



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



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

“We cannot grow up by ourselves; rather, we journey and grow in a community, in a family.”



Year of Prayer - Wednesday 24th April 2024

We continued this week with Year of Prayer focus on our school radio station. With a focus on the Good Shepherd. A huge thank you to Leo in Year 5, Anya in Year 4 and Aggy in Year 3 for hosting the broadcast along with Miss Wilson. **Please click on the praying hands** to hear it for yourself and take a quiet 5 minutes to reflect.



Uniform and P.E. kits

Last week we shared with you the expectations of what children should be wearing around school. We know that during the summer term as the weather gets better our uniform changes to adapt to the different season. PE kit must be a white t-shirt, blue or black shorts / jogging bottoms with suitable footwear for sports activities. Have you thought about using Gateshead West Uniform Scheme to 'top up' your uniform. They sell a wide range of good-quality preloved and brand new uniforms from their sites at Ryton Scout Hut and St Cuthbert's Church Hall in Blaydon.

The next market will be on Monday 29th April at Ryton starting at 6 p.m. then 11th May and 27th May. Blaydon will be holding a market on Friday 3rd May starting at 3.30 p.m. and on 18th May at 9.00 a.m.

For more details of what can be bought and where you can donate to can be found at www.gatesheadwestuniformscheme.org.uk or on facebook - www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform

Golf for Girls

On Sunday 19th May at 3.00 p.m. there will be a free taster golf session for girls aged between 5-18 at Close House Golf Club (NE15 0HT)

This will last from 3.00 p.m. until 4.00 p.m.

Click on the QR code to book your place.



Please note there have been some changes to assembly dates - these are on the 'Dates for your diary' page of the newsletter.

Suncream and sun hats

When the sun arrives, we would like to let parents/carers know what our school policy is regarding sun cream. We recommend that the smaller children come into school with an all day sun cream already applied, as the staff are not permitted to apply the cream for the children. The older children can apply their own cream, but they must be aware that they can NOT share their cream. Although this is very kind there are a lot of allergies in school.

Sun hats and water bottles are also recommended.

Ongoing Parking for Drop Off / Pick Up

As you all know from correspondence over the last few weeks the new pub/restaurant 'The Stella Inn' is currently undergoing refurbishment. They have asked us to communicate to all parents and carers of our school community about the area they own to clarify any confusion when dropping off or picking up children.

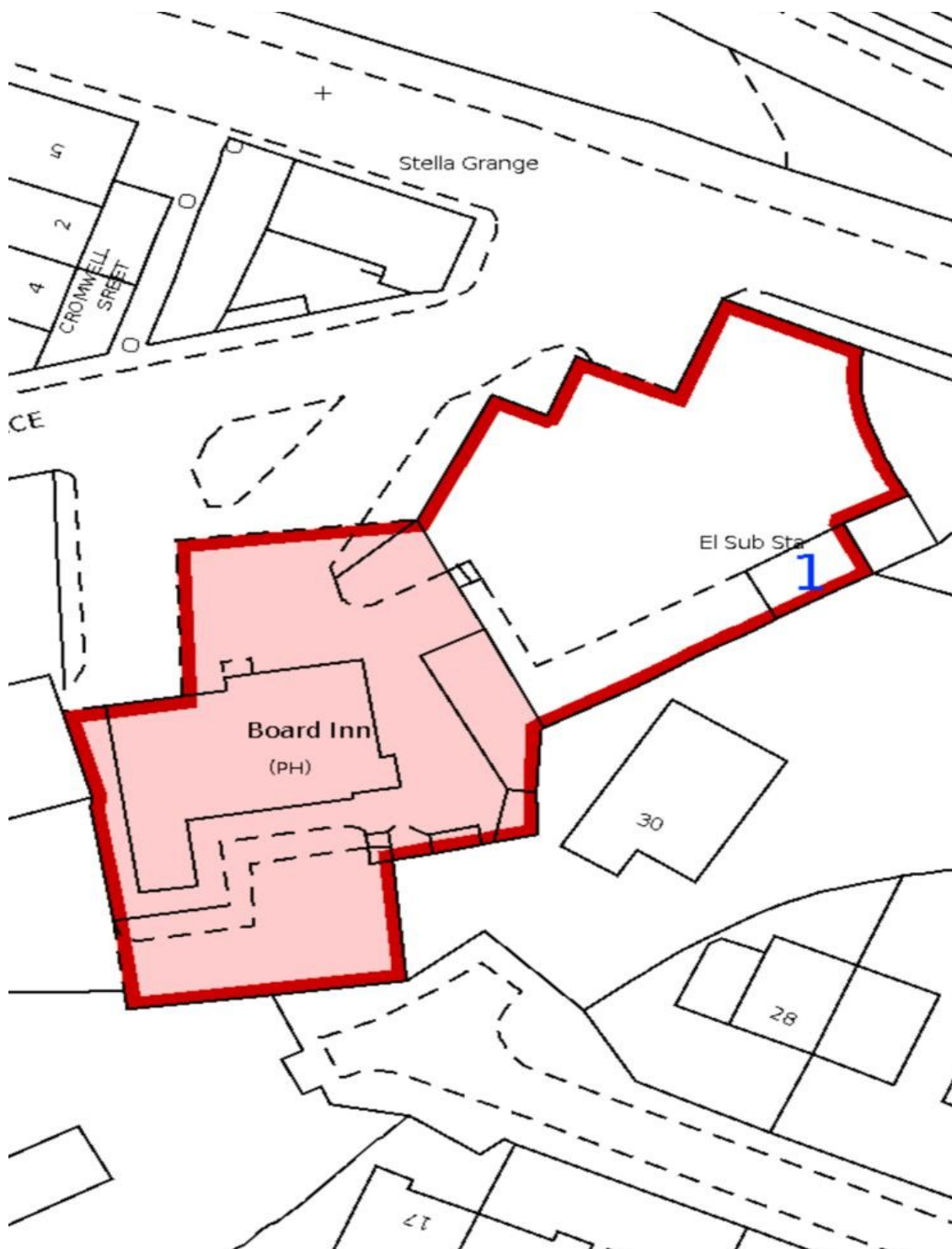
These red marked areas on the map need to be kept clear at all times for deliveries and health and safety reasons during the refit. These spaces are also reserved for paying patrons of the public house. We have also been informed that parking enforcement will be implemented by the owners of the The Stella Inn and anyone parking within the boundaries (again please see the red marked areas of the map) may incur a fine of up to £50 / £100. Please note this is a messages we have been asked to relay to our school community.

We thank you for all of your support with this and for using the designated parking areas along Stella Road, and when parking further into the Stella Estate, making sure not to block residents' driveways.

As the summer weather begins to bloom this is the perfect opportunity to walk/cycle to school. We know that many of our families walk from Ryton to get those daily steps in.

Thank you

The Stella Team



Adventure Day

The children in Year 1 and 2 had a fantastic outdoor learning day this week. The weather was not the best on the day but the children developed the outdoor skills with a smile on their face.



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.

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 3** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: 22nd April 2024	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	94
Year 1	96.56
Year 2	97.33
Year 3	98.33
Year 4	95.33
Year 5	97.78
Year 6	95.02

Ryton Rugby Youth Section open day U7-U12's

As we are ending our season this weekend we'd like to invite children from your school who are interested in trying Rugby out. We are actively recruiting for years 2 to 6 (u7-u11) for this September start. We are hosting an open day this Sunday 10-12 with a host of rugby themed sessions and a fun morning planned. We will then offer the children something to eat in the club house whilst parents get to talk to their coaches.

National Child Measurement Programme

The children in Reception and Year 6 will have brought home a letter explaining about a visit from the heights and weights team. The nurses will be coming into school on Thursday 9th May to see both classes.

If you did NOT want your child's height and weight to be measured, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight please let us know by contacting the Gateshead Growing Healthy Team by telephone on:03000031918 or email spoc.HDFTGateshead@nhs.net

Message from Father Rose

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

Spotlight Celebration



Zander took part in The Fleetwood Town Football Tournament during the Easter holidays for his football team Newcastle City Juniors.

His team played 10 matches over the weekend with teams from all over the country and Northern Ireland. They won 4, lost 3 and drew 3. More importantly, Zander had fun with his friends and made memories that will last a lifetime.



Congratulations Mason Gray in Nursery for passing his stage 1 swimming this week. What a Stella Star!

The Year 5/6 children had a fantastic time at the football tournament on Thursday evening at Ryton Juniors. There was some excellent individual skill on show, with some amazing saves made by our keeper Luke Rosa. We look forward to the next game.



Congratulations to everyone.

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

Looking for Work, Training Benefit Advice

Come along to Barmoor Hub to receive Specialist Tailored Support to help YOU.

Get on the Right Track



Fortnightly Drop-in sessions

Barmoor Hub
Wednesdays
10am – 1:30pm

To book an appointment for a chat contact

ELSA
Mob:07795 223530

Anna and Tom Langford have some new arrivals. They have been watching the eggs with anticipation for the new arrivals. Here they are with the 3 new chicks.



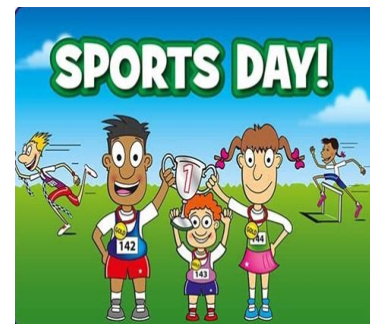
New drop in sessions at the Barmoor Hub, the next one will be Wednesday 8th May 2024. There will be Family advisers from Gateshead Council there who work alongside Targeted Family Support within Gateshead Local Authority and work very closely with the Family Hubs , Social Workers, Early help teams, Youth Justice etc.

The main role of the sessions is to provide Advice and Guidance to families into sustainable work or training, but I can also offer benefit support being part of the DWP. Pop along for a chat or long term support.

Sports Day

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have their sports day on Tuesday 2 July. This will take place on the keystone 2 yard with the gates openings 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.





Open 10am - 5pm

10am - 4pm (off peak). Seasonal variations apply.

Be sure to browse the Diggerland website for opening times prior to visiting any of our Diggerland parks. We are closed during some Autumn/Winter months.

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- FOOD & REFRESHMENTS
- GOODIE STORE
- CORPORATE HOSPITALITY
- MINI QUAD BIKES
- TOILETS
- HELICOPTER LANDING (CALL AHEAD)
- COACH PARKING
- DISABLED ACCESS
- SCHOOLS & GROUPS
- PARTY ROOM HIRE
- BABY CHANGING
- DODGEMS
- FREE EV CHARGING (PAYING DIGGERLAND CUSTOMERS ONLY)

Where are we?

For detailed directions, please visit www.diggerland.com



All information is correct at the time of going to press, January 2023. The management of Diggerland reserves the right to withdraw or alter any of the facilities at any time without prior notice. In this event, Diggerland is not obliged to refund monies or exchange tickets. We regret that no animals are permitted in the park except Assistance Dogs. Entry subject to Diggerland Terms & Conditions. Copy available on our website and upon request. Tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable. The management reserves the right to refuse admission.

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Ride, drive and operate real FULL-SIZED construction machinery - no driving licence required! With over 100 machines at each park, there really is something for everyone! Fasten your seatbelts for an adrenaline rush on Spindizzy. Test your driving skills on the Dumper Trucks. Want some real JCB experience? Try your excavating skills with a 6 tonne digger, drive an awesome JCB 3CX, or take five and enjoy the views 50ft in the air from the Skyshuttle.

Groups & Schools

A day at Diggerland can boost confidence and encourage precision, concentration, coordination and skill. Children are taught to use everyday construction machinery including real diggers and dumpers in a safe environment.

We offer special discounted rates for schools and groups - minimum numbers apply. Discounted pre-booked rates are available in advance as well as the pay on the day group rate.



Party Room Hire

We now have our group celebration rooms at Diggerland Kent, Durham and Yorkshire available for exclusive hire! Give us a call on 01634 711 711 to book!

Gift Vouchers

Diggerland Gift Vouchers are the perfect present for digger fanatics...go on, make their day extra special!



PRIZE DRAW EVERY MONTH

Every month we have amazing prizes up for grabs! Enter online at www.diggerland.com/prize-draw

ADMISSION PRICE INCLUDES UNLIMITED RIDES & DRIVES

(excludes coin-operated rides and the dodgems)



EXPERIENCE DAYS OVER 17S ONLY



JCB EXPERIENCES

A 90 minute experience in a JCB 3CX Backhoe Loader with an instructor. Can be booked as a one-to-one or part of a small group.



MONSTER DIGGER

Get behind the controls of a 22 tonne excavator for our biggest experience yet! Learn how to control this monster machine in a one-to-one session with one of our expert instructors.



DUMPER TRUCK RACING

Co-ordination and nerve are the key to success as competitors race against each other and the clock!

All of these experiences can be purchased as gift vouchers too!

Indoor and outdoor play areas are included within your admission!

THESE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT INCLUDED WITHIN YOUR GENERAL ADMISSION ENTRY AND RUN ON SELECTED DATES AND AT SELECTED UK PARKS. MUST BE PRE-BOOKED AND PRE-PAID.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 2nd May

Monday 6th May

Thursday 9th May

Friday 10th May

13th-16th May

Thursday 16th May

Friday 17th May

20th -22nd May

Thursday 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

Thursday 13th 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

Tuesday 2nd July

Wednesday 3rd July

Wednesday 3rd July

Friday 5th July

Friday 12th July

Wednesday 17th July

Thursday 18th July

Friday 19th July

School will be closed to children for the local Elections

School closed for the Bank Holiday

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 (change of date)

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 (cancelled)

Whole school Mass 9.10 a.m. in Church

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 (cancelled)

Year 2 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

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 class and Keystage 1 Sports Day

Keystage 2 Sports Day

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

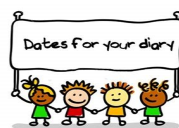
Leavers Assembly for Year 6 Parents at 4 p.m. in school

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