pm Syro Malabar Rite Mass

## Christmas Day (Monday)

- 10.30am Mass





# Congratulations Beth !



Every year the Kenelm Youth Trust which orchestrates Youth Ministry for the whole of the Birmingham Diocese, including running Alton Castle and Soli, gives an award in special recognition of the work someone does to support young people in the Diocese.

This year Beth received that award!

Beth was recognised for her commitment to young people and for the amount of hours she gives freely to allow young people the opportunity to encounter Jesus. Beth regularly volunteers for retreats at Alton including the Andy Robinson Retreat and the annual Summer Camp and she also runs a youth group in Coventry having previously supported another youth group.

She supports Parishes with music and constantly goes above and beyond to give young people the opportunities she believes they deserve.

Huge congratulations Beth!

Beth continues to run our Romero Youth Group fortnightly on each Wednesday. The Youth group is for Year 5,6,7,8 and they meet at Saint Patrick's Church.



On Wednesday evening the Romero Youth Group met for the first time. The group invites students from school Years 5-8 from across the Romero Academy to explore their faith through challenges, fun activities and times of group prayer. We were joined by some of the Chaplaincy Leaders who have volunteered in the Parish to become Junior Leaders!

This week at Youth Group we explored the idea of what we do to prepare, especially how we prepare for Christmas in this time of Advent. Young people took part in challenges which tested their present wrapping skills and their ability to get ready in a hurry! Before ending the evening in a time of prayer.







# Green Flag Award

Green Flag Award awarded to Cardinal Wiseman



Cardinal Wiseman Catholic school has received international recognition for its commitment to raising awareness of climate change and the environment.

Pupils and staff at Cardinal Wiseman, are celebrating earning an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award after launching a series of eco-awareness projects. This follows the success of SS Peter and Paul earlier in the year.

The school picked up the Green Flag Award with Distinction, which is awarded to organisations who go beyond the core Eco-Schools criteria.

Cardinal Wiseman's Eco-Committee was praised by judges for its tree planting initiatives to increase biodiversity, including the creation of 'Wiseman Wood', which is made up of almost 400 trees with many more still to be planted, that will serve

as a nature reserve and an outdoor learning space for generations of pupils and encourage birds and insects to pass through the school.

The award also recognised the Romero Eco Days, which are supported by the Eco-Committee and have so far been hosted at three schools across the academy to educate primary and secondary pupils about the environment through

Interactive outdoor activities with the support of Jonathan Ensell of horticulture training provider Roots to Fruit Midlands.

The school, in partnership with Roots to Fruit Midlands, has also created a Level 1 Practical Horticulture Skills course which will be jointly delivered by Patricia Blaney to groups of pupils who will benefit from this excellent vocational qualification.



# LiveSimply Award Round Up

## Pupils at Saint Patricks have been awarded the LiveSimply award for their work and commitment



Pupils and staff from St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, part of the Romero Catholic Academy, have received the LiveSimply Award from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) after launching a series of projects designed to educate youngsters about the world's poorest communities

The school in Wood End has implemented a number of school projects over the last 18 months highlighting the importance of caring for people and the planet, including collecting for local food banks, working with the Coventry Cyrenians at Christmas to collect essential items and festive treats, renovating the school's Mary statue and planting wild flowers in its prayer garden and launching a whole-school recycling project.

The projects were designed to have a positive impact on the school community while reflecting on global poverty, with the award handed out to Catholic communities which show they are keeping other less fortunate people all over the world in their thoughts.

The bishops of England and Wales have encouraged all parishes and schools to work towards the award as a way of "protecting this world which God has entrusted to us".

## Shared Services Team - social action through Foodbank donations

The Shared Services team have completed a 'pledge hog'. Our teams three areas of commitment, alongside the schools, are:

- Live Simply
- Live Sustainably
- Live in Solidarity

As part of the SST team pledge, staff have started to collect food and shopping items to donate to the Moat house community trust. We are also committed to help the local community trust weekly for the next term during the busy period and the increase in hardship **after** Christmas.

The team have signed up for an ongoing all year collection which helps a number of Charities by giving unwanted items we no long use/need or want.





# Training Day

# #RomeroBelongs



We are planning our next Romero training day for Monday April 8th 2024. The day will centre on a range of themes that are anchored around 'belonging' and a key feature will be the launch of our People Strategy.

## Key Note Speaker Floyd Steadman

Everybody faces some degree of adversity at some stage in their lives, but very few have faced as many challenges as Floyd Steadman.

Rejected by his father, he coped with a childhood in care. Told he should train to 'work with his hands', he insisted on taking A levels so he could become a teacher. As one of the few black players in English club rugby, he was named Saracens captain at the age of 23 and played a leading role in the club's progress during the 1980s.

After retiring from rugby, he emerged as a talented and inspiring teacher and headmaster, having a positive impact on many, many young lives. Over and over again, Floyd Steadman has prevailed against immense odds, prevailing not with anger, argument or hysterics, but with persistence, dignity and integrity.

Racial tensions arise in sport, as much as anywhere else. Floyd Steadman draws on his own extraordinary experiences, in rugby and education, and addresses the issues of conscious and unconscious bias in a non-confrontational way.

Floyd's best-selling autobiography, 'A Week One Summer', was released in October 2021 and shot to No.1 on the Amazon rugby books list. His story relates how he prevailed against huge odds, not with anger and hysterics, but with persistence and integrity.

***Floyd spoke at the recent PiXL conferences and was recommended by a SENCo***

## Workshops

One session during the day, will be set aside for a range of workshops for you to choose from. Once we have confirmed all the workshops, there will be a form sent out for you to choose. The inclusion of a session with a choice of workshops, is in response from feedback received on previous training days. It provides the opportunity to network with other staff members across Romero.

We hope to have workshops on Mental health first aid, employee benefits and leading mediation conversations.

### Workshop: ICT with Mr P

Our first workshop to be confirmed, will be on the use of AI in the classroom and office as a tool. This workshop, will share what AI is, with examples of how it can be used in everyday lives and how it works. This workshop will be led by ICT with Mr P and open to all job families who want to explore how this can aid workload and wellbeing.

***This is a strand within our Digital strategy which will be launched in Spring 2024.***



#networking #training #inclusive



# Good Shepherd visits Uganda



Karen Vince, a Higher Level Teaching Assistant from Good Shepherd, has visited a school in Uganda after pupils raised over £900 to help provide books and clean water. Pupils at Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School in Courthouse Green, generated £916 to fund drinking water and learning resources for their East African counterparts at the Bright Future Primary School in Kampala.

The school had no running water in 2012, and thanks to support over the years, it now has fresh running water and flushing toilets – with books, sports equipment and training to help students become sports leaders and for staff to enhance their lessons also donated.

The schools first partnered through the Africa Inspires project, with staff, pupils and the Good Shepherd community raising over £7,000 in the last 11 years.

Classes took part in a sponsored relay carrying buckets of water around the school playground. Many children at the Bright Future Primary School must walk long distances before school to collect water for their families. Karen Vince, teaching assistant at Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School, recently returned to the school for the first time since 2017.

She said: “I have had the privilege of visiting the school in 2013, 2015 and 2017 to work with their staff and children.

“It is an amazing school working in the hardest of circumstances, and it was fantastic to go back and to see how it has grown.

“This year’s fundraising has been one of our most successful, and I am continually overwhelmed by the generosity of our families, especially in the present economic situation.

“I have seen first-hand the difference we have made and how much the children and staff at Bright Future appreciate our efforts and while we have helped to make a difference, there is still more work to do.”



**Karen Vince visited school in Uganda after pupils raised over £900**



# Halo Centre



Youngsters at Saint John Fisher school have teamed up with a city organisation which supports people in need to deliver crates of food and essential items.

A group of eight Year 6 pupils at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, part of the Romero Catholic Academy, visited the Halo Centre in Binley to deliver crates of foodbank collections, donated by parents, staff and the wider community.

The Halo Centre is the Head Office of Feed the Hungry UK, which operates it's Coventry Foodbank project from there. The children learned about how they can support the community, the food needed to make up a food box for two people and had a go at creating meal ideas using items that had been donated.

The donations were then distributed to Coventry Foodbank's 14 distribution centres across the city. The pupils are part of the Growing in Faith Together (Gift) team at the school on Kineton Road in Wyken, and delivered an assembly to Key Stage 2 about the work they have been doing, which included encouraging donations from every class.

The team plan to host an ongoing collection in the reception area, where people can hand in tinned food, dried goods and toiletries for future deliveries.

Denise Corry, teacher at Saint John Fisher Catholic Primary School, said: **"Our incredible Gift team did a fantastic job generating donations from the school community, and we are extremely grateful to Coventry Foodbank for supporting us with the project and providing a valuable experience for our pupils."**

**"I'd like to thank everyone who contributed with donations. There are people across the city who will benefit from the efforts of our pupils, and we are extremely proud of them."**

Dee Ward, Coventry Foodbank Project Manager, said: "Talking to the children about the work of Feed the Hungry UK is vital for the future, as they are the next generation who can make a difference to the communities they will be connected to."

**"We are so grateful for the food donated by everyone who has contributed to the school collection this year. It really does make a difference to ensure we can keep providing the service to those who find themselves in crisis."**

For more information about Feed the Hungry UK visit



**<https://fth.org.uk/life/>**





# Train To Teach

We are delighted to announce that through our CPD arm, Blue Sky, we have become a lead partner for Bishop Challoner Training School Alliance. This partnership allows us to offer multiple routes into to Initial Teacher Training and a broader range of subject specialisms for both Primary and Secondary Education.

Primary routes into teaching are available on a salaried and training basis. Our most popular route is the Primary with Qualified Teacher Status. Through this new partnership, we are now able to offer Primary specialisms in SEND, Maths and PE

Secondary routes into teaching on offer are also available on salaried and training basis. We currently offer route in Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, English, Geography, History, Maths, Music, Physics and RE. If you are interested in teaching a subject not currently on offer we'd love to hear from you to see if this can be arranged.

Bishop Challoner Training School Alliance has a long and successful track record of training teachers. Programmes support trainees with key strategies to become effective and confident teachers through the guidance of high-quality, experienced mentors. The network of expertise and specialism ensures the latest research and hands-on guidance are very much a part of the training programme. Active links to the Maths Hub, Science Learning Partnership, The Computing Hub and local Research Schools are just some of the examples of this. With over 100 schools and centres across the Midlands forming part of the training network, wider experiences are provided and further increase the opportunities for employment after training.

Come and train to teach with us and 'Inspire : Teach : Excel' [www.bctsa.org/1275/train-to-teach-with-bctsa](http://www.bctsa.org/1275/train-to-teach-with-bctsa)



Our Cedar Lodge., a purpose built training facility based at Sacred Heart. A venue for training for the MAC and beyond.





### Jingle Jog at Saint Gregory

The children and staff at St Gregory's enjoyed a festive fun run on Wednesday 7th December 2023. All the pupils were invited to participate in a Jingle Bell Jog, complete with Christmas tunes, glitter and sparkle!!

The theme was 'break the rules' played and they are a brilliant team and truly enjoy playing the game.



### "Light a Life"

The choir at Saint John Fisher have been working hard this festive season, Wednesday 6th December they were singing in the foyer at UCHW for all the patients and visitors.

On Sunday evening, some of our school choir sang at Myton Hospice as part of their annual 'Light Up A Life' service. The children were incredible singing their hearts out in terrible weather. Well done to all who attended - Saint John Fisher received a lovely email from the organisers expressing their gratitude to the children.



### Cultural capital at London!

A number of the Year five and Six pupils at Corpus Christi represented the school beautifully on what was a very tiring day visiting the Tower of London exploring the sites!

The children had a wonderful day learning about the key landmarks in the city of London.



### Pumpkin Picking!

Reception have also been out pumpkin picking during October. There were plenty of pumpkins to choose from and they used the vegetables to make pumpkin soup.



### PCSO

This term SS Peter and Paul were visited by their local PCSOs and during an assembly they discussed safety around the issues of a range of issues.

The children had an opportunity to ask questions and then they got to look around a real police van!

The children got to 'beep' the horn, sit in the driver seat, listen to the sirens and try on the officers' hats!



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#### Welcome Amber!



That's a wrap for our first group of children who have completed the 'Paws n Read' programme with our reading dog Amber. They have all worked so hard on their reading and have really developed their love of reading thanks to some fluffy cuddles! Amber has certainly brought a lot of excitement to Sacred Heart this half term!  
#romerchild #romerthrives



#### We Will Remember

The Coventry Young Ambassadors supported The School's Remembrance Service at the War Memorial Park earlier this month. The children were invited to read some of their Refugee and Peace Poems to around 600 visitors including the Lord Mayor of Coventry.



#### Festive Fun

A group of 50 Year 12 students at Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School, part of the Romero Catholic Academy, are hosting a Christmas afternoon tea with fun and games for elderly people from several Coventry care homes on Wednesday, December 20.



#### Romero Child Charter



Year 3 pupils at Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School in Coventry have been treated to an outdoor adventure thanks to support from a local scout group.

Coundon Sea Scouts teamed up with staff and pupils at the school, to provide 30 Year 3 pupils an overnight camping experience on the school grounds.







# The Romero Catholic Academy

Nurturing the Talent of Tomorrow

We are a multi-academy company comprising of the following individual schools/academies

