



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

Our journey begins

Please click on the link to watch our celebration of the Word as we opened our Holy Door in school last week. (Please click on the open door to access the clip).

As we explained last week, Pope Francis has invited each of us to take part in the Catholic Church Year of Jubilee. In school we opened our Holy Door and our pilgrimage of hope has started. Each time the children, staff or members of our community pass through the door, we ask each of us to remind ourselves of our intentions and our personal prayers of hope. Each month the children will be dedicating time to our pilgrimage year. You can see these celebrations on our school website.



Feast Day of St Thomas Aquinas

On the 28th January we celebrated the feast day of our school patron, St Thomas Aquinas. Children and staff have reflected on his importance and what he brings to our community. We celebrated St Thomas Aquinas in Mass this week with children, and during staff prayer time, Mrs Bowden dedicated our school prayer to him.

One of Mr Craig's favourite quotes of St Thomas Aquinas is, "To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary." He reminds us that when we have that confidence and trust in God and our faith, anything is possible.

We ask together...

St Thomas Aquinas,
Pray for us.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

"Always know in your heart that God is by your side. Let us never lose hope!"



Children's Mental Health Week 3rd - 9th February 2025

On Friday 7th February, we will be taking part in a non-uniform day to raise money for Places2Be.

This is a mental health charity with over 30 years' experience working with pupils, families and staff in UK schools.

They provide mental health support in schools through one-to-one and group counselling using tried and tested methods backed by research.

This year's theme is 'Know yourself, grow yourself' focusing on the children's talents, interests, and personal growth.

We ask for a small donation of £1 for your child to come to school in non-uniform clothes.



Year 3 Mass Cancelled

The Mass scheduled for Thursday 6th February has been cancelled.

Sorry for any inconvenience caused.



School Opening Times

A reminder that the school gates open at **8.30 a.m.** and it is expected that all children will be in class ready to begin their day by **8.45 a.m.**

If your child arrives after 8.45 a.m. they will need to access the school via the main school office and will be registered with a late mark.

Parking

Can we please remind parents to take into consideration our neighbours when parking at school times. Local residents have contacted school informing us that cars are parked across driveways and as a result people can not access their properties.

Church Parking - Please note that there will be no parking in the Church grounds / car park on the morning of Thursday 6th February.

Year 4 & 5 trip to Segedunum

The children will be visiting the Roman Fort of Segedunum in Wallsend. This will enhance this terms topic. We hope they have a fantastic time and that they have good weather.



Class Liturgy

Year 2 will be taking part in their class liturgy on Friday 7th February at 2.30 p.m. in the school hall. Parents and carers are welcome, this will be followed by coffee and chat with Miss Steel.



Music Camps at Side by Side Arts

Side by Side arts will be hosting a couple of fantastic music camps at their studio in Dunsmuir Grove, Bensham. NE8 4QL

During the February half term Side by Side Arts will spend a day reliving the untold story of the witches of Oz and a day immersed in the world of one of pops biggest icons.

Monday 25th February	Taylor Swift Day
Tuesday 26th February	Wicked Day

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ages 5 - 11

Price £35 per child.

For more information please contact - info@sidebysidearts.org or call 07377884203

Rapid Rubbish Removals

We would like to thank Scott Hamilton and the team from Rapid Rubbish Removals for kindly providing us with two big wheelie bins which have been so useful when we have been tidying up.



Special visitors

It is not long now before we have some special visitors coming to visit our school.

On Tuesday 11th February, we are so excited to meet the team from Animal Encounters who will be bringing a selection of animals and insects for the children to see, touch and learn about.



Food Allergies

Can we please remind parents that we have several children and staff throughout the school with food allergies. Can you please refrain from sending peanut butter and Kiwi fruit in your child's packed lunch boxes.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

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 class 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:

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 1** who will win the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 27th January 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	97.62
Year 1	99.63
Year 2	97.92
Year 3	97.85
Year 4	99.28
Year 5	98.52
Year 6	96.67

Year 5 and Year 6 Girls Football

🏀 Crawcrook United U11s Espanolas Girls (Year 5 & 6) 🏀

We are looking to add further players to our team. It's an exciting opportunity to join a newly formed girls' team. 🗨️

Currently, training is Monday 6pm - 7pm @ Prudhoe High School. 🏠

Then moving training across to Barmoor (Ryton) in the spring.

We play matches on a Sunday in the Durham FA mini soccer league. ⌚ 🏀

If you are interested in joining us, contact Simon at 07894 797684



Spotlight Celebration



Elodie Dalziel - Year 1 - completed her stage 4 swimming level last week. She had a personal target of finishing by 31/1 and made it with a week to spare.



Aila entered her first vocal competition this weekend and came 4th in the musical theatre section, singing McCavity from Cats. Well done!



Martha in Year 4 passed her Rookie Lifeguard Gold, completing the whole award! She has shown incredible strength and resilience and we are very proud of her!



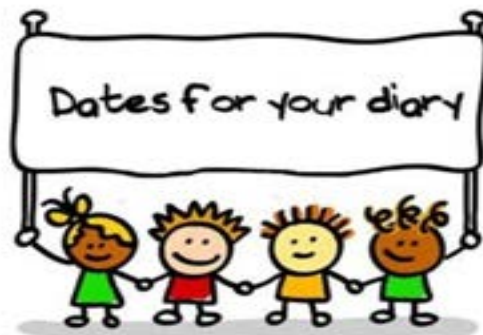
Archie and Isaac from year 2 were awarded players of the week at football. They were fantastic. Well done boys.

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

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 3rd February	Year 4 & 5 visiting Segedunum
Friday 7th February	Year 2 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Friday 7th February	Non Uniform Day
10th - 13th February	Bikeability Year 5 & 6
Tuesday 11th February	Year 6 Assembly 9.10 a.m.
Thursday 13th February	Year 1 Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Thursday 20th February	Whole School Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Monday 24th February - Friday 28th February	Half Term
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday service in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Friday 14th March	Year 1 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Tuesday 18th March	Year 3 Assembly 9.10 a.m.
Friday 21st March	Year 2 visiting Beamish
19th - 26th March	Bookfair
Wednesday 26th March	Dance Festival
Friday 28th March	Year 5 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Tuesday 1st April	Big Sing at St Thomas More for Year 5
Tuesday 1st April	Reception Assembly 9.10 a.m.
Thursday 10th April	Whole School Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Thursday 10th April	Year 6 Parents welcome evening at St Thomas More
Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April	Easter Holidays

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





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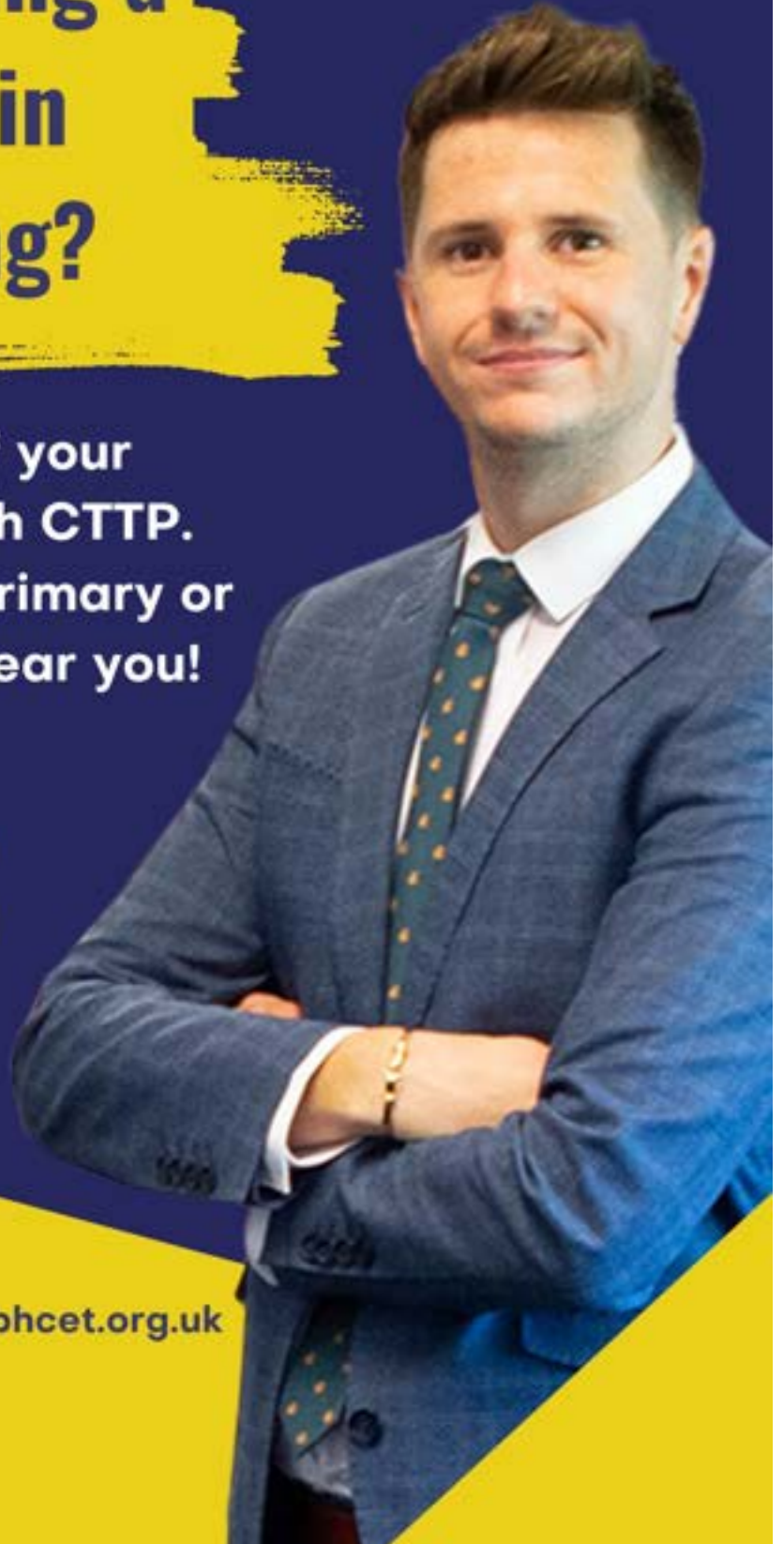
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