



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

Happy Easter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another term in school, I wanted to take a moment to wish each and every one of you a very happy and blessed Easter. This sacred season reminds us of hope and renewal.

Lent has been a time of reflection and preparation for us in school having taken part in food bank drives, almsgiving and our Big Lent Walk.

Now as we enter the Easter break it is a time for us to celebrate new life, not only in the world around us as spring unfolds, but also within our hearts as a school community.

As always, I am deeply grateful for your continued support, dedication and faith, all of which that make our school such a special place.

I wish you all a restful and joy filled holiday.

Take care,

Mr J. Craig.

All the Best

As we know, Miss Hudson is taking up a new post as Head of School at one of our Trust schools. It is a fantastic opportunity for her, one which we know she will thrive within. We wish her all the very best in her new role and we look forward to hearing all about it when she comes back to visit.

A huge thank you to Miss Hudson from all of us here at Stella.



Welcome

A huge Stella welcome to Mr Reay who will be joining our team after the Easter break. Mr Reay will be taking over the Year 5 class teacher role following Miss Hudson's departure.



This week Pope Francis reminds us,

"Happy Easter! May you bring to all the joy and hope of the Risen Christ!"



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

Week beginning: Monday 7th April 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	95.63
<i>Year 1</i>	92.19
<i>Year 2</i>	92.01
<i>Year 3</i>	94.98
<i>Year 4</i>	97.13
<i>Year 5</i>	97.78
<i>Year 6</i>	97.41

Arbor

Please could you log onto Arbor to make any payments for school meals or school trips. This facility will still be available over the holidays and will be a good opportunity to clear any outstanding debts

New Starters

We will be holding two information afternoons for children who are due to start our Nursery and Reception class in the new academic Year 25-26.

New Reception parents are welcome on Monday 31st June at 4.30 p. m. in the school hall and new Nursery parents are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday 1st July also at 4.30 p.m. in the school hall.

These are generally information meetings for the new parents only. Unfortunately we can not accommodate children at these events

Year 3 visiting the Farm

Children from Year 3 will be visiting Wheelbirks farm on Tuesday 29th April. We hope that they have a lovely day with fabulous weather.



TRY GIRLS RUGBY



DATE **24TH APRIL**

Girls
8-17 Years Old

Venue:
Ryton RFC, NE40 3AG

11-1pm
Come for rugby stay for pizza

Register on the link below:



Girls Rugby Day

On the 24th of April Ryton rugby club is hosting an event to try and get more girls to participate in the sport.

This is open to girls from Year 4 onwards.

The event will start from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. (it will be non-contact rugby)

The women's section who have just won the league and are in the county cup final and the national cup semi final will be on hand to help train and chat with the girls.

There will be pizza afterwards inside the club. If you already have girls who play in any of the ages grades at Ryton already; please bring them along for a fun day.

Bicycle Helmets

Our Nursery is looking for Bicycle helmets. If your child has outgrown theirs and would like to see it go to a good home, the Nursery staff would really appreciate them.

Thank you



BIRTLEY COMMUNITY POOL

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 16



What's Inside ?

Easter Timetable

Make the most of your Easter break with extra fun in the pool! Check out our full schedule and join us for a splash this Easter!

New Membership Options

Starting April 28th, we're offering new membership plans including family and junior options. Get more flexibility with memberships that suit all ages and families.

Parking Reminders

Some important reminders and updates about our Parking Eye system to help you avoid fines. Make sure you're entering your registration every visit.

Volunteers Needed

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help at the pool. If you're interested in supporting our community, get in touch - we'd love to have you on board!

EXCITING UPDATES FOR APRIL

Spring is here, and we have plenty of exciting activities planned for you at Birtley Community Pool!

From special Easter holiday sessions to new membership options, there's something for everyone.

Don't miss our Inflatable Fun Sessions running throughout the holidays - perfect for the family! Come along, join the fun, and make a splash this Easter at Birtley Community Pool!

Thank you for being part of our community - we'd like to wish everyone a Happy Easter!

There are lots of exciting Easter events happening at Birtley Community Pool. Please click on the image for further information.



YEAR 6 PARENTS

Great news! But action needed promptly...

We are pleased to announce that (for a limited time) we can support Year 6 pupils with brand-new Secondary uniform, ready for September, if in receipt of benefits. Proof of benefits is required. Proof of child's age is required.

Our usual preloved uniform markets at Blaydon are pay as you feel for all, however thanks to the funding that we have received recently, we are able to offer free brand-new Secondary uniform support to Y6 children whose family are in receipt of benefits.

We do have limited resources available, so please complete the form below as soon as possible. For those who are eligible, uniform-purchasing assistance will be first come, first served. Here is the form...

<https://forms.gle/pxQ9oWaHlj2sUAq8>



Any issues or questions please contact us...
contact@GatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk
07554057674 or 07442089672

Whole School Mass

All children will be attending a school Mass on Thursday 1st May at 9.05 a.m. in church. All are welcome to attend.

Water Bottles

As the sun has started to shine this week, can I remind parents that children will need to bring water bottles into school for P.E. lessons and to keep hydrated throughout the day. Please note that we do not keep any spare drinking cups in school now.

Spotlight Celebration



Mateo and Edo both achieved their Karate Green belts on Monday.
Well done boys.



Well done to Owen, Year 1 for achieving his orange belt in Karate.



Wow, what an honour for William in Year 6, William and his dad went to see Newcastle United's new trophy.

Golden ticket celebrations



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

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April Easter Holidays

Tuesday 29th April	Year 3 visiting Wheelbirks Farm
Thursday 1st May	Whole School Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Wednesday 7th May	Year 1 Assembly
Friday 9th May	Year 4 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Friday 9th May	Year 2 visiting the Great North Museum
Friday 16th May	Non Uniform Day
Monday 19th May	Inset Day
Tuesday 20th May	Year 1 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

Monday 2nd June	Inset Day
4th - 6th June	Year 5 attending YMT retreat
Thursday 5th June	Year 6 Mass in Church at 9.05 a.m.
Friday 6th June	Pentecost Parade
Thursday 12th June	Year 5 Mass
Friday 13th June	Year 3 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Saturday 14th June	First Holy Communion Day
Tuesday 17th June	Year 2 Assembly
Thursday 19th June	Year 4 leading - Whole School Mass
Friday 20th June	Year 6 Liturgy followed by coffee and chat
Wednesday 25th June	Year 6 Team Building
Thursday 26th June	Year 1 Mass
Friday 27th June	Athletics Festival at Gateshead Stadium
Friday 27th June	Year 6 attending Primary Festival (27th NOT 26th)
Tuesday 1st July	Year 6 Transition Day
2nd July - 4th July	Year 6 attending Robinwood Residential
Thursday 3rd July	Year 3 Mass
Thursday 10th July	Year 2 Mass
Friday 11th July	Year 6 Transition Day
Thursday 17th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass - Whole School Attending
Thursday 17th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 4 p.m.

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 dates change we highlight the new date in **Red**.

