



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

Please note that school will be closed on Monday 6th May for the bank holiday.

### Year 4 Assembly

The children from Year 4 will be presenting their assembly to parents and carers on Thursday 9th May at 9.10 a.m. in the school hall. All are welcome to attend.



### Children's Liturgy of the Word



### Year 1 Liturgy

We will be holding a Year 1 Liturgy on Friday 10th May. This will start at 2.30 p.m. in the school hall followed by coffee and chat with Miss Wilson.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

“The family’s strength lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love. Let us ask the Lord for the grace to love everyone. ”



### Year of Prayer - Wednesday 1st 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 Kourtney in Year 6, Jamie in Year 5 and Isobel in Year 4 for hosting the broadcast along with Miss Wilson. Please visit our website to hear it for yourself and take a quiet 5 minutes to reflect.



### 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

## Sun Awareness Week 2024 - Monday 6th - Sunday 12th May

Sun Awareness Week is run by the **British Association of Dermatologists (BAD)**. The campaign is aiming to teach the public about the dangers of sun exposure, providing advice on prevention and detection. To teach on prevention, BAD aim to raise awareness of common dangers such as burning, excessive tanning and sunbed use. As well as this, they aim to teach people how to detect the signs of skin cancer, to increase the number of early diagnoses.

As Sun Awareness Week marks the start of the summer months, warmer weather, and more time outdoors, it is a great time to get involved and spread the important message of sun protection.

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.



## Year 4 Fun Run

On Friday 24th May, the children from Year 4 class will be taking part in a fun run at Saltwell park. The event has now been uploaded onto Arbor for parents to give their permission and make payments. The run is expected to finish at 12.30 p.m. thus enabling the children to have their packed lunches in the park. Please remember to apply an all day sun cream as well as bringing plenty of water to drink and a sun hat if the weather is sunny.



## Year 5 / 6 Football Team

Well done to our Stella football Team and everyone who has represented the school over the Autumn and Spring in the Ryton League. Our team did a great job on Thursday and we look to build on our solid defensive unit next year. We are looking forward to the next round of football trials with Mr Craig, Mr Innerdale and Miss Steel.



## Ryton Mini Singers

For all budding singers and performers! We sing, play games and perform regularly at events around the region. Any new singers are welcome to come along for a free taster session. We meet every Sunday at Stargate Hall in Ryton 11 a.m. - 12 noon. Have a look at our Facebook page or scan the QR code to get in touch for more info.



## 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 5** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: 29th April 2024	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	93.81
Year 1	98.21
Year 2	95.24
Year 3	97.24
Year 4	96.19
Year 5	<b>100</b>
Year 6	99.01

## 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 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.



## Information

As you know the school newsletter is sent to all parents and guardians of children throughout school on a Friday afternoon, we also place it on our school website and the notice board. Can we ask that you share any information of change of dates or assembly times with carers and other relative who would pick up and drop off at school.

## National Dentist Survey 2023 to 2024

A selection of children from Reception class and Year 1 have still not returned the consent forms for the dentist visiting school on 9th May. Can these please be returned to the school office as soon as possible.

## Spotlight Celebration

Niamh and Erin Spors have been doing some fundraising to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. They have been making jewellery and painted stones and set up their first stall at Mini Ryton Singers last weekend. They have raised over £50 so far!



Well done to Darcy Gill in Year 3 who has passed 2 more competitions this weekend.



Congratulations to everyone.

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

## Dates for your diary

Monday 6th May  
Thursday 9th May  
**Thursday 9th May**  
**Thursday 9th May**  
Friday 10th May

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

School closed for the Bank Holiday

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

**Heights & Weights visiting Year 6 and Reception**

**Dental Survey for Reception and some of Year 1**

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

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

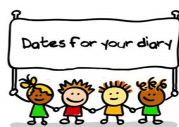
**Bishop Wilkinson Sports Festival for Year 5**

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**