



STELLA Spotlight



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

Remembrance Day Liturgy 2025

As a whole school community we took part in a moving act of prayer to give thanks to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

Lest we forget



Biking Viking Visit - 3rd December

Our wonderful friends the Biking Vikings will be in school on the 3rd December. You'll know them from past visits and their fantastic set up at our StellaFest 2024. We support them in raising vital funds for Brain Tumour Awareness charity. More information to follow.



Christmas Jumper & Christmas Lunch day

On Thursday 18th December, the children are invited to come into school wearing their favourite Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper/cardigan. The kitchen will also be serving a traditional Christmas Lunch. If your child normally brings in a packed lunch and would like a Christmas dinner, please inform the school office by Monday 24th November. Please note that there will be no Jacket Potatoes or sandwiches served on this day.



**Christmas
Jumper Day**



Online Safety Talk

At 4 p.m. on Monday 17th November, we will be hosting an online safety talk. This will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. 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. All families will receive a joining link via a Arbor an email. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office.



This week Pope Leo reminds us,
"In love, God will gather us together. And, if we journey together in charity, our very lives become a prayer rising up to God."



Headlice

Can we please remind parents to check your child's hair on a regular basis for headlice.
Your local pharmacy can give you advice on how to treat them and will be able to recommend various products.

Year 4 Swimming lessons

Tuesday 2nd December will be the last swimming lesson of the term.

Lessons will resume on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Parking

Once again we have had an email to school from a local resident informing us that they have had their drive blocked.

Can we please remind parents / carers to take into consideration our neighbours when dropping off or parking in the mornings and afternoons. There are several parking spots on the main road for parents to use.

Thank you for your co-operation.



ADMISSIONS 2026



**We are an
OUTSTANDING
School**

**ALL FAMILIES
WELCOME**

- Flexible Nursery Provision, 15 & 30 Hours
- Before & After School Care
- Wide Variety of Extra Curricular Activities

Contact Us:

0191 414 3116
info@smtb.bwcet.com

**Why not
book a visit
to see our
school?**



St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School
Stella Lane, Blaydon-on-Tyne, NE21 4NE

stmaryandstthomasaquinasblaydon.bwcet.com



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 10th November 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	91.85
<i>Year 1</i>	92.06
<i>Year 2</i>	94.25
<i>Year 3</i>	95.96
<i>Year 4</i>	98.92
<i>Year 5</i>	98.61
<i>Year 6</i>	97.62

Thank you

Thank you to all our parents and carers for joining us at Parents' Evening. Your support and engagement make a real difference to our school community.

Year 3 Class Assembly

Children from Year 3 will be presenting their assembly to parents on Tuesday 18th November at 9.00 a.m. in the school hall. All are welcome to attend.



Year 5 Celebration of the Word

On Friday 21st November, Year 5 children will be hosting a Celebration of the Word for their parents at 2.30 p.m. in the school hall followed by coffee and a chat.

It would be lovely to see you all there.

National Ski Champion - Dixie Hood

Dixie, along with her brother Casper, raced for the national schools ski championships last week. They represented St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas at the event. We are so proud to announce that Dixie placed 1st and Casper did incredible too by placing 4th.

Our very own Stella ski champion here at school.

Congratulations.



Spotlight Celebration



Aila has had another dance competition with her dance school last weekend, winning 7 golds, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals. She was also the highest scoring 10 & 11 year old and receive the highest classical dance score and the highest trio score.



What an achievement for Bobby this week at swimming, he passed his 10 metre swim.



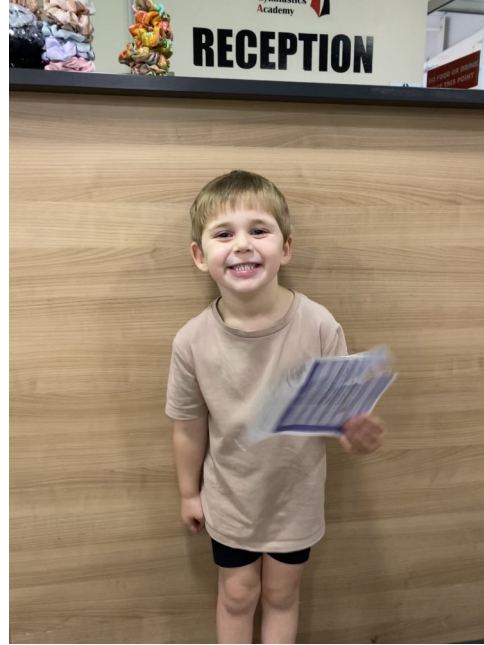
Dylan swam 200 metres in total to achieve his 50 metres and was very happy to get a medal.



Darcey was competing in a dance competition at the weekend in her tap duet she got a 1st, in her vocal 2nd and in her song and dance 3rd.

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

Spotlight Celebration



Leonardo has had a super busy week, he received his first swimming medal and certificate from his weekly lessons and he then received star of the week for gymnastics!
Well done Leonardo.



Tom worked super hard at swimming and was very proud to achieve his 25m badge!

Leighton has achieved his 25 meters medal in his swimming lessons this week.



Phoebe received a medal and certificate for her 10 metres at swimming and done absolutely amazing!



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

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 18th Nov	Year 3 assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Friday 21st Nov	Year 5 Celebration of the Word 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 Celebration of the Word 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 Celebration of the Word 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 Celebration of the Word 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 Celebration of the Word 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 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 19 th May	Year 1 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 21 st 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

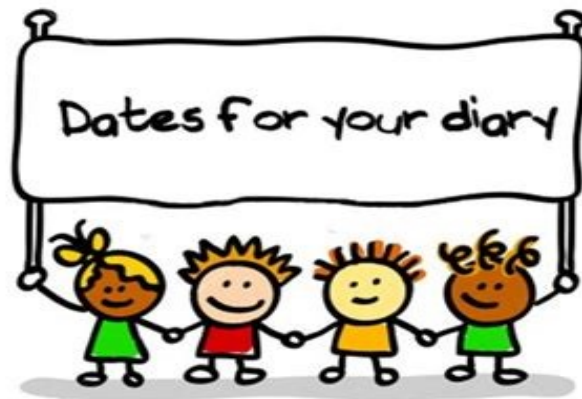
Dates for Your Diary

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 Celebration of the Word 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 Celebration of the Word 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 2026

Tuesday 1st September - Staff Inset

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





GATESHEAD WEST UNIFORM SCHEME



Please donate
your pre-loved
Christmas
Jumpers to us!

Who are we?

We are a registered charity,
operating in Gateshead West
since 2021.

We provide good quality
preloved and brand new
school uniforms to our
community

from our site in Blaydon -
St Cuthbert's Community Hall
NE21 5PT.

We operate on a pay-what-
you-feel basis.

Did you know?
As well as school
uniform items, we
also have
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPERS!!!**

Markets in Nov/Dec 2025...

Fri 7th Nov 3:30pm to 5pm.

TWO DAYS IN A ROW!!!

Sat 8th Nov 9:30am to 11am.

Sat 15th Nov 9:30am to 11am.

Mon 24th Nov 6pm to 7pm.

Fri 5th Dec 3:30pm to 5pm.

Sat 13th Dec 9:30am to 11am.

Sat 20th Dec 9:30am to 11am.

~~Mon 29th Dec~~

CANCELLED*

*because no one ever knows
what day it is between
Christmas and New Year!!!



www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform

<https://www.gatesheadwestuniformscheme.org.uk>

contact@GatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk

and find us as gwusne on Vinted