



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

### Sports Days

Please see our timetable for our annual Sports Day events.

#### Monday 7th July - Key Stage 1 Sports Day

Gates will open at 1.15 p.m. for the event to start at 1.30 p.m.

#### Tuesday 8th July - Key stage 2 Sports Day

Gates will open at 1.15 p.m. for the event to start at 1.30 p.m.



Please ensure that you child has their P.E. kit in school next week and that they have their water bottles in school and have suncream applied before they arrive to school on the day.

### Stella Fest - Wednesday 16th July

As the date of Stellafest 2025 quickly approaches - we need your help!

We are looking for donations for our tombola stall and items for raffle prizes. These could be unwanted Christmas or birthday gifts, confectionary or bottles.

If you work for a company who would like to donate a prize or a gift that we could use, we would be very grateful.

Next week we will be sending home raffle tickets with the children for you to purchase before the day. We will still be selling tickets on the day also.



GLITTER TATTOOS | HAIR TINSEL |  
MINIATURES | PENALTY SHOOT OUT |  
SPLAT THE TEACHER | CRAFTS | CREPES  
BRI'S FRIES | REFRESHMENTS |  
TOMBOLA | RAFFLE | SWEET STALL  
HULK HANDS GRAB | RING TOSS  
& MUCH MORE

### School Mass

Year 2 children will be leading Mass on Thursday 10th July 9.10 a.m. in church. All are welcome to attend.

### Leavers Mass

Our Year 6 children will be presenting their leavers Mass in Church on Thursday 17th July at 9.10 a.m. All are very welcome to attend.



"It is in the human heart that God's kingdom takes root and grows."  
Pope Francis

## 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 **Reception** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 30th June 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	100
<i>Year 1</i>	97.41
<i>Year 2</i>	97.92
<i>Year 3</i>	98.57
<i>Year 4</i>	96.42
<i>Year 5</i>	95.40
<i>Year 6</i>	96.67

## Nursery & Reception Parents Meetings 2025 - 2026

We had lots of new parents attend our meetings this week and it was lovely to see you all.

If you could not attend any of the meetings and have not yet received your handout, please contact Miss Green on [hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com](mailto:hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com) who will address this.

Nursery parents who took their paperwork home on Tuesday, can they please return the completed forms to the office as soon as possible.

## First Communions in 2026!

If your child will be in Year 4 from September 2025, or is older, and wishes to celebrate their First Confession and First Holy Communion at Stella in 2026, it's now time to collect the application form from the table at the back of church.

The bright yellow forms cannot be missed - they are very yellow!!!

As well as the application itself, the form also includes the dates of all the major celebrations between now and the middle of June 2026 - handy for your diaries, giving you almost a year's notice for holidays, family gatherings etc., so that there are no clashes

Completed forms need to be returned to Fr. Rose (not the school!), by Sunday, 20th July at the very latest. If you have any queries regarding the programme of preparation for these sacraments, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Fr. Rose.

## Arbor School Lunch payments

As we are fast approaching the end of the school academic year, can I please remind parents about school meal payments. These **MUST** be paid on a regular basis. All accounts must be cleared before your child breaks up for the summer holiday.

If you are having problems with Arbor or would like help with this matter, please contact the school office. (hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com)

## Gardening Club

For the last session, gardening club scheduled for Tuesday 8th July, will now take place on Friday 11th July. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.



## 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.

If you just 'drop off' your child, please ensure that you have stopped in a safe place and not blocking the road to other traffic and that children can safely get past the stationary car.

## Swimming Lessons

The last swimming lesson for our Year 3 children for this academic year will take place on Friday 11th July.

## Grassroots

On Wednesday 9th July, the grassroots will be holding the last after school club. Children have been informed that they are allowed to bring in 'Nerf Water guns' as it will be a wet last lesson weather permitting.

## Spanish Club

The last Spanish after school club will be on Thursday 17th July.

## Choir

Tuesday 15th July will be the last choir after school club.

## Gardening Club

Please note that the last gardening club will be on **FRIDAY 11th** July.

## Tennis Club

The last tennis session will be on Thursday 10th July.

## Football Club

Tuesday 15th will be the last session of Supakickers football club

POLITE NOTICE

THINK  
BEFORE YOU  
PARK!



YOU COULD ENDANGER A CHILD'S LIFE

## Gateshead Athletics Festival

On Friday, our KS2 Athletics team competed - along with 45 other schools - in the Gateshead Athletics Festival at Gateshead Stadium. Every child was incredible and we couldn't be prouder of this team. They supported each other and cheered each other on until the very end. Managing to get every child to a semi-final, 7 finals (including every relay team) a first place medal for Amari winning a gold medal and Mason got a bronze medal for third place. Well done Team Stella, your sportsmanship, behaviour and team spirit, as always, was outstanding. Bring on next year!



## Spotlight Celebration



Earlier in the week, Elena (Year 2) did a track session running 5km non-stop in 26 minutes 56 seconds! She absolutely smashed it and then went on to do her swimming lesson!

Luca (Reception) attended his first football presentation receiving an award and a medal, we are super proud of him!



Sam was awarded the most improved player award at his basketball club, which is an achievement as the team plays in the highest league at Newcastle eagles, and Sam is playing in a higher age group team.



Anya won a Northumberland Ladies County golf competition this weekend - the Smith Herbert Trophy (9 holes), which happened at Tynemouth Golf Club. The image is of Anya with her team mate and the County president.



Harry was nominated for his club shield for being an all around good team player and received a medal from his football team.

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



Nathan in Year 4 had his basketball and football presentations at the weekend. He received best defensive player in basketball and coaches player of the season in football.



Henry Phipps (Year 5) received the player of the season award for his football team – Crawcrook Utd Valencia



Jack and Luke completed the CHUF toddler on Sunday and raised £120 for this brilliant charity



Harry was awarded the Players players trophy at his football presentation. Well done Harry!



Grace scored lots of goals at football this week and was very excited to bring the trophy home!

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



Luis was nominated for his coach under the following

### "Utd U10 Galacticos Shield nomination: Luis Felipe Deacon

A true champion of Crawcrook United and the club values and ethos that it holds. He displays all four pillars of the club's mantra in everything he does. This player never misses a training session or match, and always brings with him a positive attitude and desire to do the best he can do for the team.

He is an incredible teammate. A very popular member of the team both on the pitch and off the pitch. He works hard for his teammates in matches and training, and also brings a very bubbly personality off the pitch in social gatherings and team events/tournaments.

This attitude means he is a real inspiration for his teammates. He leads by example on and off the pitch. He encourages others both on and off the pitch, regularly showing empathy towards teammates if they hurt themselves or struggle to do certain skills. This has even stretched to showing real sportsmanship against opposition teams, checking on opponents if they go down injured, always shaking hands after the game and congratulating opposition players if they produce some nice play.

Total respect for referees, coaches and parents. But most importantly his teammates, he shows total respect to all players and abilities and is incredibly popular amongst the squad. Always plays with a smile and is a pleasure to coach every week. A great example to other players, he shows desire and determination for the club badge every week.

Such is his dedication to the club that this has seen him bring all of his qualities to help with the U11 Espanyol as girls team. Attending every training session with a great attitude, not being phased by it and playing in goal to help the team be able to play competitive matches. Always with a smile on his face with an inspiring attitude.

## 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-2025)

# 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

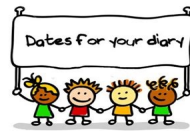
For more information visit  
[www.nhs.uk/child-flu](https://www.nhs.uk/child-flu)

## Dates for Your Diary

Monday 7th July	Keystage 1 Sports Day - Gates open at 1.15 p.m. for a 1.30 p.m. start
Tuesday 8th July	Keystage 2 Sports Day - Gates open at 1.15 p.m. for a 1.30 p.m. start
Thursday 10th July	Year 2 Mass
Friday 11th July	Class transition morning
Wednesday 16th July	Stella Fest 25
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**.



### 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)