



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

## A Reflection on a Wonderful Year

What a truly wonderful year it has been at our school. Looking back, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for everything we have achieved together as a community.

This year, we have welcomed many visitors through our doors, and there is one comment that comes up time and time again: that our school is always calm, and our classrooms are filled with joy. This is something that resonates deeply with me, as I have always shared with children and staff that my favourite word is *joy*. Seeing our children express this daily — in their learning, in their friendships, and in the way they support one another — means more to me than I could ever put into words.

There have been so many highlights this year that have captured this spirit of joy and community. Our football teams have had an incredibly successful season, showing both skill and determination that make us all proud. Our nativity productions were magical, reminding us of the wonder of the Christmas story through the eyes of our talented children. We celebrated Pentecost with a beautiful parade, and of course, we cannot forget the tremendous achievement of being rated *Outstanding in all areas* by Ofsted - a testament to the dedication and love shown by our entire school family.

We have enjoyed a fantastic Stellafest, our vibrant sports day, exciting residential trips, Lent walks through Stella Woods, and a heartwarming leavers' performance. Our children had the special opportunity to perform at The Glasshouse, showcasing their incredible talents to the wider community. We also held our very own Children's Cancer Run, a powerful example of how our school comes together to support important causes.

Each of these moments and many more not mentioned have highlighted the strength, joy, and spirit of our community. It is, as always, a pleasure and a true privilege to be the headteacher of this remarkable school. The joy this year has brought to my heart is immeasurable.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we do so with a renewed commitment to strive for the very best, always inspired by the Gospel values that guide us.

Here's to another year of joy, growth, and shared success.

I thank you all for your continued support.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer break.

Take care,

Mr Craig



These will be finalised over the summer and will be sent out in the first week of Autumn term.



"Open up your heart and listen to what God is saying to you." Pope Francis

# STELLA FEST

2025

Thank you for joining us at Stellafest. The atmosphere was everything we hoped for and more.

It was a true celebration of community spirit.

It is always a privilege to be part of something so special, and Stellafest was no exception. Thank you for your continued support, to our dedicated staff for their hard work in organising the event, and to our wonderful children for making Stellafest a true ray of sunshine.

Our grand total of money raised was £2153.59.



# RAFFLE

STELLA  
FEST  
2025

# WINNERS!

- Michelangelo's voucher - **Owen W**
- Blossom Beauty gel manicure- **Euan P**
- Vanity Beauty brow treatment- **Amelia R**
- Sophie's Beauty gel pedicure- **Georgie T**
- EMPAS voucher- **Penny P**
- Body Sculpt vouchers- **Emmie & Lucy J**
- Branzino's voucher- **Charlie E**
- Stargate Chippy voucher- **Mrs McDonald**
- Dare cut and blow dry voucher- **Carys F**
- Starbucks Gifts & vouchers- **Phoebe B, Molly C, Ellen R & Joe R**
- Tan Line vouchers- **Oliver D & Zavia**
- Grassroots Summer Camp x2 places- **Leo S & Finn B**
- Suki Hairdressers voucher- **Aggy**
- Ollie and Joe's voucher- **Millie M**
- Claud's- **Dixie H**
- Cafe Ginevra voucher- **Mrs Bowden**
- ShyBairn Studios voucher- **Grace W**
- Coop Ryton gift- **Sam R**
- Teddy Bear Hamper- Coop Funeral Care- **Reuben M & Luca M**
- Redbull Hamper- **Seb & Nathan**
- Pumphrey's gifts- **Henry Mc**
- Le Petit Playhouse voucher- **Henry D**
- The Castle vouchers- **Dylan L & Luca Mar**
- Bath Bomb making kit- **Scarlett K**
- Bracelet making kit- **Hannah**
- Salted Caramel Vodka- **Paul King**
- Aperol Spritz- **Ian Harding**
- Kirkland Margarita- **Samuel B**
- Prosecco- **Zach S**
- Hanging basket- **Tom L**
- Sanctuary Spa set- **Fraser D**
- Gin- **Oakley**
- Kitchen Roll- **Lola D**
- Toilet Roll- **Millie K**

## 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 also have our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in school, Mrs Bennison (Assistant Headteacher/ Year 6 class teacher).

If you are unable to speak to Mr Craig, you can speak to Mrs Bennison 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 won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 14th July 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	98.41
Year 1	94.44
Year 2	93.06
Year 3	99.28
Year 4	91.76
Year 5	95.79
Year 6	100

## Whole School Mass

There will be a whole school Mass on Thursday 4th September 9.10 a.m. in church.  
All are welcome to attend



## Parking

Please can you consider our local residents when parking your car at drop off times. Parents have been blocking drive ways and parking dangerously with one resident calling school to say that they were verbally abused when they asked a parent to move their car.



## School Menu 2025 - 2026

Menu Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> choice</b>	Tomato & basil pasta with broccoli or veggie sticks & garlic dough balls	Sliced Gammon & Yorkshire pudding with roast & mashed potato, green beans, carrots & gravy	Chicken curry with rice, naan bread & pea & sweetcorn medley	Mince & dumplings with mashed potato, vegetable trio & gravy	Fish portion, chips, peas & curry sauce
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Choice</b>	Macaroni cheese with broccoli or vegetable sticks & garlic dough balls	Quorn fillet & Yorkshire pudding with roast & mashed potato, green beans, carrots & gravy	Sweet potato & vegetable curry with rice, naan bread & pea & sweetcorn medley	Veggie mince & dumplings with mashed potato, vegetable trio & gravy	Vegetable & cheese pattie, chips, peas & curry sauce
<b>Jacket Potato</b>	Baked beans & cheese with mixed salad	Tuna mayo with mixed salad	Cheese with mixed salad	Tuna mayo with mixed salad	Baked beans with mixed salad
<b>Deli Option</b>	Tuna & cucumber	Cheese savoury	Chicken & sweetcorn	Cheese & ham panini melt	Egg mayonnaise
<b>Dessert</b>	Schools' choice cake & custard	Schools' choice cookie	Crispy cake with orange wedges	Ice cream with peaches & strawberry sauce	Apple crumble muffin

Menu Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> choice</b>	All day breakfast – omelette, veggie sausage pattie, baked beans & mini waffles	Chicken fillet & Yorkshire pudding with baby boiled potatoes, cabbage, carrots & gravy	Lasagne with salad or vegetable sticks & French bread	Chicken bites with special fried rice, sweet & sour sauce, sweetcorn & pea medley	Fish cake with skinny fries & garden peas
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Choice</b>	Toasted cheese & tomato panini with mini waffles & baked beans or vegetable sticks	Quorn fillet & Yorkshire pudding with baby boiled potatoes, cabbage, carrots & gravy	Tomato pasta with cheese topping, salad or vegetable sticks & French bread	Veggie bites with special fried rice, sweet & sour sauce, sweetcorn & pea medley	Veggie bake with skinny fries & garden peas
<b>Jacket Potato</b>	Baked beans & cheese with mixed salad	Tuna mayo with mixed salad	Cheese with mixed salad	Tuna mayo with mixed salad	Baked beans with mixed salad
<b>Deli Option</b>	Tuna & cucumber	Cheese savoury	Chicken & sweetcorn	Cheese & ham panini melt	Egg mayonnaise
<b>Dessert</b>	Schools' choice steamed sponge & custard	Schools' choice cookie	Jelly & fruit	Mango or strawberry smoothie & fruit cocktail	Fruity flapjack & apple slices

Menu Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> choice</b>	Mini margarita pizza with diced potatoes & baked beans or vegetable sticks	Sausages with Yorkshire pudding, mashed potato, mixed vegetables & gravy	Chicken wrap with sunshine rice & salad or vegetable sticks	Mince pie with mashed potato, broccoli & carrot mix & gravy	Fish fingers with chips, peas & ketchup
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Choice</b>	Schools' choice pasta with tomato or cheese, vegetable sticks & garlic bread	Veggie sausages with Yorkshire pudding, mashed potato, mixed vegetables & gravy	Veggie wrap with sunshine rice & salad or vegetable sticks	Cheese & sweet potato parcel with mashed potato, broccoli & carrot mix & gravy	Veggie fingers with chips, peas & ketchup
<b>Jacket Potato</b>	Baked beans & cheese with mixed salad	Tuna mayo with mixed salad	Cheese with mixed salad	Tuna mayo with mixed salad	Baked beans with mixed salad
<b>Deli Option</b>	Tuna & cucumber	Cheese savoury	Chicken & sweetcorn	Cheese & ham panini melt	Egg mayonnaise
<b>Dessert</b>	Schools' choice cake & custard	Schools' choice cookie	Pancakes with bananas & toffee sauce	Ice cream roll & fruit	Chocolate brownie

## Spotlight Celebration



Well done to Rory and Fraser Year 3 who got their yellow belts at karate on Monday.



Freya Jordan recently sat her Initial Exam in Piano and received a Merit. Well done Freya on all of your hard work and time spent practicing!



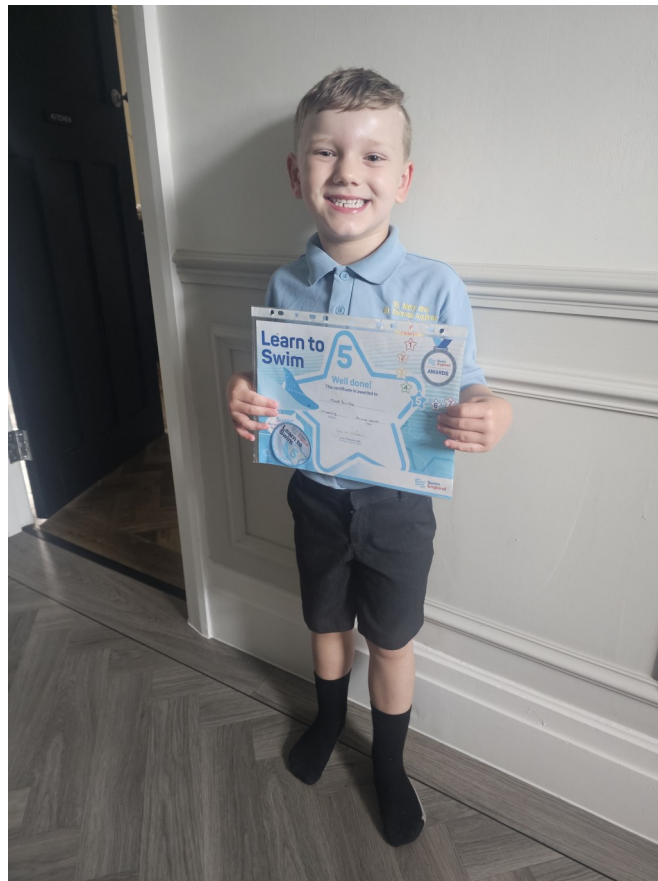
Addy Lanning Year 1 passed her Second Grading in Kickboxing, which was essentially 3hrs of fitness tests, technique, combos, sparring. Out of class of 25 (mostly adults) she was only 1 of 3 people to pass the additional fitness test at the end. She's working hard to eventually get to black belt before her Dad.



Fearne and Blake Smith took part in the Pretty Muddy 5k cancer run at the weekend in the sweltering heat. So proud of them.

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](mailto:hgreen@stmb.bwcet.com)

## Spotlight Celebration



Mack achieved his level 5 in swimming last night. Well done.



Ella and Lucy passed stage 4 at swimming last night. Well done girls.

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](mailto:hgreen@stmb.bwcet.com)

## Spotlight Celebration



Casper received star of the week at football this weekend- so proud of him only 8 weeks following major surgery



Some of our children took part in a performance of Matilda the Musical with the Ryton Singers Musical Theatre group.



Amari was in action last weekend at her first Show-cross event, a combination of showjumping and cross country jumping. She rode her heart out and came a very respectable 4th place! Well done!



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](mailto:hgreen@stmb.bwcet.com)

## Annual nasal flu spray

Your child's annual flu vaccination will be due from September 2025.

This vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu. The vaccine will help prevent them catching the flu. Vaccinating your child will also help protect vulnerable friends and family by reducing the spread of flu.

The intra-nasal flu vaccine is effective in protecting your child against flu.

A flu vaccine can be given as an injection in the upper arm if you do not wish for your child to receive a vaccine containing porcine gelatin. Children from Reception age to Year 6 will be offered a clinic appointment at one of our community clinics.

The online consent can be accessed via any online device. Please click on the following link <https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> which will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete using the following school code **NB149052**

Consent submissions will close 48 working hours before the school session date. You can call to complete a consent after that but may have to attend a clinic instead.

**If you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccination, please complete a non-consent, this can be completed on the same form by selecting NO this will also stop any further communications from our team.**

Please note children aged 18 still attending school will need to go to their GP to receive their flu vaccination.

Yours sincerely,

Northumbria Healthcare School Aged Immunisation Service.

**If your child becomes wheezy or has their asthma medication increased after you have completed the form, please inform the immunisation service.** For further information see: [Annual flu programme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/annual-flu-programme)

# flu: 5 reasons to have the vaccine

## 1. Protect yourself

The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

## 2. Protect your family and friends

Having the vaccine will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

## 3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

## 4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions worldwide and has an excellent safety record

## 5. Avoid lost opportunities

If you get flu, you may be unwell for several days and not be able to do the things you enjoy

For more information visit  
[www.nhs.uk/child-flu](https://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

## Dates for Your Diary

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**.

### St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School Term Dates 2025 - 2026

<b>Autumn Term 1</b>	<b>Monday 1st September 2025 to Friday 24th October 2025</b> <i>(Inset day Monday 1st September 2025)</i>
School Holiday	Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025
<b>Autumn Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 3rd November 2025 to Friday 19th December 2025</b>
School Holiday	Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026
<b>Spring Term 1</b>	<b>Monday 5th January 2026 to Friday 20th February 2026</b>
School Holiday	Monday 23rd February 2026 to Friday 27th February 2026
<b>Spring Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 2nd March 2026 to Thursday 2nd April 2026</b>
School Holiday	Monday 3rd April 2026 to Friday 17th April 2026
<b>Summer Term 1</b>	<b>Monday 20th April 2026 to Friday 22nd May 2026</b>
School Holiday	Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026
<b>Summer Term 2</b>	<b>Monday 1st June 2026 to Friday 17th July 2026</b> (Inset day Monday 1st June 2026) (Inset days on the 20th & 21st July 2026)

(One more inset day is planned for a Polling Day, dates to be confirmed)