



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

Chess

As part of Children's Mental Health week Mr Craig has started up his chess games with children over lunch time. Our school chess captain (Imogen in Y6) has created a list of children who will have the opportunity to play Mr Craig over the remainder of the year during lunch break in the school hall.



Asda Cashpot for schools

Thank you to parents, carers and friends of St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas for using Asda's reward app 'Cashpot for schools'. **We have raised a total of £276.76.** We will let you know how the money will be spend in school to further enhance the provision on offer for your children. We are blown away by your generosity and support.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

"To follow Jesus means to share his love for every human being."



First Confession Group 2024/25

Please keep the Year 4 and Year 5 children from our school in your prayers as they celebrate their First Confession in Church on Saturday.

Just a reminder to the parents of these children, you will need to bring along the children's completed workbooks.



Staff Carpark

A reminder that the school car park is not to be used as a drop off point for children at breakfast club.

Parking

We also continue to get emails and telephone calls from unhappy residents of the Stella community who are unable to access their driveway and in some cases their street. These residents have provided us with photographs. Our advice to them will always be to contact Gateshead Parking Enforcement, our local councillor or the Police as there is little we can do as a school, other than provide the same message of parking considerately of others during the busy pick up and drop off times.

Communion Dress Stock Clearance Sale

West Denton Community Centre will be holding a one day only sale of Brand New Communion Dresses, veils, Tiaras, head bands, and gloves.

This will be on Saturday 22nd February 10.30 - 2.30 p.m.

For more information contact the community centre on

0191 2674242 or

email westdentoncommunitycentre@hotmail.com

Year 1 Mass

The children from Year 1 will be leading Mass on Thursday 13th February at 9.05 a.m.

All are welcome to attend.

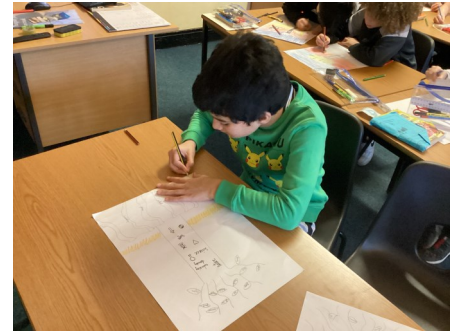
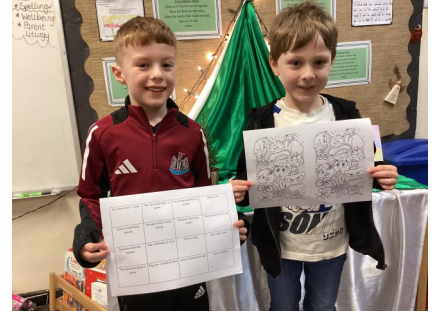


Year 6 Assembly

Parents and carers of Year 6 children are invited to attend their class assembly on Tuesday 11th February 9.10 a.m. in the school hall.

Children's Mental Health Week

Here is a snapshot into school life and the awareness raised around children's mental health.



Wow, what a privilege for Sam to lead the whole parade for Chinese New Year celebrations in Newcastle.



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 6** who will win the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 3rd February 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	95.24
Year 1	98.50
Year 2	98.61
Year 3	97.85
Year 4	98.57
Year 5	98.89
Year 6	99.26

SupaStrikers Gateshead

Supastriker will be holding an afterschool club exclusively for Reception and Year 1 children. They prioritise fun and learning in every session whilst focusing on essential football skill and social development.

Sessions will be held on a Tuesday from 3.30 p.m. to 4.15 p.m.

There are only 12 spaces available!

To join please visit <https://supastrikers-gateshead-as.classforkids.io>

Or for more information WhatsApp - 07466533143

FB - SupaStrikers Gateshead



Bicycle Helmets

We have a few extra children's bikes in Nursery which need a little TLC to turn them into balance bikes. If you have any unwanted children's bicycle helmets that are looking for a new home we will be very grateful. Thank you.



Year 5 / 6 Bikeability

Bikeability will be on next week from Monday 10th until Thursday 13th for those children in Years 5 & 6 who have signed up for it. Bikes can be left all week and we will bring them into school each evening.

Spotlight Celebration



Hannah from Year 2 achieved distinction in her recent tap exam. We are very proud of her.



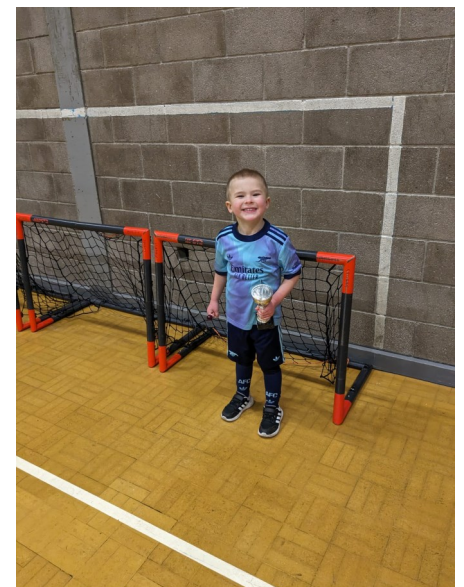
Samuel from Year 1 came 2nd place in his first judo competition at the weekend. He was so excited to see his picture in the newsletter. It was the Tyneside Judo Festival with clubs from all over the North East, he placed 2nd in the 6 to 7 years category.



Well done to Alfie in Year 1 who achieved his 5 meters swimming badge last week.



Hope received player of the week for her defending skills, in her first football session on Saturday. She is super excited to go back this weekend.



Well done to Reuben Mitchell in Reception for getting player of the week from his football sessions with Winlaton football club.

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

Dates for Your Diary

10th - 13th February
Tuesday 11th February
Thursday 13th February
Thursday 20th February

Bikeability Year 5 & 6
Year 6 Assembly 9.10 a.m.
Year 1 Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Whole School Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.

Monday 24th February - Friday 28th February Half Term

Wednesday 5th March
Friday 14th March
Tuesday 18th March
Friday 21st March
19th - 26th March
Wednesday 26th March
Friday 28th March
Tuesday 1st April
Tuesday 1st April
Thursday 10th April
Thursday 10th April

Ash Wednesday service in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Year 1 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Year 3 Assembly 9.10 a.m.
Year 2 visiting Beamish
Bookfair
Dance Festival
Year 5 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Big Sing at St Thomas More for Year 5
Reception Assembly 9.10 a.m.
Whole School Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
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**.





CTTP

Carmel Teacher Training Partnership

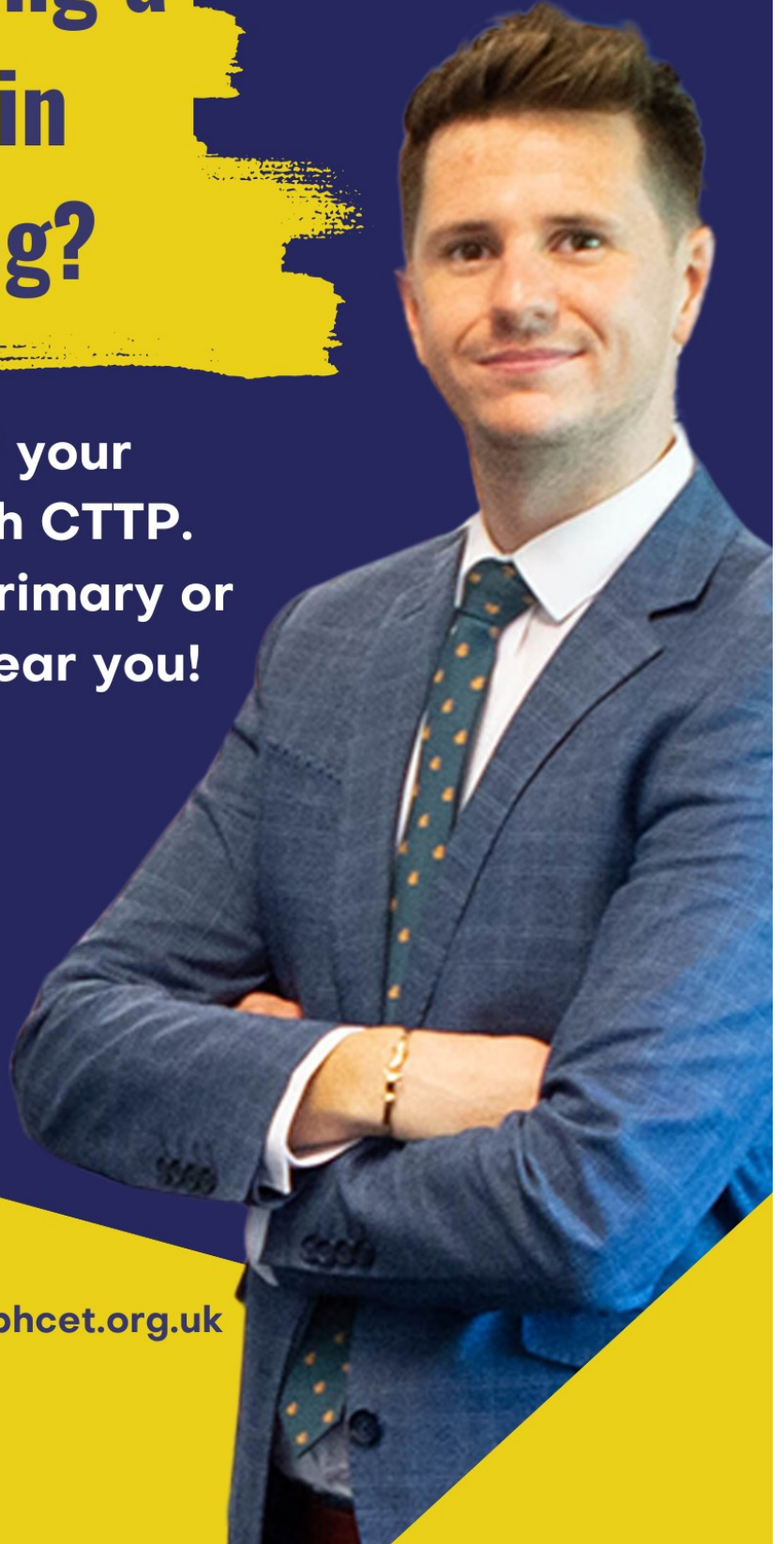
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For further information on how to apply please go to:

WWW.CARMELTEACHERTRAINING.COM