



'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 as well 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: almsgiving, 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 Aquinas 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 Aquinas.
- 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!

SPICE UP YOUR LIFE

SPICE

with Year 1 Class

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!



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



Ella Wilson recently passed her Ballet Prep Exam, she collected her certificate and award this week. Well done Ella!



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
20th-23rd May	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	Year 6 visiting SVP camp on Holy Island
26th-28th June	Year 6 visiting Newburn Activity Centre
Thursday 20th June	Year 1 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall
Friday 21st June	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

St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School Term Dates 2024 – 2025



St Mary &
St Thomas Aquinas
Catholic Primary School



Bishop Wilkinson
Catholic Education Trust

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