



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

JUST ONE Tree Day – A Green Success!

On Friday 24th October, our school proudly took part in **JUST ONE Tree Day**, joining thousands of children, parents, and teachers around the world in a powerful act of environmental kindness. Dressed in green and nature-inspired colours, our children brought in £1 donations to fund the planting of trees in deforested regions across the globe. Thanks to your generosity, we raised **£200.50**, meaning our school community has helped plant **200 trees** – a fantastic contribution to global reforestation! JUST ONE Tree is a UN Decade partner working to reverse biodiversity loss and remove CO from the atmosphere. Every pound donated helps restore ecosystems and supports communities in places like Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Brazil. We're incredibly proud of our children for showing that **every action counts**. Together, we've made a real difference for our planet – one tree at a time. Thank you for your support!

Find out more at www.justonetree.life



Staying Safe During the Darker Nights

As the evenings grow darker, we want to help our children stay safe while out and about. A heartfelt thank you goes to one of our generous parent who, through the CO-OP, has kindly donated reflective bands for all our Key Stage 2 children. These bands are perfect for wearing while walking home, cycling, or playing outside during the darker afternoons and early evenings. They'll be handed out to Keystage 2 pupils on Friday to take home, keep and use over the October half term.



Attendance Update

A reminder that all parents and carers will be updated with your child's attendance information. We do this in line with our attendance policy and to ensure you are as up to date as possible with your child's school attendance.

Great attendance is 97% or above.

If your child is unwell, please contact school to report the absence, every day your child is off school. Please let us know the name of your child, class, reason for absence and when you think they may return to school.



"God speaks to those who are truly humble of heart"
St Pio of Pietrelcina



Autumn Term Online Safety Talk - **Change of date**

We're pleased to invite all parents and carers to our **Autumn Term Online Safety Talk**, which will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams this year.

The session will be led by our very own online safety expert, Mr Patterson, who will share practical hints and tips on how to help keep your child safe online. From managing screen time to understanding the latest apps and trends, the talk will cover a range of useful topics.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions throughout and at the end of the session.

This will take place on **Monday 17th November at 4.00 p.m.**

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office.

Poppy Appeal 2025

Poppies are now available from the school office for the Poppy Appeal.

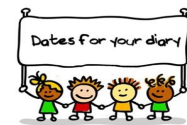
We also have various additional Poppy merchandise which is suitable for children of all ages for a small donation.



Updated Key Dates

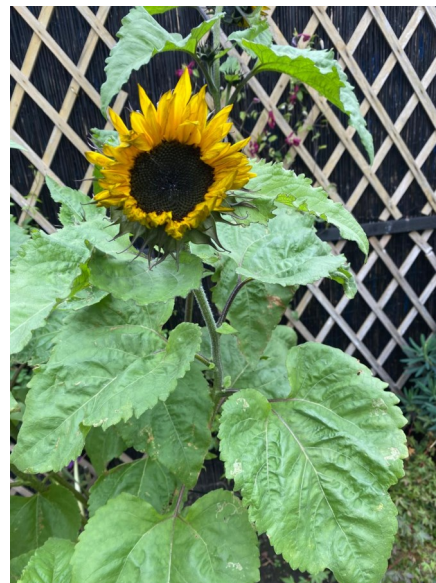
We now have all of our important dates for the full academic year. These dates include , assemblies, Liturgies and Masses.

Please see the back page of the newsletter for all updates.



From tiny seeds

Inspired by our Gardening Club and using the seeds we gave to our children, Myles in Year 2 has grown his own Sunflower. How absolutely brilliant. Well done Myles.



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 Miss Foster (School Business Manager).

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

Week beginning: Monday 20th October 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	92.92
<i>Year 1</i>	96.03
<i>Year 2</i>	96.17
<i>Year 3</i>	93.94
<i>Year 4</i>	99.64
<i>Year 5</i>	95.70
<i>Year 6</i>	98.41

Year 6 Residential - Robinwood Activity Centre

We are pleased to offer our Year 6 pupils the opportunity to take part in a residential experience during the summer term. This year's trip will be held at the Robinwood Activity Centre from Wednesday 1st July to Friday 3rd July 2026.

Payments for this trip should be made via Arbor under Trips > Y6 Residential. All payments must be paid by 31st May 2026.

If you require any assistance with Arbor, please contact the school office.

For more information about the Robinwood Centre, please click on link to access the parent information page.

[Robinwood Centre](#) .

Nursery & Reception 2026 Opening Evening

We will be hosting an open evening on Wednesday 19th November at 3.30 p.m. for any prospective parents who are interested in a place at our Nursery and Reception during academic year 2026/27.

Can you please inform our school office if you would like to view our school on hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com or telephone 0191 4143116.



Spotlight Celebration



Well done to Dixie who gained her Level 7 award at swimming this week.



Matteo won Star of the Week at his Football Club RACA u7's this week.



Freya completed in her first Team Gym competition on Sunday and came in second place with her team.



Aila has had a busy few weekends of Dance competitions.

UKA performer of the year on Sunday 12th, she won the ballet section and came 4th in the modern. Last weekend she performed the Star Dance Junior Championships coming 2nd in her vocal section and 3rd in her lyrical and Tap solos.



In just a few weeks after passing her third grading in kickboxing with flying colours, Addy Lanning demonstrated her bravery by having an exhibition K1 Kickboxing fight in front of a packed ground at Grainger Park Boxing Club. She did amazingly, demonstrating both her Kickboxing and Taikwondo techniques, and can't wait until her next one.



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

Dates for Your Diary

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.)

School Holiday Monday 22nd December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026

Spring Term

Thursday 8 th January	Whole School Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Tuesday 13 th January	Year 5 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 15 th January	Year 6 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 22 nd January	Year 4 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 23 rd January	Reception Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 27 th January	Year 4 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 29 th January	Year 2 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 5 th February	Year 5 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 6 th February	Year 2 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 10 th February	Year 6 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 12 th February	Year 3 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Wednesday 18 th February	Ash Wednesday Service 9.05 a.m. in Church

Half Term Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th February 2026

Friday 13 th March	Year 1 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 3 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 26 th March	School Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 27 th March	Year 5 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 31 st March	Reception Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 2 nd April	School Mass (Easter) 9.05 a.m. in Church

Easter Holidays Friday 3rd April until Friday 17th April 2026

Summer Term

Thursday 23 rd April	School Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 30 th April	Year 5 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 7 th May	Polling Day - Inset Day
Friday 8 th May	Year 4 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 19 th May	Year 1 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 21 nd May	School Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 22 nd May	Pentecost Parade

Half Term Monday 25th May to Friday 30th May 2026

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 1st June	Inset Day
Thursday 4 th June	Year 6 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 11 th June	Year 4 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 12 th June	Year 3 Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 2 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 1 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 9 th July	Year 2 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 10 th July	Year 6 and Reception Liturgy 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Thursday 16 th July	School Mass (Leavers) 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 16 th July	Year 6 Leavers Production

Summer holiday Monday 20th July until Friday 28th August 202

Tuesday 1st September - Staff Inset

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

