



STELLA Spotlight



'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 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 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



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



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.



Sam Reay achieved his full purple belt in Taekwondo 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

Friday 15th March

Wednesday 20th March

Friday 22nd March

Wednesday 27th March

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

Monday 15th April

Tuesday 16th April

Friday 19th April

Thursday 25th April

Friday 26th April

Thursday 2nd May

Thursday 9th May

Friday 10th May

13th-16th May

Thursday 16th May

20th-23rd May

Thursday 23rd May

Friday 24th May

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

Saturday 8th June

Wednesday 12th June

Thursday 13th June

Friday 14th June

19th-21st June

26th-28th June

Thursday 20th June

Friday 21st June

Thursday 27th June

Tuesday 2nd July

Wednesday 3rd July

Friday 5th July

Friday 12th July

Friday 19th July

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

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

Year 3 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in School

Year 3 coffee and chat in school

Year 1 at the Dance Festival

Reception Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in School

Reception coffee and chat in school

Year 5 Visiting Careers Hub at the Metro Centre

Parents Evening

Parents Evening

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

Reception Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Reception coffee and chat in school

School will be closed to children for the local Elections

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

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

Year 1 coffee and chat in school

Year 6 SATs week

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

Year 6 Bikeability for those who have signed up

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

Year 4 Fun Run at Saltwell Park

First Holy Communions

Whole school class photographs

Year 6 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall

Year 4 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 4 coffee and chat in school

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

Reception Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall

Nursery Parents Evening for children starting September 2024

Reception Parents Evening for Children starting September 2024

Year 2 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 2 coffee and chat in school

Year 5 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 5 coffee and chat in school

Year 6 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 6 coffee and chat in school

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).



GATESHEAD WEST UNIFORM SCHEME



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.

Did you know?

We sell surplus stock
on Vinted as gwusne.
If it's easier, please
buy from us online.

**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

