



STELLA Spotlight



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

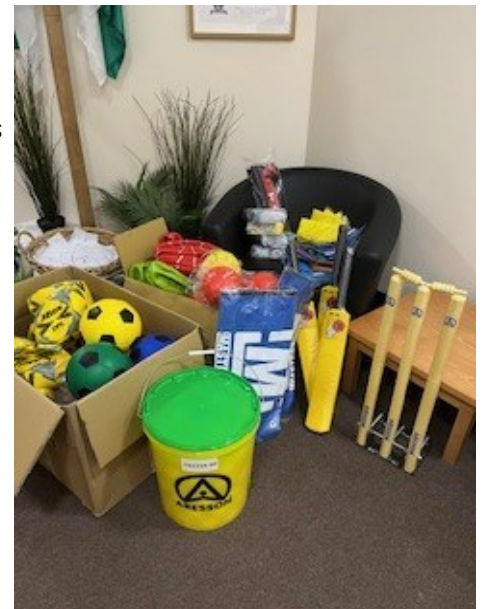
School Choir

Well done to our school choir for a wonderful performance of special Christmas songs last week, which had us all in the festive mood as we prepare for the Christmas ahead.



Great Athletes Sponsorship

Following the visit from team GB athletes in October, and the money raised from parents and carers via the sponsor forms, we were able to purchase lots of sporting equipment for our school, from cricket bats, balls and stumps to several types of balls to bibs and tag rugby equipment. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the children. We will sure make good use of this in the new term.



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas is a busy time for all, but one that reminds us of the essence of our being and the faith we share. Our parishes' Christmas Masses will be as follows:-
Christmas Eve :- 4.00 p.m. & 5.30 p.m. at Stella
Christmas Day :- 9.00 a.m. at St Agnes', Crawcrook;
10.00 a.m. at Stella.

Please note there will be no weekday Mass at either Stella or Crawcrook on Christmas Eve morning.



Christmas Parties

Monday 16th - Year 1 and Year 2
Tuesday 17th - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6
Wed 18th December - Nursery and Reception
On party days, children are invited to wear their own party clothes to school. Lunchtime remains unchanged and children on packed lunch will still need to bring one on that day.



Important Date

Please remember we have a staff training day on Monday 6th January. School will be closed to all children on this day.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,
"Spend time with someone in need, visit someone who is sick, offer a smile."



Safeguarding

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 already know, 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), Mrs Bennison (Assistant Headteacher/Year 6) 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.

Whole School Mass

On Thursday 19th December we will be holding a whole school Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.

All are welcome to attend.



Arbor—School Meals

Can I please remind parents to log onto Arbor on a regular basis to make dinner money payments. Our trust has asked for me to inform parents/ carers about running up a debt. All meals must be paid for in advanced or on the week that they are taken. If you need any assistance with this matter, please contact the school office and we can give you the relevant information about claiming benefits for free school meals if you are eligible.



Year 6 Residential

This is now live on Arbor to enable parents to pay at their own leisure. The closing date for final payments is the beginning of May 2025.

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: 9th December 2024	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	85.71
Year 1	94.64
Year 2	98.26
Year 3	97.49
Year 4	95.93
Year 5	97.78
Year 6	98.15

Nativities and Performances

It was wonderful to celebrate our nativities and Christmas celebrations with you all this week. Once again the children let their Stella light shine. We are all so proud of them.

Each nativity and performance can be viewed on our website. We will inform you via an Arbor message as soon as they are available.



Year 6 Mass

The Year 6 children will be leading Mass in Church on Thursday 9th January, 9.05 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Year One Liturgy

The children in Year 1 will be presenting their class Liturgy on Friday 10th January at 2.30 p.m. in the school hall.

This will be followed by coffee and chat with Miss Wilson and Mrs Bowden.



Gateshead Food bank

We are still collecting food items for the Gateshead Food bank. With only one more week to go, we ask everyone to bring in food donations to add to our tally and total weight. All items will be boxed and then given to the food bank so that they can make up Christmas Hampers for those in need.



Afterschool Clubs - week commencing 16th December

Karate - Monday 16th December
Gardening Club - Tuesday 17th December

Next term

Tennis will resume on Thursday 9th January until Thursday 20th February @ £29.75 per player. Please click on image to book.



If you are interested in taking up tennis at the tennis club itself, they have a great offer on. A perfect Christmas gift. Please click on the image below to make a purchase.

Grassroots will commence on Wednesday 8th January for 12 weeks @ £36 per person. This is available for children in Years 1 - 6

They only have 7 places left as of today. To secure a place, please head over to; www.grassrootsports.co.uk

GET INTO TENNIS FOR A £TENNER!

JOIN ANY OF OUR GROUP COACHING SESSIONS FOR ONLY £10!

IT'S THE PERFECT GIFT TO GET BACK INTO TENNIS, OR TO INSPIRE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN*

BUY NOW ONLY £10!

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ONLY £10

For Terms & Conditions visit www.wedotennis.co.uk/player-bookings

Spotlight Celebration

Emily Coleman has completed her karate grading - Purple belt - Distinction at the after school karate class! Well done.



Congratulations to Patrick in Year 1 . He came second place in an Irish Dance Competition on Saturday.



Well done to Tom from Year 2 who won player of the week on Monday.



We just wanted to share with you that Indie had her Irish dance Feis on Saturday at Kelly Hendry.

She was amazing and got 2 gold medals 1 silver and placed silver overall.



Ava and Tiggy from Reception were awarded their IDTA yellow rosette from their recent dance exam.

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

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 16th December
Tuesday 17th December
Wednesday 18th December
Thursday 19th December
Friday 20th December
Friday 20th December

Year 1 & Year 2 Christmas Party Day
Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Party Day
Nursery & Reception Party Day
Christmas Mass 9.05 a.m.
Christmas Pantomime for Years 1 - 6 at the Tyne Theatre
Polar Express day for the children in Nursery & Reception Classes

Monday 6th January
Thursday 9th January
Friday 10th January

Inset Day
Year 6 Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Year 1 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat.

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



St. Mary and
St. Thomas Aquinas



Catholic Primary School

ADMISSIONS 2025

We are an
OUTSTANDING
School

**ALL FAMILIES
WELCOME**

- Flexible Nursery Provision,
15 & 30 Hours
- Before & After School Care
- Wide Variety of Extra
Curricular Activities

Contact Us:

0191 414 3116
info@smtb.bwcet.com

**Why not
book a visit
to see our
school?**

St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School
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stmaryandstthomasaquinasblaydon.bwcet.com

