



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

### Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter holiday/break, even though the weather was not the best! We now have a new Bishop Wilkinson Trust school website. We will be posting activities and work that the children will be taking part in here on our website. Please do take time to view some of the website links. You'll now find class posts under the 'Parent' category and then 'News archive', this will display all web links. The homepage also displays the latest three posts from staff and classes. The Stella Spotlight can also be found on the homepage.

We hope all children enjoy their summer term at St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas, there will be lots happening throughout the term, including various out of school clubs/activities. We'll keep you all posted here on the Spotlight and via Arbor.

Here's to a fantastic summer term ahead,

Many thanks,

Mr Craig

<https://stmaryandstthomasaquinasblaydon.bwcet.com/>

### Parking

Can we please remind parents and carers about parking. As you know the pub at the bottom of the school lane is undergoing a major refurbishment. There are a limited number of spaces in the small car park in front of the pub. The owners of the business require access for deliveries and works vehicles. Can you also make your child aware of the extra traffic. Please note that there is no parking availability at the top of the lane, as spaces are reserved for Karbon Homes and local residents have complained about not being able to gain access to their properties. We ask that as a community we park considerately for the needs of others.

Thank you for your co-operation.

This week Pope Francis reminds us,



"Jesus is always ready to encourage and support us. "



### School Uniform

A reminder that school uniform consists of sky blue polo shirt, royal blue cardigan or jumper and grey skirt, pinafore or trousers. P.E. kits are dark shorts, white T shirt, dark navy hoodie and jogging bottoms if required. School shoes need to be dark in colour with boys wearing dark socks please. In summer flat sensible sandals can be worn. Please note that earrings MUST be covered before the children come into school.

Rumour has it that it is nearly summer!

Just to inform any new parents to school, that children can wear a slightly different uniform which will be cooler on a hot day. This can be a blue gingham checked dress or playsuit or trouser type shorts which can be bought from any supermarket. School uniform can be obtained from tots to teams in Kingston park. This can be ordered online and delivered to school or your home.

### School Closure

Please note that school will be closed on Thursday 2nd May for local elections and on Monday 6th May for the bank holiday.

## Pc Stephen Bowman School Visit

On Monday and Tuesday of this week we had a visit from PC Stephen Bowman in school. PC Bowman spent time in each class talking to the children about the role of a police officer. He also worked with our older children about staying safe online and crime and consequence.

Thank you PC Bowman and Northumbria Police.



## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has donated books to our new school library. We now have a fantastic range of books in school which we will continue to add to through various fundraising activities. Your support has been fantastic. Thank you.



## Year 1 and 2 Adventure Day

The children in Year 1 and 2 will be taking part in an outdoor adventure day in school on Tuesday 23rd April.

Can children come into school wearing suitable outdoor learning clothes and NOT school uniform.

They will need to carry into school their outdoor shoes/wellies in bag.

When they get settled into class after registration they will then change into their outdoor footwear.

This will mean that the children will have dry footwear to change into at lunchtime for the school hall and in the class.



## National Dental Survey

The dentist will be visiting school on Thursday 9th May to see the children who will be 5 years old on 9th May. These children have been chosen to take part in the National Dental Survey. Anyone who has received a form could they return it to school by Friday 26th April.



## Message from Father Rose

Both Church car parks will be closed week commencing 22nd April and 29th April. This will enable tree surgeons to work on the grounds.

## Sports Days

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have their sports day on Tuesday 2nd July. This will take place on the keystone 2 yard with the gates opening at 1.15 p.m. for a 1.30 p.m. start.

Keystone 2 sports day will be on Wednesday 3rd July.

This will also be held on Keystone 2 yard starting at 1.30 p.m. Gates will open at 1.15 p.m.

Refreshments will be available on both days.



## Afterschool Clubs this term

Monday	Irish Dancing
Tuesday	Gardening Club Years 1&2
Wednesday	Grassroots - Summer sports
Thursday	Keystone 2 Athletics
Thursday	Tennis
Friday	Karate

We only have spaces available in Irish Dancing, Tennis and Karate. If you are interested please contact the school office.

Year 3 will be presenting their Assembly to parents on Thursday 25th April. This will start at 9.10 a.m. in the school hall and all are welcome to attend.

There will also be a coffee and chat after Reception class liturgy on Friday 26th April. The Liturgy starts at 2.30 p.m.

## 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 Thursday, 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 6 who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: 15th April 2024	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	94.81
Year 1	96.53
Year 2	90.46
Year 3	95.56
Year 4	92.96
Year 5	97.04
Year 6	<b>97.70</b>

## Arbor

Can we please remind parents to access Arbor on a regular basis. We use this site for most communications with parents, lunch monies and school trips can be paid for using this app. If you would like any help with accessing Arbor please contact the school office for further details.

[hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com](mailto:hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com)

## Year 6 - Holy Island / Newburn

Payment for this trip will need to be in by June 10th or sooner if possible. If you require any assistance please contact the school office.

## Tapestry

We are having a few problems posting on Tapestry, but we are looking into this and will hopefully have this sorted soon. We are still able to view the posts that parents put onto Tapestry, so keep sending us images of your child's achievements.





## Spotlight Celebration

On Monday 8th April, Jack successfully climbed Blencathra Mountain on his way to The Lakes. He walked through a waterfall and scramble on his hands and feet on a few occasions but he successfully summited in just under 3 hours.

Jack said he was nervous to start and was, in his words, knackered at the end but he said he felt a massive sense of achievement doing this. He still can't believe he has climbed a mountain.

He certainly has the mountain climbing bug now and is currently planning on climbing Cat Bells and Skiddaw as well this year.



Over the holidays Zoe participated at the Ryukyu International Open Karate Championship held at Newcastle.

Zoe competed in a number of categories and managed to get into three finals.

In the Pair Kata - she gained a 5th place

In the Individual Kata 10 - 12 yr - she gained 4th place

In the Individual Kata 8 - 9 yr - she gained 3rd place

Congratulations to everyone.

Don't forget to send your images to Miss Green at [hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com](mailto:hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com)



Over the Easter holidays, Leila, Chloe and Libby played in the Easter Silver Plate football tournament. The weather was dreadful but the girls played on in pouring rain and their team WON.

Because they are doing so well they've now been promoted to the Shield Division! (Wembley, here we come!)

The girls will be bringing in their trophy to show their class.



Just before the Easter holidays, Edo and Mateo took part in their karate gradings in school.

Both boys achieved their red belt.



Movie night was a huge success, the children had a fab time. The pictures speak for themselves.



Lily and Luke Ashall competed in a Tri Aquathlon where they had to swim up to 200m and run a mile and a half.

Lily also won the Blaydon Harriers coach award.



## Dates for your diary

Thursday 25th April  
Friday 26th April

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

Thursday 2nd May  
**Monday 6th May**

School will be closed to children for the local Elections  
**School closed for the Bank Holiday**

Thursday 9th May  
Friday 10th May

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

13th-16th May  
Thursday 16th May  
20th -22nd May  
Thursday 23rd May  
Friday 24th May

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

**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  
Thursday 13th June  
Friday 14th June

First Holy Communions  
Whole school class photographs  
Year 6 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall  
Year 5 visiting St Marys' Wickham - French Penpals  
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  
Tuesday 2nd July

Reception Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall  
Nursery Parents Evening for children starting September 2024

**Tuesday 2nd July**  
**Wednesday 3rd July**

**Reception class and Keystage 1 Sports Day**  
**Keystage 2 Sports Day**

Wednesday 3rd July  
Friday 5th July

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

Friday 12th July

Year 5 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall  
Year 5 coffee and chat in school

Wednesday 17th July  
Thursday 18th July  
Friday 19th July

Leavers Assembly for Year 6 Parents at 4 p.m. in school  
Year 6 Leavers Mass 9.10 a.m. in Church  
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**