

Faith in Action

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company Newsletter



Spring 2026

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Welcome to Faith in Action - Spring Edition

As we step into the freshness of spring, we do so with the hope, renewal, and quiet joy that this season always brings. Spring reminds us of God's promise of new life—a theme that sits beautifully alongside our Lenten journey. During these forty days, our schools, pupils, staff and families continue to reflect, pray, and prepare our hearts for the great celebration of Easter. Lent invites us to slow down, look inward, and seek Christ in the small acts of kindness, compassion, and sacrifice that shape our daily lives.

This year, many of us carry into Lent a deeper sense of prayer for peace across our world. With the ongoing challenges and suffering experienced by communities in the Middle East, we hold in our hearts all those affected by conflict and uncertainty. As a Catholic family of schools, we remain committed to fostering understanding, nurturing hope, and encouraging our young people to be instruments of peace in their homes, classrooms, and communities.

Within our MAC, this term has been filled with moments of service, learning, outreach, and celebration. Our pupils continue to inspire us with their curiosity and generosity of spirit; our staff continue to offer steadfast commitment and care; and our families and wider community continue to support and strengthen the mission we share. Together, we live out our vocation to “act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God.”

As Easter approaches, may we all find the grace we need in this season of preparation. May our schools be places of faith, welcome, and growth, and may Christ's light guide each of us through the coming weeks.

Wishing you and your families a blessed Lent and a joyful spring

With warmest regards,

Professor Paul Ryan



Sowing Seeds of Hope: Staff Unite for Faith Formation 2026



On Thursday 13th February, staff from across all our St Teresa of Calcutta MAC schools came together for our annual Faith Formation Day. This year's theme, "Seeds of Hope," invited us to pause, reflect and reconnect with the shared mission that unites our MAC family.

Throughout the day, staff took part in a range of engaging workshops led by CAFOD and colleagues from across our schools. These sessions explored the core principles of Catholic Social Teaching, offering both practical ideas and inspiring examples of how these values can be brought to life in our classrooms and wider communities.

A beautiful celebration of Mass formed the heart of the day, giving everyone time for prayer, reflection, gratitude, and a renewed sense of purpose.

We are grateful to all staff for their openness, participation, and commitment to living out our Catholic mission. Together, we continue to sow seeds of hope in the lives of the children and families we serve.

A Space-Themed Writing Adventure for Year 3!

This term, Year 3 pupils across our MAC took part in an exciting space-themed writing project called 'The Egg from Space' – a fun and imaginative challenge designed to spark curiosity and a love of writing.

The adventure began when a giant glowing egg appeared overnight in school playgrounds! The egg, became the centre of a MAC-wide mystery.

Children then received a message from “Professor Hughes”, a fictional scientist from the UN Space Exploration Centre, who warned that strange eggs had been appearing across Birmingham and asked pupils to investigate. Year 3 classes eagerly examined the egg and began sharing their theories about where it came from and what might be inside.



Throughout the project, pupils completed a series of exciting writing tasks, including:

- Letters to Professor Hughes, explaining their discoveries and theories
- Replies by Year 8 pupils from Archbishop Ilsley and Holy Trinity Catholic Schools, who acted as Professor Hughes, giving updates and helpful advice
- Recounts and reports retelling the whole adventure
- Class newsletter articles to share the story with their school community

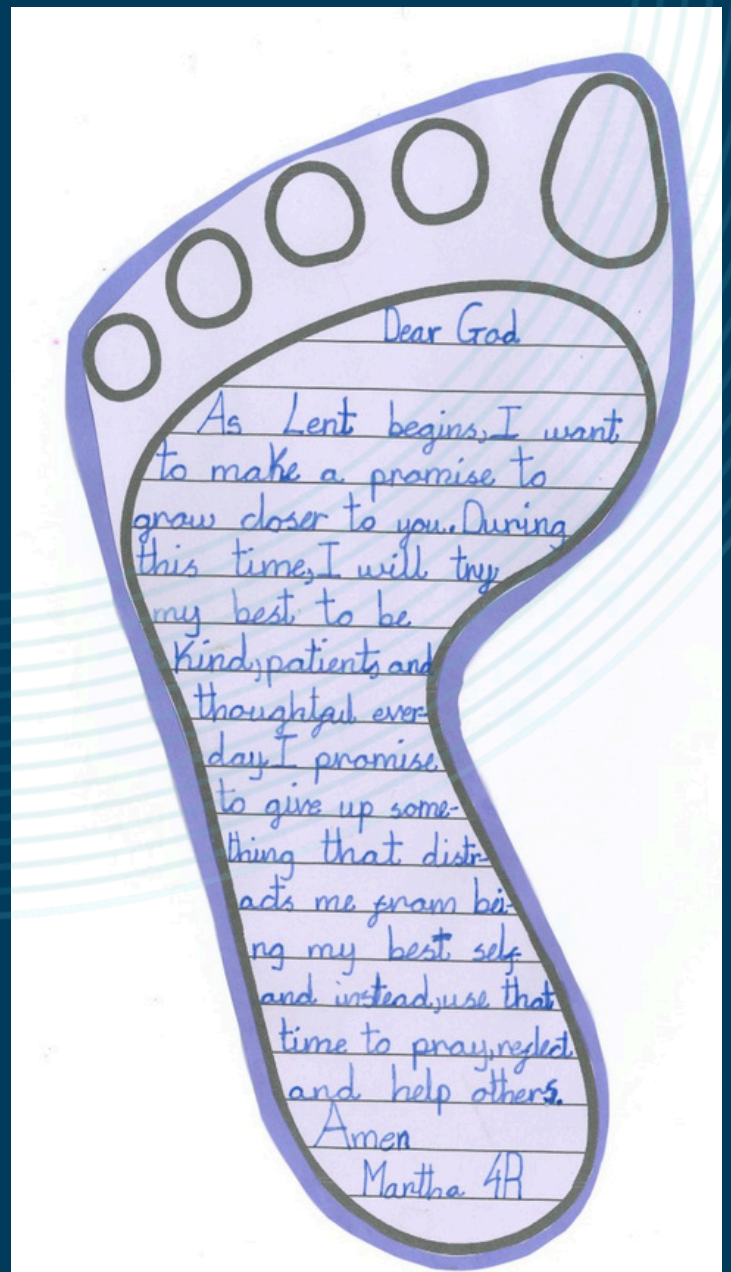
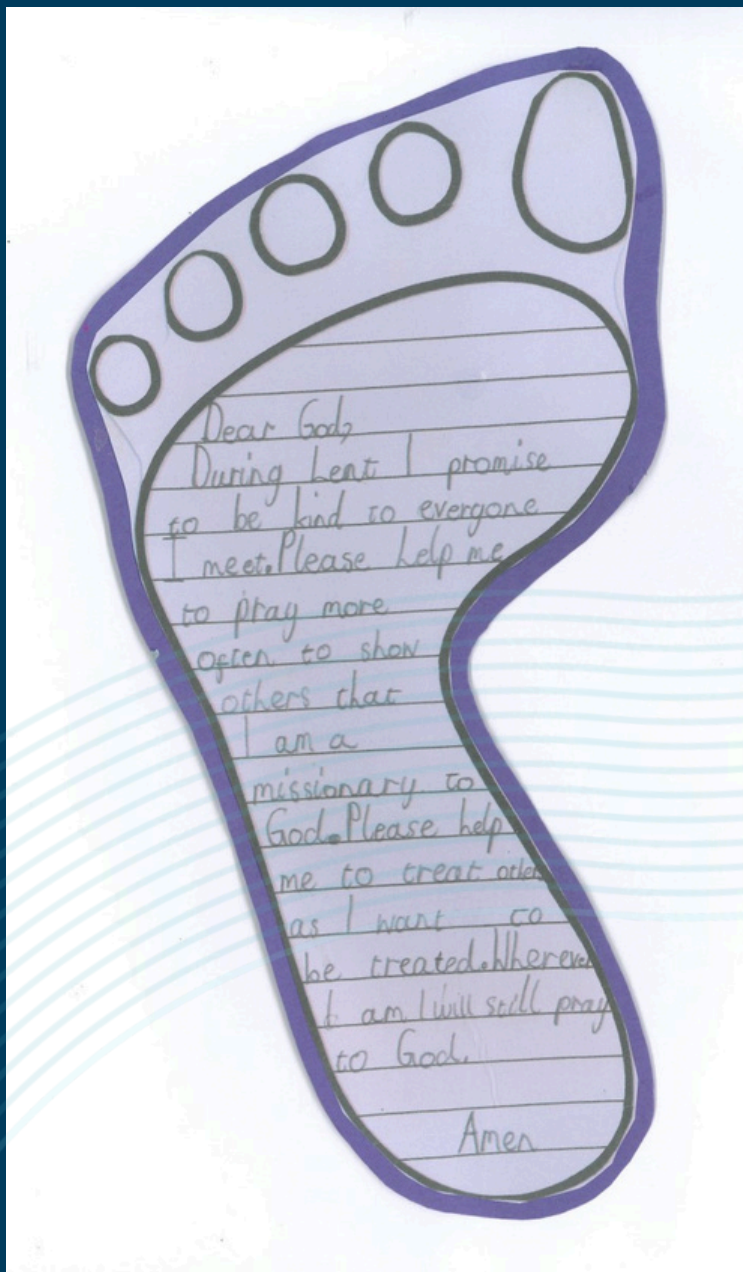
One of the highlights of the project was the collaboration between primary and secondary schools. Year 3 pupils loved receiving personalised letters from older students, while Year 8 pupils enjoyed playing the role of mentors and scientists.

Schools also took the opportunity to link the project with art, science, and creative news reporting, making learning even more exciting.

The Egg from Space has been a brilliant success, inspiring high-quality writing and plenty of imagination. Thank you to all the teachers and pupils—especially our secondary students—for helping bring this adventure to life!

Walking with Jesus This Lent

Thoughtful prayers written by St Francis pupils, inspired by the season of Lent.



A Warm Welcome into the STOC MAC Family

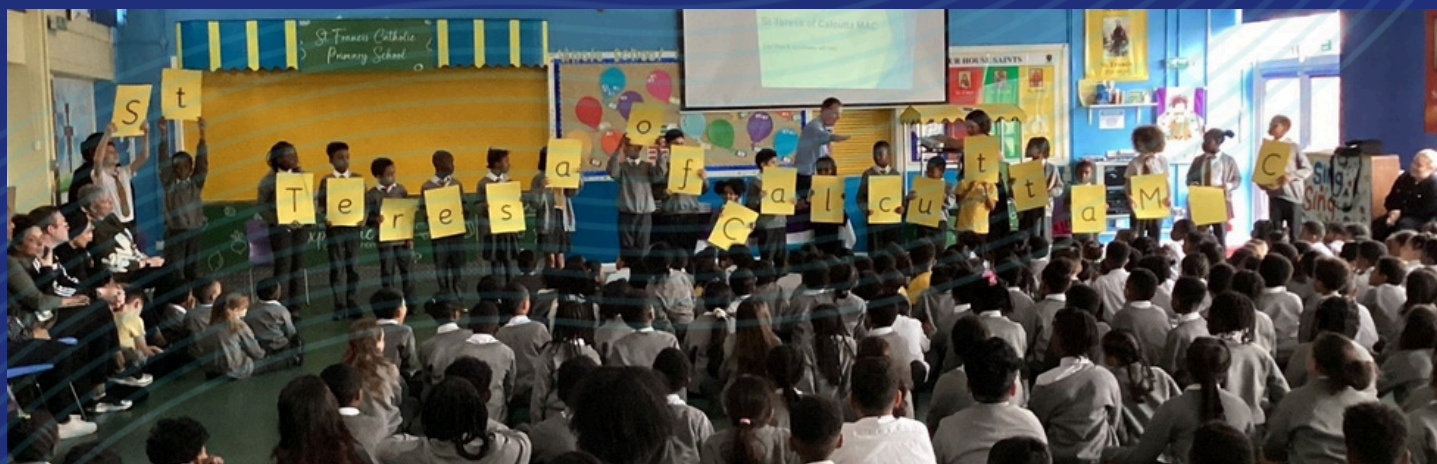
This term, we were delighted to celebrate a very special moment as our six schools who joined STOC MAC in September received new bibles as a welcome gift. To mark the occasion, Mr Ben Taylor, our Chief Education Officer, led wonderful assemblies where he formally presented these special bibles to the pupils.

The assemblies were a joyful reminder of the shared faith, values and mission that unite all our schools. As each bible was handed over, it symbolised more than a book—it represented belonging, shared purpose, and the start of an exciting journey together within our MAC.

Our new schools shared a powerful message throughout their assemblies:

'We truly are stronger together than apart. Together, we Dream, Believe, and Achieve!'

We are delighted to have them fully woven into our family and look forward to all we will continue to accomplish together, in faith and in learning.



Born for This: A Powerful Display of Faith in Action

by Mr C. Clinton - Headteacher at ABI

Each week at Archbishop Illesley brings countless moments of joy, talent and inspiration—so many, in fact, that choosing just one to share in this edition of Faith in Action felt almost impossible. But one event shone so brightly that it truly captured the heart of who we are as a Catholic school community.

This week, a group of our exceptionally talented pupils joined together with students from neighbouring Catholic secondary schools to perform 'Born For This' —a dramatic and deeply moving retelling of the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion. And they did so not in a school hall or small theatre, but on one of the city's grandest stages: the renowned Symphony Hall, in front of a sold-out audience of 2,000 people.

On Wednesday, I had the privilege of attending this remarkable performance. Watching pupils from Archbishop Illesley, Bishop Challoner, St John Henry Newman, St John Wall, St Peter's and St Thomas Aquinas come together in unity was truly uplifting. Their combined talent in music, drama and dance brought the Passion story to life in a way that was both artistically stunning and spiritually profound.

A special word of thanks must go to Mr Chris Martin, Principal of St Thomas Aquinas, for inviting our pupils to take part in this inspiring collaboration. The performance was not only a testament to the artistic gifts of our young people, but also a powerful expression of their faith—shared so openly with all who gathered.

As we continue our journey through Lent, this production offered every audience member a meaningful moment of reflection, helping us prepare our hearts for Easter and reminding us of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice.

It was, without doubt, faith in action at its very best.



Seeds of Creation: Pupils Leading the Way in Sustainability Across Our MAC

By Maria Duncombe - MAC Business Manager

As we continue to strengthen sustainability across our MAC, it is inspiring to see how much of the real impact is happening within our schools. Our Sustainability Leads are working hard to embed this agenda, but it is our pupils whose enthusiasm, leadership and everyday actions that are truly bringing it to life.

Across the MAC, there is a growing sense of energy as schools embrace sustainability in creative and practical ways—from outdoor learning to reducing waste and saving energy. Pupils are not only learning about caring for creation; they are actively making a difference in their communities.



Following our Seeds of Hope MAC Day, we are excited to launch the new St Francis of Assisi Award. This MAC-wide initiative invites schools to take part in meaningful environmental actions such as creating wildlife areas, organising litter picks and leading pupil eco projects.

Rooted in stewardship and responsibility, the award supports Eco Councils and encourages teamwork, leadership and pride.

Our schools are already thriving in this work. St Chad's and Holy Souls embed sustainability through Forest School, eco clubs and hands-on outdoor learning. Archbishop Ilesley promotes sustainable travel, while St Francis explores water conservation through engaging assemblies. At St Joseph's, food waste becomes compost for gardening and cooking clubs, and at St Ambrose Barlow, eco retreats and an active Eco Council continue to grow. Holy Trinity pupils take real ownership through food waste stations and strong pupil leadership at break and lunchtime.

Together, our pupils are part of something bigger. They are learning in meaningful ways, caring for creation and living out our shared mission. In the spirit of St Francis, their small, thoughtful actions are helping to protect the world God has entrusted to us.





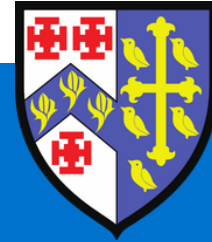
St Augustine's

Year 1 Shine in Design & Technology

Our Year 1 children have been absolute superstars in Design & Technology this term. They have been busy designing and creating their very own puppets, putting great effort into developing their cutting and joining skills.

It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they practised these tricky techniques, and their creativity has truly shone through in the unique puppets they produced. The project has also helped them strengthen their fine motor skills—an important foundation for so many areas of learning.

Well done, Year 1! We are so proud of the enthusiasm and imagination you bring to every lesson.



Archbishop Ilsey

Raising Awareness and Keeping Our School Community Safe

We are proud of the important work led by Mr Corrigan to support pupil safety and educate our young people about the risks of knife crime. On 14th January, he appeared on Good Morning Britain to discuss school lockdown procedures and how schools can help tackle knife crime—an important message shared on a national platform.



In school, Mr Corrigan has been delivering powerful assemblies to pupils across our year groups. Year 9 showed an excellent attitude during their session, and last week's assembly for Years 12 and 13 was equally impactful, reinforcing the importance of staying safe and making responsible choices.

Thank you to Mr Corrigan for his continued dedication to keeping our whole community safe.



Holy Souls

Stepping Into History: Year 6 Explore Hampton Court Palace



Year 6 at Holy Souls recently visited Hampton Court Palace in London. The experience was an exciting one, starting with an early departure. The children learned about the life of King Henry VIII, linking closely to their current history topic.

During the visit, they explored the beautiful gardens, took part in an engaging tour, and discovered fascinating facts about each of Henry VIII's wives. They also had the opportunity to view the impressive paintings and artwork displayed throughout the palace. It was truly a fantastic and memorable day for everyone involved.



Holy Trinity

Year 9 Explore Future Careers in the Colmore Business District

Our Year 9 students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Birmingham's Colmore Business District as part of the Envision programme. Throughout the day, they had the chance to step inside a professional working environment and meet business volunteers.

The experience helped students see first-hand the variety of career paths available. They returned to school energised, motivated and excited about their future ambitions.



Pupils Get a Premier League Insight at Aston Villa

Pupils from our Kings Trust mentoring programme enjoyed an inspiring World of Work visit to Aston Villal. The group explored a wide range of careers within football, took part in an engaging employability workshop, toured the iconic stadium, and rounded off the day with a coaching session at the academy.





St Ambrose Barlow

Growing Together: A Love of Nature at Saint Ambrose Barlow



At Saint Ambrose Barlow, our love of nature continues to thrive. Earlier this year, our Gardening Club took part in a peaceful bird-watching challenge for their Ruby Robin Award, spotting and hearing everything from seagulls to a woodpecker –proof of the rich wildlife in our school grounds. We are also delighted to celebrate achieving 'Bumblebee Friendly School' status. Its all testament to our pupils great work that supports both our garden and the local environment. In February, our community gardening session brought parents, governors, our sustainability governor, and pupils together to prepare the garden for spring. It was a fantastic display of teamwork and the shared care we have for our outdoor space.



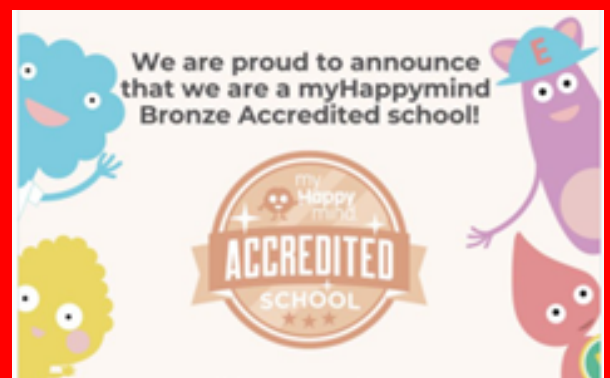
St Chad's

Wellbeing Wins at St Chad's

St Chad's recently enjoyed a whole-school Wellbeing Day with a technology-free focus, giving pupils and staff the chance to pause, reconnect and concentrate on looking after their mental and emotional wellbeing. Throughout the day, everyone took part in activities that encouraged mindfulness, teamwork and positive relationships, as well as spending time outdoors and exploring simple strategies they can use both in school and at home.



The school is also delighted to have achieved the My Happy Mind Bronze Award, recognising their commitment to promoting wellbeing across the entire community. This is a fantastic milestone for St Chad's, and they are now excited to continue their journey as they work towards the Silver Award.





St Clare's

Bubbling Discoveries at the St Clare's Science Fair

In January, pupils from across our MAC had the pleasure of taking part in a fantastic Science Fair hosted by St Clare's. The event was bursting with hands-on experiments, curiosity, and plenty of excitement as children explored the wonders of science through a series of fun and interactive workshops.

From making slime to observing dancing raisins and creating their own lava lamps, pupils were fully immersed in investigating how everyday materials can transform, react, and behave in surprising ways. It was a brilliant opportunity for them to learn together, ask questions, and experience science in action.

Well done to all pupils who took part—and a huge thank you to St Clare's for hosting such a memorable and inspiring event. What a wonderful way to celebrate learning, teamwork, and the joy of discovery!



St Francis

Empowering Change: Children Speak Up for Their Community

On Thursday 12th February 2026 all the young leaders across many different schools, including St Francis' Catholic Primary School, gathered at the Legacy Centre of Excellence in Newtown at 5.30pm to take part in the Citizens UK Youth Assembly Meeting.

First, the adults spoke about parks and that there are only a few green spaces around Lozells. Next, the young leaders had a chance to speak. Two children from each school spoke about different problems in their community such as fly-tipping, poor housing and serious crime.

The children asked the Council and prominent leaders to 'fix our homes, fix our parks and collect our rubbish'.

This was a great experience and I really enjoyed talking to others to make the community a safer and better place to live.

Mithanah Year 5 pupil





St Joseph's

PE Highlights at St Joseph's

It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in PE! Our Year 4/5 girls represented St Joseph's brilliantly at the football tournament at St Paul's Girls' School—well done to the whole team.



Year 6 wrapped up their gymnastics unit by creating their own routines, showcasing the jumps, balances and movements they've been working on. They have now made a great start to their tennis lessons with coach Mark, practising how to balance and control the ball using both backhand and forehand techniques.

A fantastic effort from all pupils—well done, everyone!



St Teresa's

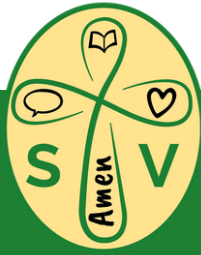
Year 6 Adventure at Outward Bound Aberdovey

This term, our Year 6 children enjoyed an unforgettable week at the Outward Bound Trust in Aberdovey, taking part in activities ranging from scrambling and canoeing to gorge walking, orienteering and campfire evenings. Both groups showed amazing resilience, teamwork and courage as they tackled new challenges each day.

Alongside the adventure, the children demonstrated wonderful kindness, most notably when several pupils rushed to help a child from another school who had dropped her meal. Their maturity and compassion made staff incredibly proud.

It was a week full of laughter, learning and memorable moments. Well done, Year 6!





St Vincent's

A Singing Spectacle for St Vincent's at Young Voices

In February, our choir took to the big stage as they joined thousands of children from across the country for the Young Voices concert. The children had worked incredibly hard since September, learning a vibrant mix of songs and routines. It was a truly unforgettable experience that allowed our young singers to shine, grow in confidence, and celebrate the God-given talents they so joyfully shared.

We were fortunate to receive funding for the children's travel, t-shirts and lights, and we were even able to provide subsidised tickets so families could join us for the show in the evening. It was a spectacular event, and we can't wait for the next one!



The Rosary

Science Day 2026: A Journey of Discovery at The Rosary

What an incredible Science Day we've had this month at The Rosary! The whole school has been buzzing with discovery as each year group jumped into a brand-new scientific adventure.

Year 1 kicked things off by getting hands-on with materials, bending, stretching and testing everything they could find.

Year 2 set off on a safari into different habitats, learning how creatures survive in the wild.

Year 3 journeyed deep into the rainforest, uncovering amazing plants and animals along the way.

Year 4 turned up the volume with their investigations into sound, their classrooms were full of experiments (and plenty of noise!).

Year 5 became scientists, experimenting, questioning and discovering.

Year 6 explored the incredible human body, taking part in exciting workshops and activities that brought science to life.



World Book Day across STOC MAC





Upcoming Events -

STOC MAC
Sports Day
Alexander Stadium
29th June 2026

Year 6 STOC MAC
Residential 2026 -
Whitemoor Lakes
16-18 and 23-25
November 2026

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company
1157 Warwick Road
Acocks Green
Birmingham
B27 6RG
info@stocmac.org.uk