





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

World Book Day

It was wonderful to see so many children dressing up as their favourite character from a book. We celebrated with a wonderful class assembly presented by Reception Class. We also took part in fashion parades and author visits.

We love reading and we can tell that you all do too!

The return of the Book Fair

We will be taking delivery of a Scholastic book fair on Wednesday 20th March. The children will have the opportunity to visit the book fair and buy books to take home.

Watch out in next weeks newsletter for opening times and further details.

Lent Food bank Campaign - Week 4 Tinned Protein

Monday 11th March will be week 4 of the Lentern food collection. This week we will be collecting tinned protein items for example meat meals: tinned mince, stew, meatballs, hotdogs, chilli con carne, bolognaise. Cold meats: ham, corned beef, luncheon meat, spam. Tinned Fish: tuna, sardines. Tinned vegetarian meals: Jack fruit, bean stews or macaroni cheese. Thank you for all for your great help.

Book Donations

Thank you to all of the kind donations of books for our new school library. Please keep these coming into school as every little helps.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

"Jesus leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others."



Year of Prayer - Wednesday 28th February 2024

We continued this week with our Year of Prayer focus on our school radio station. With a focus on Lent. A huge thank you to Carter in Year 6, Freddie in Year 5, Emily in Year 4 and Dixie in Year 2 for hosting the broadcast along with Mr Craig. **Please click on the praying hands** to hear it for yourself and take a quiet 5 minutes to reflect.



Attendance Celebration

We have had such a wonderful improvement of whole school attendance, with figures as high as 99.4% this week!

Thank you all for your support and commitment to our community drive to raise attendance in school. Our whole school target remains 97%. Please use Arbor to check your child's attendance percentage.

Term times for next academic year are finalised

The term times for the next academic are on the last page of this newsletter.

Please plan any holidays during school holiday time. It is vital that all children attend school during the term time.

Medical Forms

If you have received a medical form requesting an update of your child's needs, can you please return it to school as soon as possible.

Year 5 Trip to the Careers Hub at the Metro Centre. - Parents are now able to make payments via Arbor as I have extended the payment deadline until Monday 11th March. If you need any help with this, please contact the school office.

Can you guess what their favourite books are!













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 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 Five** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: 4th March 2024		
Year group	Attendance percentage	
Reception	90.74	
Year 1	97.57	
Year 2	98.52	
Year 3	97.78	
Year 4	99.26	
Year 5	100	
Year 6	95.40	

Well done Swim Team

Well done to our school swim team who will represent us next week in the finals at the South of Tyne Swimming Gala. We wish them all the best. Watch this space to see how they get on.

Parents and Carers Evening

Appointment slots for Parent/Carer and Teacher consultations will be available from 8 a.m. on Wednesday 13th March 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.

Photographer in School Monday 11th March

A school photographer will be in school on Monday 11th March to take photos for our new school website.

Easyfundraising

We wish to thank our loyal supporters who have been using Easyfundraising whenever they shop on-line. You have raised over £1,500 for the extra little things that we give our children. That is amazing and we are very grateful. We are asking you to spare just a few minutes to complete a very short questionnaire to help us understand how Easyfundraising might work better for us and how you can help. Please click on the image.

Spotlight Celebration







Oliver passed stage 4 swimming on Saturday and is over the moon to be moving into stage 5 this weekend. He can't wait to be in the 'deep end' of the big pool.



Logan Dalziel and his team won a recent football tournament with the final score being 4 - 0





Sam Reay achieved his full purple belt in Taekwando and moves on to Juniors. Matty Reay achieved his purple stripe.



Amie (Y6) took part in War on the Floor 2024 at the weekend where she scored lots of points and helped secure a win for the red team.

Congratulations to everyone.

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



Dates for your diary

Thursday 14th March Year 1 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall

Friday 15th March Year 3 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in School

Year 3 coffee and chat in school

Year 1 at the Dance Festival Wednesday 20th March

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

Year 3 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall Thursday 25th April 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

Year 6 SATs week 13th-16th May

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

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

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

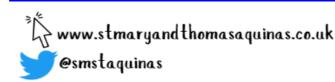
Friday 19th July Year 6 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 6 coffee and chat in school

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).



GATESHEAD WEST UNIFORM SCHEME



Did you know? We sell surplus stock on Vinted as gwusne. If it's easier, please

Who are we? We are a registered charity, operating in Gateshead West since 2021.

We provide good-quality preloved and brand new school uniforms to



our community from our sites in Ryton and Blaydon.

We operate on a pay-what-you-feel basis.

Thursday markets are now on FRIDAYS!

March/April Markets...

Blaydon FRIDAY 1st March 3:30pm - 5pm

Ryton Saturday 9th March 10am - 11:30am.

Blaydon Saturday 16th March

9am - 11am

Ryton Monday 25th March

6pm - 7pm

Blaydon FRIDAY 5th April

3:30pm - 5pm

Ryton Saturday 13th April

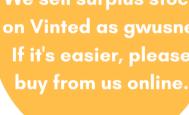
10am - 11:30am.

Blaydon Saturday 20th April

9am - 11am

Ryton Monday 29th April

6pm - 7pm.



As the weather improves, please donate any outgrown coats to us





www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform https://www.gatesheadwestuniformscheme.org.uk contact@GatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk and find us as gwusne on Vinted