



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

Curriculum Evenings

Many thanks for parents and carers who attended our Curriculum meetings in school this week. A copy of the information shared for your child's year group will be sent to all parents via Arbor.

Parents Evenings

Parents evenings will take place on November 11th and November 12th after Half Term. You will be able to book your slot on Arbor from 8 a.m. on Monday 30th September. This will close on Friday 11th October at 4.00 p.m.

If you need support with this, please contact Miss Green at the school office.

Please note that there are only enough slots for one per family, if a separate appointment is needed for an extra parent, this will be made at a later date.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

“Jesus leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others.”



Year of Prayer - Wednesday 18th September 2024

On Wednesday we take time out of our busy week to reflect on what we have and how grateful we are. A huge thank you to Agnes and Sam in Year 5 for hosting the broadcast along with Miss Wilson. **Please click on the praying hands** to hear it for yourself.



Year 2 Class Mass

Children from Year 2 will be leading the Mass on Thursday 26th September at 9.10 a.m. with Year 1 children attending the Mass also. Parents are welcome to attend.



Year 6 Assembly

The children from Year 6 will be presenting their Assembly to parents on Tuesday 1st October at 9.10 a.m. in the school hall.

All are welcome to attend.



MacMillan Coffee Afternoon

On Friday 27th September our school Mini Vinnies will be hosting a MacMillan Coffee Afternoon at 2.30 p.m. in the school hall. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

We would be grateful for any sweet or savoury items like cakes, pies, tray bakes or biscuits. For those Parents / carers who are extremely talented and can bake, could you possibly label any bakes with ingredients used for allergens.

Can I also request that you put your name or your child's name on your containers.



Fundraising for
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We're very excited to be welcoming Great Athletes to the school soon!

A top GB athlete will be visiting us, and leading a sponsored fitness circuit with all pupils, followed by a motivational assembly, and Q&A session. The aim of the event is to inspire every child to be more physically active, but just as importantly, encourage them to discover and pursue their passion in life.

The event will both connect the pupils to an extraordinary athlete role model and raise money for new sports equipment to improve physical activity in the school, as well as supporting both athletes and para-athletes, so that they can continue to inspire the next generation.

We will send home a sponsorship form for your child to use to help raise money for the event. You can also sponsor your child by visiting: greatathletes.org and clicking on the button "Set up a Fundraising Page".

Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to go directly to the online sponsorship page.



As a thank you pupils will receive the following thank you gifts for meeting these milestones.

Raise anything: A5 sheet of motivational stickers
Raise £5 or more: sheet of stickers, plus a blue Great Athletes wristband
Raise £15 or more: all of the above, plus a red wristband with the athlete's signature
Raise £30 or more: all of the above, plus a signed athlete poster

Please ensure that the sponsorship form and money are returned to the school office 1 week after the event has taken place.

Please also make sure that your children come to school on the event day (Tues 1st October)

Thank you in anticipation of creating a terrific and memorable event.

**Our athlete is Lucy Turner – you can google her if you want to know more about her.
Perhaps you can write some questions down and you can ask her on the day.**

Term Dates - 2025/2026

You will already be aware of this current school year term dates (24/25). For the academic year 25/26, you can find these on our school website. Please following the link provided.

[Term Dates / School Day – St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School, Blaydon \(bwcet.com\)](http://www.bwcet.com)

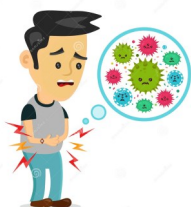
School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Wednesday 2nd October taking the children's individual images and taking their picture with their siblings.



Sickness

Can we please remind parents / carers that children are requested to stay off school for 48 hours from their last bout of Sickness or Diarrhoea, this will ensure that the bug does not spread around school.

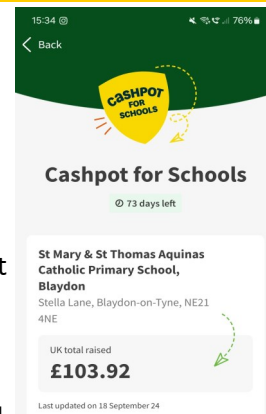


Asda Cashpot

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our PTA. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

Closing date is 30th November.

So far we have raised £103.92 which is great. Anybody can nominate our school on the rewards app, doesn't have to be parent.



Spotlight Celebration



Darcey has been working really hard at Dancing over the last few weeks and even managed to fit in a competition in Manchester last Sunday.



Elodie Year 1 entered her first competition in Manchester on Sunday. She competed in Ballet, Tap and Modern and managed to get trophies in all 3.



Theo received player of the match on Sunday, his coaches said he played amazing.

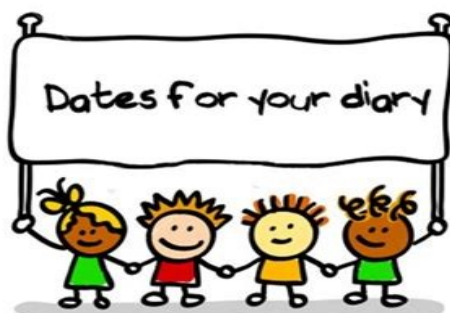


Amelia Rose, Hannah and Sophie also completed the Mini and Junior North run with last weekend

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

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 26th September	Year 2 Leading Mass with Year 1 joining the service
Friday 27th September	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday 1st October	Year 6 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school Hall
Wednesday 2nd October	Photographer will be in school taking individual photographs
Friday 4th October	Year 1 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. followed by Coffee & Chat
Tuesday 8th October	Year 4 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school Hall
Friday 11th October	Year 3 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. followed by Coffee & Chat
Tuesday 15th October	Year 2 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school Hall
Friday 18th October	Year 6 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. followed by Coffee & Chat
Tuesday 22nd October	Year 5 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school Hall
Thursday 7th November	Year 5 Leading Mass with Year 6 joining the service
Thursday 7th November	Year 4 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. followed by Coffee & Chat
Tuesday 12th November	Reception Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school Hall
Wednesday 13th November	Nasal Flu Spray
Thursday 14th November	Year 3 Leading Mass with Year 4 joining the service
Friday 15th November	Year 2 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. followed by Coffee & Chat
Tuesday 19th November	Year 3 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school Hall
Thursday 21st November	Year 1 Leading Mass with Year 2 joining the service
Friday 22nd November	Year 5 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. followed by Coffee & Chat
Tuesday 26th November	Year 1 Assembly 9.10 a.m. in the school Hall
Thursday 5th December	Whole school Mass for Advent
Thursday 5th December	Choir Concert times TBC
Monday 9th December	Reception Nativity in the afternoon - times TBC
Tuesday 10th December	Keystage 1 Nativity in the afternoon - times TBC
Wednesday 11th December	Keystage 1 Nativity in the afternoon - times TBC
	Nursery Nativity in the afternoon - times TBC
Thursday 12th December	Keystage 2 Christmas Performance in church - times TBC
Friday 13th December	Keystage 2 Christmas Performance in church - times TBC
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Mass 9.10 a.m.
Friday 20th December	Christmas Pantomime for Years 1 - 6 at the Tyne Theatre



Please note that if any of these dates change we highlight the new date in **Red**.

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 5 class teacher), Mrs Bennison (Assistant Headteacher/Year 6 teacher) 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 4** Class who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: 16th September 2024	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	90.87
Year 1	88.15
Year 2	96.53
Year 3	94.98
Year 4	99.63
Year 5	98.47
Year 6	98.52

Arbor

Can I please remind parents that school meals **MUST** be paid for on a regular basis. This could be weekly or you could pay upfront if you wish. If you are having problems with Arbor or would like help with this matter, please contact the school office. (hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com)

School Meals

If your child has a school lunch we have some exciting news. On Wednesday 25th September our school kitchen will be celebrating National Quesadilla Day. Your child will have the choice of Chicken or Sweet Potato & Cheese Quesadilla served with Rice and Salsa. We will still have the Jacket Potato and Deli options available.

