



STELLA Spotlight



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

Almsgiving for Lent

This week the children came to school with their sweet Easter treats to be donated to our local Gateshead Foodbank.

In total we collected 260 treats which will support the Foodbank drive this Easter. The generosity and kindness of our children, staff and everyone within our community is such a wonderful example to all. This Lent, we as a school, have really taken time to think carefully about the deeper meaning of this time of year.

We thank you for your support.



Spring Disco!

This term we will be holding our Spring Discos!

Tickets will cost £1.00 and the money will all be donated to our Lent appeal. Tickets can be purchased from the main school gate 8.30am - 8.45am and 3.20 pm - 3.30pm Monday – Thursday.

The KS1 and EARLY YEARS disco will be on Friday 28th March - please collect children at 4.30pm from the KS2 playground. ***Tickets will be on sale from Monday 24th March.***

The KS2 disco will be on Friday 4th April - please collect children at 4.30pm from the KS2 playground. ***Tickets will be on sale from Monday 31st March.***

On the day...

All children must bring their party clothes in a named bag for them to get changed into at the end of the school day.



Year 5 Liturgy

Parents and Carers are welcome to attend our Year 5 Liturgy on Friday 28th March at 2.30 p.m. in the school hall. This will be followed by Coffee and Chat with the staff.



Whole Class Photographs

On Wednesday 21st May, the photographer will be in school taking whole class photographs. Children who attend Nursery on a Wednesday afternoon are welcome to attend for the full day. Can children please come into school wearing a full school uniform.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

“Lent helps us fight against any of our faults. We all can improve and change for the better.”



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 **4** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 17th March 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	93.25
Year 1	96.67
Year 2	97.57
Year 3	98.21
Year 4	99.28
Year 5	97.41
Year 6	91.48

Guardian Consultations - 7th & 8th April

Bookings can be made via Arbor and will go live from 8 a.m. on Monday 17th March and will close on Friday 28th March at 4 p.m.

Scholastic Book Fair has arrived!

We will be open from 8.30 a.m. until 9 a.m. and from 3.15 p.m. until 4 p.m.

As the school hall is used most mornings and afternoons, the bookcases will be in the corridor beside the school office. (Friday afternoon we will be able to hold the bookfair in the hall).

School will receive a donation from every book purchased.

Children will be able to use their World Book Day vouchers at the fair. A QR code will be available for parents to make electronic payments and we will also be able to take cash on the day.

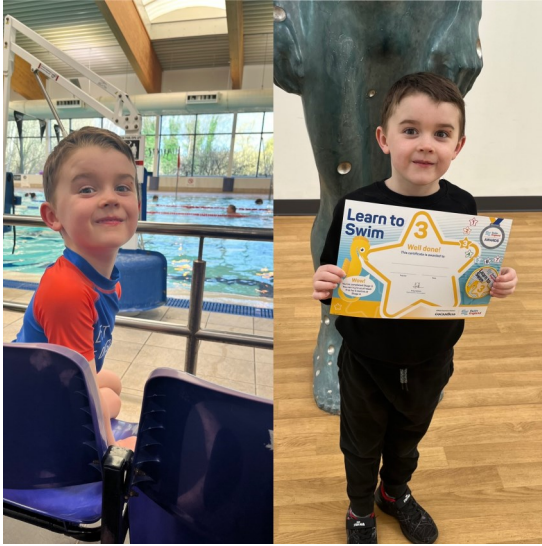
The last session will be on Tuesday afternoon 25th March.

Breakfast Club

Can we please remind everyone to use the zebra crossings in school. We try our very best to not have vehicles coming in and out of school during our busy times however the crossings are part of our safety measures in school and they must be used at all times to stay safe



Spotlight Celebration



Wow, Alfie has now passed his stage 3 swimming and has moved up to the big swimming pool! Well done.



Aila took part in the Pendle dance festival this weekend and was awarded 4 gold medals, 2 silver medals. She also received Adjudicator's choice in the junior section, 3rd in junior Pendle dancer and top marks as part of her trio dance.



Ella received player of the match on Sunday. She was all over the pitch first half and was unfortunate not to pick up a goal in the second, with good runs and dribbling.



Darcey passed her Grade 1 Theatre Craft exam with a merit and also took part in the Pendle dance festival at the weekend and placed 1st for her song and dance.



Tax in nursery has passed his ducklings stages 3 and 4, and is now in stage 1, after just 5 swimming lessons.

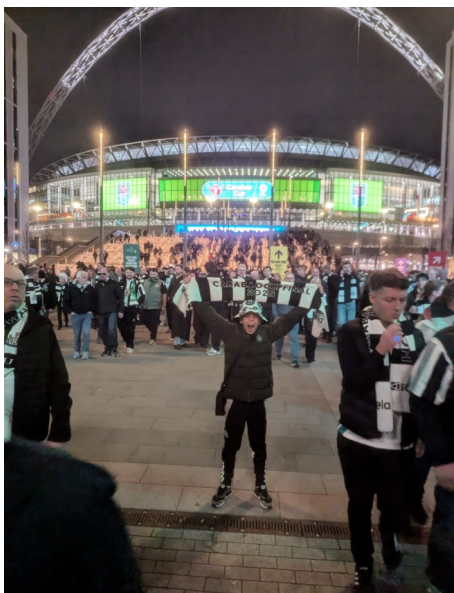
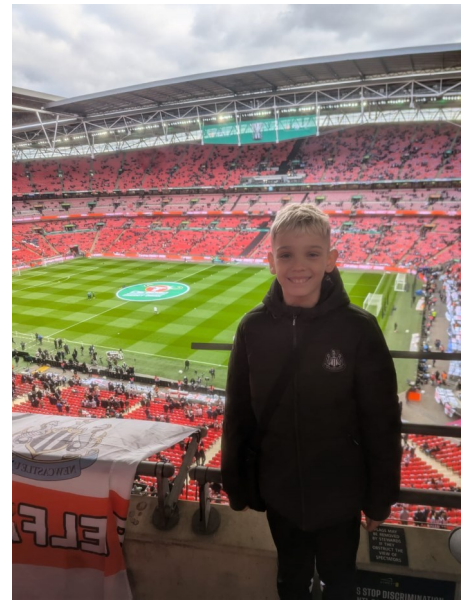
We would love to see more achievements, works of art or an event that you are proud of. Please send them to hgreen@stmb.bwcet.com



Toon News



It's fair to say we were walking in a Dan Brown wonderland on Sunday. Our children, staff and families thoroughly enjoyed the achievement of our beloved Newcastle United. Here are a few snap shots sent in by families in our community. Toon, Toon, Black & White Army!



Sebastian was off poorly on Wednesday, but still participated in dress up day.

Dates for Your Diary

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.
Monday 7th April	Guardian Consultations
Tuesday 8th April	Guardian Consultations
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	
Thursday 1st May	Whole School Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Friday 9th May	Year 4 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Friday 9th May	Year 2 visiting the Great North Museum
Tuesday 13th May	Year 1 Assembly
Tuesday 20th May	Year 2 Visiting Whitley Bay
Wednesday 21st May	Class Photographs
Thursday 22nd May	Whole School Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Thursday 22nd May	Year 4 & 5 visiting Durham Oriental Museum
Friday 23rd May	Year 4 Attending Gateshead Fun Run at Saltwell Park
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May Half Term	
Inset Day	
Monday 2nd June	Year 5 attending YMT retreat
4th - 6th June	Year 6 Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Thursday 5th June	Pentecost Parade
Friday 6th June	Year 5 Mass
Thursday 12th June	Year 3 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Friday 13th June	First Holy Communion Day
Saturday 14th June	Year 2 Assembly
Tuesday 17th June	Year 4 leading - Whole School Mass
Thursday 19th June	Year 6 Team Building
Wednesday 25th June	Year 6 attending Primary Festival
Thursday 26th June	Year 1 Mass
Thursday 26th June	Year 6 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Friday 27th June	Year 6 Transition Day
Tuesday 1st June	Year 6 attending Robinwood Residential
2nd July - 4th July	Year 3 Mass
Thursday 3rd July	Year 2 Mass
Thursday 10th July	Year 6 Transition Day
Friday 11th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass - Whole School Attending
Thursday 17th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 4 p.m.
Thursday 17th July	

Monday 21st July - Friday 29th August - Summer Holidays

The start of the Autumn term 2025 is Monday 1st September 2025 (This is an inset day)

(First Day back for children will be Tuesday 2nd September)

Please note that if any of these
new date in **Red**.

dates change we highlight the



It all starts with...



We all play at:

Ryton Cricket Club

Session dates:

9th May - 4th July

No session 30th May due to Half Term

Session timings:

17:30 - 18:30

Ages:

5 to 8 years old

Contact:

Ben Perry

07583265818

benperry981@gmail.com

Including a FREE personalised t-shirt, bat, ball and backpack



Sign up today at
allstarscricket.co.uk

