



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

Remembrance Day Liturgy

There will be a Remembrance Day Whole School Liturgy on Tuesday 11th November where we will be gathering as a school community to remember those lost to conflict. Parents and Carers are invited to join us at 2.30 p.m. In the KS1 Yard as we take part in our annual Remembrance Liturgy. The Liturgy will begin at 2.45 p.m. Starting in the KS1 Yard and as a school community we will process to the KS2 Yard where we will close the service by lowering the flag and our friend and guest Mrs Bailey will play the Last Post.



Poppies

We have a selection of Royal British Legion products and Poppies for sale from the school office. These will be available from 8.30 a.m. and again at 3.15 p.m.

Anti-Bullying Week – A Reminder

Following Mr Craig's welcome back email earlier this week, we'd like to remind you that next week marks Anti-Bullying Week. Throughout the week, children will be engaging in a range of activities designed to highlight the importance of this theme and deepen their understanding of respect and positive relationships.

Odd Sock Week

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we will be taking part in odd sock day on Monday, however Mr Craig is keen for us all to wear odd socks all week. Children and staff are asked to come into school wearing colourful odd socks all week.



Children in Need

Children in Need is on Friday 14th November, to celebrate this event, children will be doing Pudsey based activities throughout school. Children are invited into school wearing Pudsey Colours.

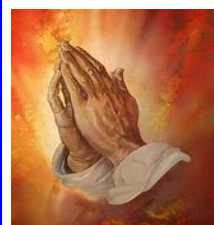


Parent and Carer Consultations

We're looking forward to welcoming you into school on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th November for your child's consultation. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress so far this academic year.

Please note that each appointment will last 10 minutes and will take place in classrooms.

For Nursery parents, due to the darker evenings, meetings will be held in the main school building. Please enter via the main entrance, where a member of staff will be available to direct you.



"Peace is built in the heart and from the heart" Pope Leo



Autumn Term Online Safety Talk

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.



Nasal Flu Spray - the nurses will be in school on Tuesday 11th November to delivery the nasal flu spray to those children whose parents have given their permission.

Reception Class Assembly

Children from Reception class will be presenting their assembly to parents on Tuesday 11th November at 9.00 a.m. in the school hall. All are welcome to attend.



Year 2 Celebration of the Word

On Friday 14th November, Year 2 children will be hosting a Liturgy 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.

Church Carpark

Please note that the car park at Stella will be **CLOSED TO ALL** from Monday to Wednesday 10th to 12th November. The tree surgeons will be carrying out essential work after recent storms, so there will be no access for cars or pedestrians. Access to church will be via the side door.

Thank you, Father Rose

Gateshead Family Hubs - Baby Week

Gateshead is celebrating their first ever Baby Week. They are looking forward to bringing our local parents, carers, partners and services together to promote giving children the Best Start in Life. As Baby Week celebrates 10 years, they are focussing on the theme: Healthy Parent, Healthy Baby to bring you a range of events, workshops and taster sessions.

Please click on the image to find out more information.



A Letter from the King!

Harlow from Year 5 wrote a letter to the King to inform him about how she is worried about the planet. She told him about her hobbies and interests and hope that they help to make the world a better place.

He then replied thanking her for her thoughtful letter and was truly touched to know that she is inspired to make the world a better place.



Anyone for Tennis?

We Do Tennis from Blaydon are running an exciting after-school tennis club at St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas.

Sessions take place on Thursday afternoons in the school hall and are open to children from Reception to Year 6.

If your child would like to take part, simply **click on the tennis racket icon** to visit their website and complete the registration.



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 2** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 3rd November 2025	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	94.44
<i>Year 1</i>	95.63
<i>Year 2</i>	99.62
<i>Year 3</i>	97.31
<i>Year 4</i>	94.27
<i>Year 5</i>	98.96
<i>Year 6</i>	99.21

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



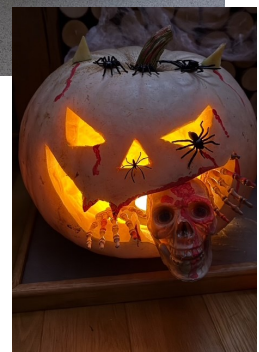
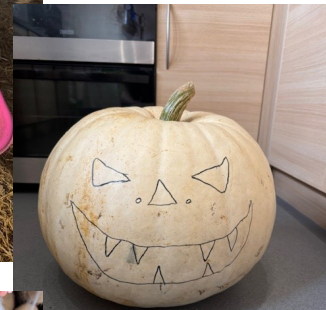
Zach scored 2 goals and got player of the match last weekend and his sister Ella received her Stage 9 Artistic Swimming Award last week. Well done to both of you.



Jack Peart in Year 2 completed his first 5K at Prudhoe Riverside parkrun...twice the distance he had ever ran before! Well done Jack!



Theo Year 4 attended a goalkeeper camp with former Newcastle GK coach Simon Smith and former Middlesbrough GK coach Alan Fettis. He received the coaches award after his work, attitude and saves across the two days.



Harlow guessed 95 the correct number of balloons in a tractor and won the largest pumpkin I have ever seen it took a lot of lifting and carving but we got there in the end. Very pleased with the outcome. Well done Harlow.

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

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 Celebration of the Word 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 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

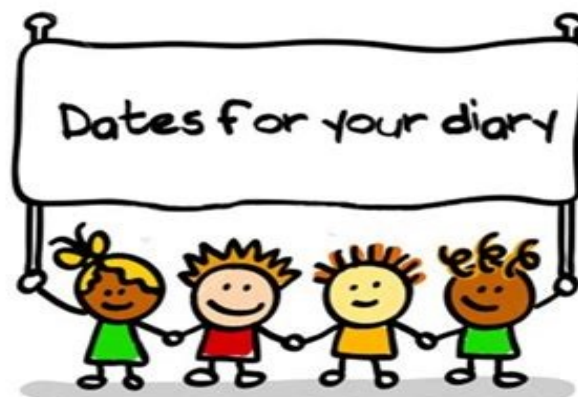
Dates for Your Diary

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 202

Tuesday 1st September - Staff Inset

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



Top Tips for Supporting Children Who Are EXPERIENCING BULLYING

In a DfE survey, 36% of parents said that their child had been bullied in the past year, while 29% of secondary school headteachers reported bullying among students. Public Health England states that young people who maintain positive communication with their family were less likely to experience bullying – so it's important that parents, carers and educators know how to talk to children about bullying.

1. WATCH FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

Children who are experiencing bullying may become quiet, withdrawn, or anxious; however, they may also act on the pain and anger that they're feeling. A shift in attitude towards their existing friends (or not mentioning them any more at all) or alluding to new friendships which seem notably different could also be warning signs. It's important to be alert to such changes and talk to your child about them if they occur.

2. THINK THINGS THROUGH

Before acting, ask yourself if this is the right time and place to address concerns about bullying. Might your worries trigger strong feelings – perhaps from your own experiences – that could discourage your child from opening up to you? You could try discussing what you've noticed with another trusted adult who knows your child well.

3. BE OPEN AND UNDERSTANDING

Try to outline to your child the changes that you've noticed in their body language, appearance, behaviour, or tone of voice – and do so without sounding judgemental. Help them to describe what they're feeling – be it anger, sadness, fear or something else – as accurately as possible. If they say they're "angry", do they mean "enraged" or "frustrated"? This will help them to understand how they're feeling and why.

4. LET THEM SPEAK FREELY

Use open questions and a welcoming tone to encourage your child to talk. Listen closely and summarise what they've said at appropriate points (ideally without interrupting) to demonstrate that you're understanding clearly. Bullying may have undermined your child's sense of control, and they may fear that you'll judge them, overreact or impose consequences – so this conversation can reassure them being honest with you was the right decision.

5. CALL A TIME OUT

A conversation about bullying could leave both you and your child feeling distressed. It's important to recognise this and pause at suitable moments to calm down. Take deep breaths, enjoy a hot drink or even have a cathartic cry. This can reinforce trust, while also helping you both feel that you have control over the situation and the emotions that you're feeling.

6. STAY INFORMED

Make sure you know your child's school's definition of, response to and relevant contacts for bullying. This information should be in their anti-bullying policy, which ought to be available on the school's website. Class teachers or form tutors are usually the first point of contact, though there may be dedicated support teams or key workers to help your child, depending on the specific situation.

7. PREP YOUR CHILD FOR THE RESPONSE

Schools' responses to bullying vary depending on whether they're resolving disagreements and arguments, or addressing unintended verbal or physical harm and so on. It's important to work out with your child whether any harm was intentional, how much control they had over the situation and how often such incidents have occurred. Reporting concerns accurately will get the best outcome for your child more quickly.

8. SUMMARISE YOUR CHILD'S EXPERIENCE

When you contact the school, make sure you've precisely described what your child experienced: what happened; when; where; and who was involved. This will help the school to investigate further, identifying any witnesses, as well as those who were directly involved. It can also help the school to know how your child is feeling and how they'd like the matter to be resolved.

9. LIAISE WITH THE SCHOOL

Any school has a duty to ensure that the members of its community feel safe and included. It's important for children to learn their role in this. The school must determine how best to restore these feelings of safety and respect. It's often best for schools to keep parents and carers informed of any action taken – and for families to avoid taking matters into their own hands.

10. CHECK IN FREQUENTLY

Once the issue has been resolved and the bullying behaviour has stopped, your child may still feel anxious and might find it difficult to rebuild relationships or develop new ones. Parents, carers and the school should all keep an eye on how the child is feeling and acting over the following months. Any relevant information should be shared, so that further support can be planned if necessary.

Meet Our Expert

Bob Basley is the Director of Anti-Bullying Quality Mark-UK, which challenges and supports schools to develop sustainable whole-school approaches to prevent bullying, including working with parents and carers. More than 80 schools in England and Wales currently hold the quality mark.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



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