



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

Year 6

This weekend, don't get stressed, during SATs just do your best, you need to remember you have been blessed, with skills and talent the SATs can't test! Good luck, you have already done us proud!



Year 5 Assembly

The children from Year 5 will be presenting their assembly to parents and carers on Friday 17th May at 9.10 a.m. in the school hall. All are welcome to attend.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

"Let us walk together taking care of each other and of Creation, our common home. Above all, take care of people in need "



Year of Prayer - Wednesday 8th May 2024

We continued this week with our Year of Prayer focus on our school radio station. With a focus on Our Lady, Mary. A huge thank you to Alexander Kimmitt in Year 6, Joseph O Neill in Year 5 and Anna Langford in Year 4 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.



Extra Funding

Children in Reception Class, Year 1 & Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch which is universal for children in Reception and Keystage 1.

Your child's school can get extra funding if you are eligible for Pupil Premium. Applying is simple and quick. Remember, even though your child automatically is entitled to receive Free School Meals in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, please still apply for Pupil Premium as the school will receive additional funding that will benefit your child.

Parents and carers of all other years groups Year 3 to Year 6 could also be eligible for a free school meal.

For pupils starting Reception class in September, please state on the form that your child will be starting in September on the form.

Click on the image below to find out more.



Are you entitled?

Thank you

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting us with parking around the new pub at the bottom of Stella Lane. We appreciate your support in all matters.

Attendance

We will be sending out our termly attendance letters soon. This is an opportunity for you to be fully up to date on your child's attendance record as we continue to follow the BWCET policy.



School Trip Payments

Year 2 and Year 4 classes will be going on their own school trip in the next few weeks. These trips have been uploaded onto Arbor for parents/carers to make payments. The deadline for payments will be on Saturday 11th May at 4 p.m. If you have any trouble accessing this facility, please email the school office.

Medication

Please note that if you wish for your child to receive medication throughout the school day, you will need to complete a consent form which can be obtained from the school office.

Please ensure that children come into school with a sun hat, a full water bottle and either bring sun screen in or already have it applied for the younger ones. Please note, we can **NOT** apply sun cream to the children.



Don't forget your water bottles also

Uniform

We seem to have a lot of cardigans/jumpers from Keystage 2 without any names in them. Can we remind parents to please name all items of uniform. Name labels can be purchased from www.stikins.co.uk using our school code 20684.

It is also the perfect time to start thinking about ordering school uniform for next academic year. Uniforms can be delivered to school or your home address. To place an order please visit www.totstoteams.com.

Non-Uniform Day & Stella Fest

In preparation for our upcoming StellaFest - the date has yet to be confirmed - we are asking for your support. On Thursday 23rd May we are inviting all children to wear their own clothes - something that represents them as a person, we want to celebrate everyone's own individual style.

For the non-uniform day we would ask that every child brings in a prize that can be used on the tombola stall at the 'StellaFest'.

This could be anything from sweets in a jar, chocolate items - bars/boxes/tubes, toiletries, gift sets, jewellery, toys that your children are getting too old for (in good condition), books, bottles - alcoholic/non alcoholic.

Each class has been given a specific colour which their donation should be e.g. if your colour is orange you could bring in a Terry's Chocolate orange (Please not 30!!) - if you can't find anything in that colour you could just wrap your gift in coloured paper.

Nursery - Yellow

Reception - Yellow

Year 1 - Green

Year 2 - Red

Year 3 - Blue

Year 4 - Pink

Year 5 - Orange

Year 6 - White

Staff - Purple

Year 4 Fun Run 24th May

Please note that the bus will be leaving at 8.40 a.m. to take the children to the Fun Run at Saltwell Park. We would like all Year 4 children to be in school for 8.30 a.m. prompt.



Music Camp

Don't miss out our May Half Term Camp for 5 - 11 year olds at Side by Side Arts studio in Bensham, Gateshead, NE8 4QL. Step into the spotlight and join us for a day inspired by the smash-hit musical, SIX! Explore the captivating world of Henry VIII's six wives through song, dance and drama. Learn to perform iconic numbers from the musical, delve into the history behind the songs, and unleash your inner queen on stage.



The half term Music Camp promises fun, creativity and plenty of musical magic for young people. Get ready to shake up history with our May music day, a day fit for royalty.

Cost of £35 per child with 'Six' the Musical happening on Thursday 30th May.

To sign up and register your interest email : info@sidebysidearts.org

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 **Reception** Class and **Year 4** who will share the trophy this week.

Week beginning: 6th May 2024	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	100
<i>Year 1</i>	99.55
<i>Year 2</i>	97.14
<i>Year 3</i>	96.67
<i>Year 4</i>	100
<i>Year 5</i>	98.57
<i>Year 6</i>	97.54

Now for the girls Football Team

The girls' team had an amazing evening at Ryton, winning a match, losing only one and drawing all the rest! Very strong performance from our amazing team.



P.E. Timetable for this Term

Year 6	Wednesday & Friday
Year 5	Wednesday
Year 4	Monday (Swimming) & Wednesday
Year 3	Wednesday & Thursday

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 - P.E. kits will remain in school all through the half term.

We will inform parents with future notice when the outdoor learning kits are required.

Spotlight Celebration

Winlaton Raiders U9



Blake, James and Logan - from Year 4 class - won a bank holiday Sunday football tournament for Winlaton Raiders.



Fernando in Year 6 took up an amazing opportunity to be an alter server for Bishop Stephen as he visited and celebrated Mass at St Bede's Roman Catholic Church in South Shields.

Fernando did an amazing job and his family and all of us are so proud of him.
Well done Fernando.



Congratulations to everyone.

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

Dates for your diary

13th-16th May

Friday 17th May

20th -22nd 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

Friday 14th June

Friday 14th June

19th-21st June

Thursday 20th June

26th-28th June

Friday 21st June

Monday 24th June

Thursday 27th June

Friday 28th June

Tuesday 2nd July

Tuesday 2nd July

Wednesday 3rd July

Wednesday 3rd July

Thursday 4th July

Friday 5th July

10th /11th July

Friday 12th July

Monday 15th July

Wednesday 17th July

Thursday 18th July

Year 6 SATs week

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

Year 6 Bikeability for those who have signed up

Whole school Mass 9.10 a.m. in Church

Year 4 Fun Run at Saltwell Park

First Holy Communions

Whole school class photographs

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

Year 5 visiting St Marys' Whickham - French Penpals

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

Year 4 coffee and chat in school

Year 2 will be visiting the Great North Museum

Year 6 visiting SVP camp on Holy Island

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

Year 6 visiting Newburn Activity Centre

Year 3 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 3 coffee and chat in school

Year 6 attending Primary Festival at YMT

Reception Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school hall

Athletics Festival

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 6 Team building at St Thomas More

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

Year 2 coffee and chat in school

Year 6 visiting St Thomas More

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

Year 5 coffee and chat in school

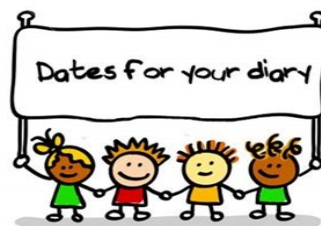
Bishop Wilkinson Sports Festival for Year 5

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

Year 6 Leavers Mass 9.10 a.m. in Church

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