



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

Palm Sunday School Celebration

Ahead of this weekend and the celebration of Palm Sunday, the whole school took part in a wonderful Mass led by Father Rose. We were all given a special blessing from Father Rose and afterwards processed back to school as our children reenacted Jesus entering Jerusalem and the crowd's waving palms. Miss Wilson and Mr Innerdale provided the music, which made for such a lovely experience for our children in preparation for Holy Week.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

“Jesus is always ready to encourage and support us.”



Year of Prayer - Wednesday 20th March 2024

We continued this week with our Year of Prayer focus on our school radio station. With a focus on Palm Sunday. A huge thank you to Alice in Year 6 and Jamie in Year 5, Molly in Year 4 for hosting the broadcast along with Mrs Maxwell. Please click on the praying hands to hear it for yourself and take a quiet 5 minutes to reflect.



Gateshead Dance Festival 2024

Congratulations to our Year 1 class who took part in the Gateshead Dance Festival. I am sure you agree that the children and staff looked wonderful in their custom-made tie-dye t-shirts. Well done Year 1 for making your school community so proud.



Lent Food bank Campaign - Week 6 Non Food Items

Monday 25th March will be week 6 of the Lentern food collection. This has been a hugely successful campaign supported by parents and carers. In this last week we would appreciate personal hygiene items: such as bars of soap, liquid soap, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, shaving kit, period products. Household hygiene: surface cleaner, cloths, washing up liquid, laundry powder, toilet cleaner, bathroom cleaner or kitchen cleaner. Can we please ask that all items to be in school by Tuesday afternoon as we will be taking them to the collection point that day.

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.

Important Note About Attendance

As you are aware from previous correspondence attendance in school is a top priority. We are working closely with our Trust (Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust) and following the new implemented attendance policy. A polite reminder that letters will go out each half term to all families updating you of your child's current attendance percentage, as well as information for you if your child has fallen below our school expectations.

School Matters!



Whole School Mass

There will be a whole school Mass in Church on Tuesday 26th March at 9.10 a.m. All are welcome to attend.



Easter Holidays

School will break up for the Easter Holidays on Thursday 28th March at 3.15 p.m. We will re-open on Monday 15th April.



Keeping Safe Online Sessions for Parents and Carers

We hope to run some 'Keeping Safe Online' sessions for parents and carers in the near future. Could you please take a moment to complete the form provided to express your interest, if you would like to attend. This will give us an indication of the number of sessions to deliver. Please click on the image to the right which will take you to the form.



Year 6 Bikability

Please note that the bikeability scheduled for the Year 6 who choose to take part will now only last 3 days and not 4 as originally planned. Sessions will start on Monday 20th May and finish on Wednesday 22nd May.



Stikins Name Labels

Your child will have brought home a leaflet about stick on name labels. This is a new company that we are working with. For all purchases made by parents/carers school will receive a commission if you use the code **20684**. You can order online at www.stikins.co.uk or call 01270 668076

Irish dancing

Just to remind parents that there will be NO Irish dance class on Monday 25th March due to the instructors attending the World Championships. Look out in next weeks newsletter for information about next terms classes.

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 2** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: 18th March 2024	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	96.67
Year 1	95.83
Year 2	99.26
Year 3	95.19
Year 4	97.04
Year 5	96.67
Year 6	98.08

SHAPE PERFORMANCE
SPORT • HEALTH • AND • PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Holiday Sports Coaching Courses

Archery • Basketball • Cricket • Dance • Football • Nerf Games
Inflatables • Trampoline • Gymnastics • Dodgeball • Tennis
Rugby • Bikes & Scooters • Ultimate Frisbee • Danish Longball
Golf • Water fight • Volleyball • Capture The Flag • *plus others!*

Easter 2024 Sports Coaching Courses

For children in Years 1 – 6 held at Thorpe Academy in Ryton.

Week 1 - Tuesday 2nd April to Friday 5th April

Week 2 - Monday 8th April to Friday 12th April

Please see the notice Board for further information or call Tony on 07713244023

Email: info@shapeperformance.co.uk

www.shapeperformance.co.uk

Book at: <http://campscui.active.com/orgs/shapeperformance>

Spotlight Celebration

Max Hendry, Blake King and Luke Ashall were in the winning team at a football tournament on Sunday. Well done boys!



Evie Graham in Year 3 attended the Swan Kenney Theatreworks Competition earlier this month, it was her first time out with solos and was placed 3rd in both her ballet and tap. Well done Evie.



Martha McMullon in Year 3 has had a busy two weeks of swimming. From starting Stage 6 at the beginning of March, she has quickly achieved badges for 25 metres, 50 metres and 100 metres! Keep it up Mer-martha!



Congratulations to everyone.

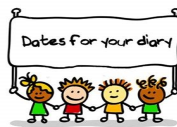
Don't forget to send your images to Miss Green at hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com

Dates for your diary

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 -22nd 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
Wednesday 17th July	Leavers Assembly for Year 6 Parents at 4 p.m. in school
Thursday 18th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass 9.10 a.m. in Church
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

Homework - 20.3.24 (due 27.3.24)

We have an egg-citing homework for you all to complete over the next week!

For your homework, we would like you to get creative and decorate your own hard-boiled egg!

All you need to do is hard boil an egg and decorate it. You can use whatever materials you like. The more creative the better! You might want to turn your egg into a character from a book, make it into an animal, or decorate it with patterns!

We can't wait to see all of your egg-cellent creations and we really want you to have fun!

If you are unable to decorate an egg, please create your design as a drawing below.

All homework (be it an egg or an egg design) must be brought to school on **Wednesday 27th March**.

