



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for your understanding with school attendance. As you are aware we follow our Trust policy and therefore communication around attendance will be quite regular throughout the year. I know that no two patterns of attendance will be the same and I always take into consideration, bouts of sickness, illness and other external circumstances which can have an impact on a child attending school. Our communication comes from both an informative stand and very much supportive, should our families require it.

I appreciate all of the support I have received from parents around attendance and making sure our children are in school, on time and ready to learn. The positive impact of great attendance is huge both socially and academically, and from seeing the children in school throughout the day they thrive on this.

Attendance is a national agenda within the education sector, however as a school community we have responded so well and already within the first few weeks of the academic year I can see our statutory attendances sits around 98.3% which is fantastic.

Thank you all for your continued support around this topic.

Mr. Craig

Curriculum Evenings

These will be held in the classrooms from 4.00 p.m.

22nd Sept - Year 1 & Year 2
23rd Sept - Nursery & Reception
24th Sept - Year 3 & Year 4
25th Sept - Year 5 & Year 6

Phonics Evenings

These will be held in the classroom.

Tuesday 16th 3.30 p.m. for
Year 1 parents
Thursday 18th 3.30 p.m. for
Reception parents.
Children can wait in the Year 2
classroom whilst parents attend
the meetings

Reception Liturgy

Children from Reception class will be holding a welcome Liturgy for their parents on Tuesday 23rd September. This will held in the school hall commencing at 2.30 p.m. Parents attending the curriculum afternoon at 4 p.m. are welcome to stay in the hall after the Liturgy. We hope to see as many as possible for both events.

Nasal Flu Spray - Consent required - Reception to Year 6

Your child's annual flu vaccination will take place on Tuesday 11th November.

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.

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, this will be offered at 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**.

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.



“Love each other as Jesus has loved us. He has given nothing less than his life for us.”
St Teresa of Calcutta

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 2 class teacher and senior leader), Mrs McDonald (Year 4 teacher) and our business manager Miss Foster.

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.

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 Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who will share the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 8th September 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	100
Year 1	100
Year 2	100
Year 3	94.61
Year 4	99.28
Year 5	96.06
Year 6	98.81

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. Could you also refrain from parking at the entrance to Stella Park housing estate on the footpath where the planters are. This restricts the view of cars pulling out of the estate.

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.



Date for your diary - MacMillan Coffee Morning

on

Friday 26th September in the school hall.

More information to follow in next week's spotlight.



Spotlight Celebration



What a busy summer the boys have had, they firstly passed their purple belt in karate and they then became big brothers to their sister Emilia.



Talia Proud in Year 5 walked away with the runner up prize at the North East Charity Awards last night.

This award was for her outstanding contribution to volunteering during the Benwell Explosion.

Well done Talia!

Luca Rawlinson in Reception class achieved trainer of the week at his football development session last week at Newcastle city juniors football club. He showed good listening, asked lots of questions and excellent defending!



On Saturday Zoe travelled to Dundee to compete in the 11th Open Kanzen Cup. Zoe entered both Team and Individual Kata events. In two categories Zoe qualified to the finals. Winning a silver in the 11yr and under mixed team event.



Hallie has been growing her own tomatoes with her brother this year, and here are the fruits of their labour. Apparently they taste delicious.



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

Spotlight Celebration

Well done to everyone who took part in last weekends Mini & Junior Great North Run.



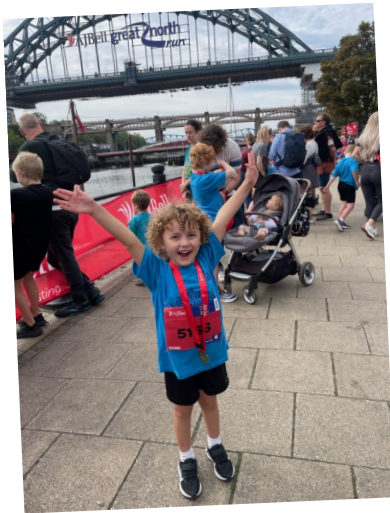
Blake - Reception



Agnes - Year 6



Eliza - Year 4



Charlie - Reception



Owen - Year 2



Henry - Year 3 & Martha Year 5



Freya - Year 4



Hannah - Year 3, Caleb - Year 1,
Ivy - Year 3 & Ruby - Year 3



Zach & Finn - Year 3



Harry - Year 2 & Alex - Reception



Scarlett - Year 5 & Millie - Reception



Blake - Year 2



Jack - Year 1



Fearne - Year 5



Felicity - Reception & Sebastian - Year 2



Luke - Reception

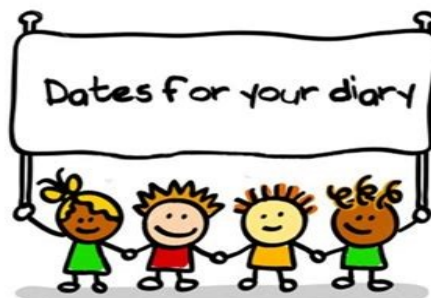


Emily - Year 4

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 18th Sept	Whole school Mass - 9.05 a.m. in Church for children from Reception to Year 6
Monday 22nd Sept	Year 1 & Year 2 Curriculum Evening 4 p.m. in the classroom
Tuesday 23rd Sept	Nursery and Reception Curriculum Evening 4 p.m. in the classroom
Tuesday 23rd Sept	Reception Welcome Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Wednesday 24th Sept	Year 3 and Year 4 Curriculum Evening 4 p.m. in the classroom
Thursday 25th Sept	Year 5 and Year 6 Curriculum Evening 4 p.m. in the classroom
Thursday 25th Sept	Whole school Mass - 9.05 a.m. in Church for children from Reception to Year 6
Friday 26th Sept	MacMillan Coffee morning
Tuesday 30th Sept	Year 6 assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Wednesday 1st Oct	Photographer in school
Friday 3rd Oct	Year 1 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 7th Oct	Year 4 assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Friday 10th Oct	Year 3 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 14th Oct	Year 2 assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Friday 17th Oct	Year 6 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 21st Oct	Year 5 assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Friday 24th Oct	Year 4 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
	School Holiday Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025
Monday 10th Nov	Parents Evening
Tuesday 11th Nov	Parents Evening
Tuesday 11th Nov	Reception assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Friday 14th Nov	Year 2 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 18th Nov	Year 3 assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Friday 21st Nov	Year 5 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 25th Nov	Year 1 assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Monday 8th Dec	Reception Nativity (p.m.)
Tuesday 9th Dec	Keystage 1 Nativity (p.m.)
Wednesday 10th Dec	Nursery Nativity (a.m.)
Wednesday 10th Dec	Keystage 1 Nativity (p.m.)
Thursday 11th Dec	Keystage 2 Performance (p.m.)
Friday 12th Dec	Keystage 2 Performance (p.m.)

Please note that if any of these dates change we highlight the new date in **Red**.



Side By Side Arts Music Tuition



**New Starters and
Existing Student
registration QR**



Side By Side Arts will be offering high-quality music tuition at **St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School** throughout the **2025/26 academic year!**

If your child is eager to learn a musical instrument and explore their creativity through music, simply scan the QR code to sign up and get started in September.

Email
Info@SideBySideArts.org
For more information

WWW.SIDEBYSIDEARTS.ORG

