





'Together we strive for excellence, inspired by the joy of the Gospel'.

The Book Fair has arrived

We have a selection of books for all age ranges available for parents/carers to purchase.

The book fair will be held in the school hall or outside the school office.

This will be open from Monday to Wednesday 8.30 a.m. until 9.15 a.m. and Monday / Tuesday 3.15 p.m. until 4 p.m.

We now have the ability for parents to pay using a QR code aswell as paying with cash. School will receive a commission for books sold and we will be able to purchase more books for our school library.



Mass

There will be a whole school Mass in church at 9.10 a.m. on Thursday 21st March. All are welcome to attend.

Lent Food bank Campaign - Week 5 Instant Foods

Monday 18th March will be week 5 of the Lentern food collection. This week we will be collecting instant food items such as Instant porridge, Ready Brek, instant noodles, pasta 'n' sauce sachets, snack bars and biscuits. Thank you all for your great help.

Parents and Carers Evening

Appointment slots for Parent/Carer and Teacher consultations are now open and will Close 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday 27th March. Please use the Arbor booking system to secure your time slot. Anyone who has not chosen a time will be given a slot on Thursday 28th March.

Please get in touch with the school office if you require any help with this.

This week Pope Francis reminds us,

"Lent is a journey during which the Lord asks us to follow three steps: almsqiving, prayer, and fasting"



Swimming Gala

The Swim Team had an amazing time at the South Tyneside Swimming Festival, bringing home two medals and plenty of smiles! All of the swimmers showed determination and skill and everyone was very impressed by their performance. Well done!



Reception Liturgy & Coffee and Chat

The children from Reception will be presenting their liturgy on Friday 22nd March at 2.30 p.m. in the school hall.

There will be a coffee and chat session for the parents/carers afterwards in the school hall.

Arbor

Can I please remind parents to log onto Arbor on a regular basis. You can pay for school lunches and school trips.

If you need any help, please contact the school office.

Communion Dresses

This seasons Communion dresses have arrived at 'Brides Dream' in Walkergate. Please call 0191 2240644 for an appointment or visit www.bridesdreamltd.co.uk

Safeguarding Reminder

Safeguarding the children in our care is one of the school's main responsibilities, one that St Mary and St Thomas Aguinas take very seriously.

As you are already aware from previous updates, our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Craig. You can speak to him by phone, make an appointment via the school office, or catch him when he's outside greeting/saying goodbye to children, if you ever have a concern. We have three Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads in school these are Miss Hudson (Deputy Headteacher/Year 2 class teacher), Mrs Bennison (Assistant Headteacher, currently on maternity leave) and Mrs Costello (School Business Manager). If you are unable to speak to Mr Craig, you can speak to these members of staff or any other member of staff about your concern(s). The school has an updated Safeguarding policy, that can be found on the school website, or paper copies can be requested from the school office.

All staff receive annual safeguarding refresher training, as well as other training throughout the year on key areas, including record keeping and reporting. Our school also has a termly visit from our Safeguarding Consultant, who completes an audit of the school's safeguarding and identifies any future improvements or training needs.

Why do parents need to know this information?

- To reassure you that we take keeping our children safe in school very seriously at St. Mary and St. Thomas Aguinas.
- It's good to remind parents/carers of the key members of staff, in case new parents did not know who they were
- To highlight the continual work that the school puts into keeping our children safe in school.

Additional information can be found on our website:

Please click here to access the page.

Attendance

During celebration assembly on Friday, we have been celebrating whole class attendance and each week the class with the highest attendance will receive our Attendance Trophy, well done to Year 4 who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: 11th March 2024		
Year group	Attendance percentage	
Reception	97.78	
Year 1	92.36	
Year 2	97.41	
Year 3	93.70	
Year 4	98.15	
Year 5	96.30	
Year 6	97.70	

Dance Festival 2024

We wish the children in Year 1 the best of luck for the upcoming Gateshead Dance Festival. The children have their tie-dyed tops at the ready along with their fantastic dance moves as they perform to a spice Girls classic!



Gardening Club

Mrs Bowden has been doing some amazing work with our gardening club. We hope you have all noticed the wonderful celebration of their

hard work at the school entrance (please see below). Mrs Bowden has also informed us that the club are currently growing their own potatoes and plan to make their own chips very soon! Exciting times ahead for our green fingered stars.



Food Allergies

Can I please remind parents that we have several food allergies in school. Could parents please refrain from putting nut spread, nuts, sesame, tuna, cod, lentils, beans or kiwi in your child's packed lunch box.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Year 6 Leavers Mass

Children in Year 6 will be presenting their Leavers Mass on Thursday 18th July 9.10 a.m. in Church. All are welcome to attend.

There will also be a leavers assembly on Wednesday 17th July at 4 p.m. in the school hall for parents/carers of Year 6.

Spare Underwear

We are always in need of spare underwear, tights or socks for the smaller children in school.

Any donations will be of greatly appreciated.







EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS
3rd, 4th, 10th & 11th April, 10-3pm
at Michelangelo's, Ryton

Order a delicious Italian takeaway to be delivered to the woods! (£33 per day with own food / £38 per day with food) Suitable for children from Reception age and upwards. Activities can include campfire, s'mores, fire lighting, mud, sand and water play, outdoor crafts, mud kitchen, tools, hammocks, hill climbing and free time to explore.







**EASTER FAMILY FUN EVENT ** Friday 5th April, 2–3:30pm

Bring the family and join us for some Easter crafts, an Easter egg hunt, campfire snacks, hammocks, mud kitchen and much more!



**SPRING FAMILY SPECIAL ** Saturday 6th April, 2:30-4pm

At our Spring Family Special we'll have lots of Spring crafts, a scavenger hunt, hammocks, mud kitchen some campfire snacks and lots more!



ad are suitable

Family events are held at Michelangelo's, Ryton and are suitable for families with children from around 14 months to year 6 (£12 for the first child – sibling discounts available). Snacks and drinks available for all.

https://bookwhen.com/forestadventurers suzanne@forestadventurers.co.uk 07711 461 409



Contact us for more information on:

Corporate Events

Parent and Preschool Groups

After School
Clubs

Birthday Parties

School Trips







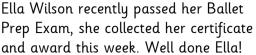
Spotlight Celebration





Well done to Isobel in Year 4 who competed in her first Ballet exam and received a medal. Congratulations









Matty Reay in reception was awarded little dragon of the month at TaeKwanDo. Well done.

He demonstrated his skills in celebration assembly this week.



Molly received her Preparatory Grade award for Ballet.

Congratulations to everyone.

Don't forget to send your images to Miss Green at hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 20th March Year 1 at the Dance Festival

Friday 22nd March Reception Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in School

Reception coffee and chat in school

Wednesday 27th March Year 5 Visiting Careers Hub at the Metro Centre

Thursday 28th March - Children will break up at 3.15 p.m. for the Easter Holidays

Monday 15th April Parents Evening
Tuesday 16th April Parents Evening

Friday 19th April Year 6 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 6 coffee and chat in school

Thursday 25th April Year 3 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall Friday 26th April Reception Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Reception coffee and chat in school

Thursday 2nd May School will be closed to children for the local Elections

Thursday 9th May

Year 4 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall

Friday 10th May

Year 1 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 1 coffee and chat in school

13th-16th May Year 6 SATs week

Thursday 16th May

Year 5 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall

Year 6 Bikeability for those who have signed up

Thursday 23rd May

Year 2 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall

Friday 24th May Year 4 Fun Run at Saltwell Park

Friday 24th May - Children will break up at 3.15 p.m. for the half term break

Saturday 8th June First Holy Communions

Wednesday 12th June Whole school class photographs

Thursday 13th June Year 6 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall Friday 14th June Year 4 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 4 coffee and chat in school

19th-21st June

26th-28th June

Thursday 20th June

Friday 21st June

Year 6 visiting SVP camp on Holy Island

Year 6 visiting Newburn Activity Centre

Year 1 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall

Year 3 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 3 coffee and chat in school

Thursday 27th June Reception Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall

Tuesday 2nd July

Nursery Parents Evening for children starting September 2024

Wednesday 3rd July

Reception Parents Evening for Children starting September 2024

Friday 5th July Year 2 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 2 coffee and chat in school

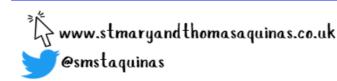
Friday 12th July Year 5 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 5 coffee and chat in school

Friday 19th July Year 6 Liturgy & Coffee and Chat is now CANCELLED

Friday 19th July - Children will break up at 3.15 p.m. for the summer break
Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd will be staff INSET days

Please note that any changes of DATES and TIMES will be highlighted in red







		Days
AUTUMN TERM 1	Monday 2 nd September 2024 to Friday 25 th October 2024	38
School Holiday	Monday 28 th October 2024 to Friday 1 st November 2024 (Inset day Monday 2 nd September & Friday 25 th October 2024)	3
AUTUMN TERM 2	Monday 4 th November 2024 to Friday 20 th December 2024	35
School Holiday	Monday 23 rd December 2024 to Friday 3 rd January 2025	
SPRING TERM 1	Monday 6th January 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025	34
School Holiday	Monday 24 th February 2025 to Friday 28 th February 2025 (Inset day Monday 6 th January 2025)	34
SPRING TERM 2	Monday 3 rd March 2025 to Friday 11 th April 2025	30
School Holiday	Monday 14th April 2025 to Friday 25th April 2025	
SUMMER TERM 1	Monday 28 th April 2025 to Friday 23 rd May 2025	19
School Holiday	Monday 26 th May 2025 to Friday 30 th May 2025	19
SUMMER TERM 2	Monday 2 nd June 2025 to Friday 18 th July 2025	34
	Total	190

(Two more Inset days are planned for a potential General Election and Polling Day, dates to be confirmed)

Public Holidays

- Christmas Day Wednesday 25 December 2024
- Boxing Day Thursday 26 December 2024
- New Year's Day Wednesday 1 January 2025
- · Good Friday Friday 18 April 2025
- Easter Monday Monday 21 April 2025
- May Day Bank Holiday Monday 5 May 2025
- Spring Bank Holiday Monday 26 May 2025
- August Bank Holiday Monday 25 August 2025

The start of the Autumn Term 2025 is proposed as Monday 1 September 2025 (it is likely this will be an INSET day).