



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

School Website

Our school website is a wonderful gateway into the many things we do here at Stella. Please visit your child's class page to support our school. Doing so can also lead into lovely conversation starters with your little one and gain a further insight into the day they have had in school. Please, if you have a minute, also check out our radio station page.

Many thanks, Team Stella.



Year 4 Class Assembly

On Tuesday 27th January there will be a Year 4 class assembly in the school Hall, parents and carers are welcome to attend at 9.00 a.m.



Class Assembly

Rescheduled Reception Celebration of the Word

The rescheduled Reception Class Celebration of the Word will now take place on Friday 30th January. Reception 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.



RSPB Bird watch

Today, Year 1 had a great time taking part in the RSPB Big School's Birdwatch. Our data will be used to build a picture of how our local garden birds are faring.

You too can help out by spending just one hour, this weekend, watching birds in your patch. For further details visit rspb.org.uk



Year 6 Sats afternoon

Thank you to all of the parents who attended the Sats afternoon this week. For those who were unable to attend, you should have received an email with the Power Point attached.



"Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community."

St Baldwin of Canterbury



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 19th January 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	97.78
Year 1	95.63
Year 2	97.32
Year 3	96.63
Year 4	98.57
Year 5	97.92
Year 6	98.41

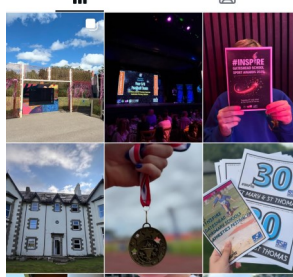
Wonderful Wellies

Thanks to Mrs Bowden and her work with the children and our 'Wonderful Wellies'.



Instagram

Please do find us and follow us on Instagram
[@stmaryandstthomasaquinas](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryandstthomasaquinas)



Nursery Allergies

Can we please remind parents the we have a kiwi allergy in nursery.

Can you please refrain from putting kiwi in your children packed lunch box.

Thank you



SVP Holy Island Summer Camp

Applications are now open for 2026 season.

For those of you not familiar with our camp, it has been running on Holy Island every summer since 1954 and the aim of the camp is to provide a safe and enjoyable week away in a unique location, where children can engage in a variety of mainly outdoor activities, make new friends and get some much needed time away from screens! The 'camp' is a purpose built hostel, with dormitories containing bunk beds for eight children. The maximum capacity is 64 per week (a slight reduction from previous years), and we are usually full up!

The application process is exactly the same as last year, so those of you who applied then will already be familiar with it. The cost for camp is £175 per child, per week. However, they can work with you to agree a payment plan if this would be helpful. Once again, places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis, so please apply as soon as possible. Online applications can be submitted from their website.

All weeks are 'mixed gender' weeks, i.e. inviting both boys and girls to attend together. Of course, whilst the boys and girls will attend the same week, they will have separate dormitories, toilets and shower facilities. Holy Island Camp is open to children in Year 5 and 6.

Weeks available:

- Week 1 Sat 18th July -25th July
- Week 2 Sat 25th July-1st August
- Week 3 Sat 1st August- 8th August
- Week 5 Sat 15th August-22nd August
- Week 6 Sat 22nd - 29th August

svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp | Email holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk

Free All Stars Cricket Festival

During the February half term, the Festival will be held at the Beacon of Light in Sunderland, on Friday 27th February (9.30am - 12noon) and is Free of charge when using the voucher code listed below, saving parents/ guardians £50.00!

The Festival is aimed at children aged 5-8 years old.

Voucher Code—TNA8L

To register for the Festival, please

[click here](#) and for any further information or questions, please

contact Andrew Mason

Andrew.mason@durhamcricket.co.uk



People who help us

Reception children have had a selection of visitors from our community to visit the class and to help us learn about the different jobs and roles in our local area.

Tommy the Firefighter came and told us about his exciting job.

We have begun to design our own emergency vehicles.

The children will make the vehicles using junk they have recycled.



Spotlight Celebration



Otis has joined the NTA & DLS Red Circuit and won his first ever tennis match! Even in his losses he had so much fun, learned a lot and never stopped smiling.



Reuben got player of the session at his Futsal class, we're very proud of how hard he's working.

Jack was awarded star of the week at football, after some great running and tackling.
Well done.



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

Spring Term

Friday 30th January Reception Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Friday 6th February Year 2 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday Service 9.05 a.m.

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

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

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

Summer Term

Thursday 23rd April School Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 30th April Year 5 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 7th May Polling Day - Inset Day
Friday 8th May Year 4 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 19th May Year 1 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Wednesday 20th May **Photographer in school taking class photographs**
Thursday 21st May School Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 22nd May Pentecost Parade

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

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

Summer holiday Monday 20th July until Friday 28th August 2026

Monday 31st August - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 1st September 2026 - Staff Inset

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Staff Inset

