



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

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk – Joining Together in Faith and Action

Next week, our children and staff will be taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, joining thousands of others across the country who are walking in solidarity to support global communities in need. This Lent, CAFOD invites us to walk together as a school community, reflecting on the journeys that many people around the world take each day for water, safety, education, and hope.

Participating in the Big Lent Walk gives us an important opportunity to remind ourselves of the principles at the heart of Catholic Social Teaching, in particular:

Solidarity – recognising that we are one global family, called to stand alongside our brothers and sisters near and far.

The Common Good – working together so that all people can flourish.

Care for God's Creation – appreciating the gift of our world and making choices that help protect it.

Our children will be walking together, encouraging one another, and reflecting on how small acts, like each step we take, can contribute to something much greater. By coming together as a school family, we hope to inspire those around us to support one another, to act with compassion, and to look outward to the needs of our global community.

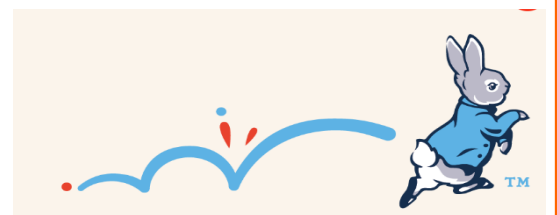
We invite families to join us in spirit by discussing the meaning of Lent at home, encouraging children in their walking, and keeping CAFOD's work in your prayers.

Thank you for your continued support as we journey together in faith, hope, and action.



Peter Rabbit is in the building...

(More information to follow)



Stella Radio

The Wednesday Word Stella FM is once again up and running. Thanks to Miss Hall and Mr Patterson along with our Year 6 hosts, Max and Molly as they delivered a reflection on this coming weeks Gospel. Please click on the image to take the opportunity to join us in prayer and reflection. It's the perfect opportunity to take a moment for yourself.



"Prayer is certainly the most wonderful medicine in the world."
St Hyacinth



Year 5 YMT Retreat

Thank you - A massive thank you to the Year 5 parents for coming into school for the YMT Year 5 retreat meeting, it was wonderful to see so many of you there. Miss Green has emailed all Year 5 parents the PowerPoint from the meeting. Please contact the school office if you did not receive this.

Year 3 Class Assembly - Change of date

Please note that the Year 3 assembly will now be held on Wednesday 18th March. This will be in the school hall and parents are welcome to arrive from 8:30 for a 9:10 a.m. start.



Class Assembly

Whole School Mass

There will be a school Mass on Thursday 26th March, 9:05 in church. All are welcome to attend.

Please note that if they are still working on the roof, then this will be a school Mass for the children only in the school. We will inform you if anything changes.



Gymnastics Club Reminder

Please note that there will be NO club on Wednesday 18th March.

This date has been rescheduled for Wednesday 1st April.

Raring2go! Spring Magazine

This term's magazine is packed with information on where to go and what do for Easter to May half term. Each page links directly to the relevant website with more information so it's a really useful resource.

It is full of exciting things to make and do with lots of puzzle pages included. Please click on the image to take you to the site.



Parking

Once again we received emails and telephone calls into school from local residents informing us that their driveways are being blocked by cars and people continue to park on the double yellow lines during pick up and drop off times.

Can we please remind parents / carers to take into consideration our neighbours when parking in the mornings and afternoons.

Thank you.



Year 3

Well done to our Year 3 class for achieving 100% attendance this week. Mr Craig is so proud of the class and will organise a lovely treat for their dedication and commitment to coming into school every day this week and for being on time to achieve 100%.

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 **class 3** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 9th March 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	96.67
Year 1	97.22
Year 2	96.17
Year 3	100
Year 4	97.13
Year 5	99.31
Year 6	98.41

Guardian Consultations 30th & 31st March

Thank you to those who have already booked their appointment for the up and coming parents evenings. If you are unable to book your slot, please contact the school office and Miss Green will assist you.

Can we please remind parents that these meetings are for parents only as we do not have any provisions for children to be unaccompanied.

Each appointment will last 10mins, if you think that you need longer to discuss your child's work, please contact the school office.

Anyone who has not chosen an appointment will be allocated one w/c 23rd March.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look forward to the Easter period, we are eggcited to announce our **Easter Egg Competition!** We warmly invite all children to take part by designing and decorating their own creative Easter egg at home.

Please ensure all decorated eggs are brought into school on: Thursday 2nd April 2026.

Each class will have a **winner** selected, along with a **runner up**, and certificates will be awarded for their fantastic efforts.

We encourage children to be as imaginative as possible — we can't wait to see their brilliant ideas.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to celebrating the children's creativity.



Spotlight Celebration



Lexie's girls team won the boys league at Washington hub this weekend. (the only girls team in the league) Well done to Lexie from Year 3.



Darcey from Year 5 did amazing in her Grade 2 Theatre Craft exam. She received 87% and awarded a distinction for all her hard work. Well done Darcey.



Well done to Penny for achieving her 200m at swimming this week!



Well done to Leonardo and Luka who received their 5m swimming medal this week!



Dylan (Year 3) passed his 200 metre swimming this week and his sister Jessica (Nursery) passed her 5 metre level. Both were thrilled with their medals.



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



Martha in Year 5 completed Stage 9 Artistic Swimming this week! and
Henry in Year 3 achieved his 50 metres in swimming this week! Well done!



Well done to Mia and Euan. Mia achieved her 25 meter badge and Euan achieved his 5 meter badge.



Bobby received a medal at swimming this week for doing well.



Wiktor has achieved 10metres in swimming and got a medal. He was very proud of himself.



Lucy completed her 800m in swimming this week !

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

Wednesday 18th - 25th	Scholastic Traveling Bookfair in school
Thursday 26 th March	School Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Monday 30 th March	Guardian Consultations
Tuesday 31 st March	Guardian Consultations
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
Wednesday 20 th May	Photographer in school taking class photographs
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

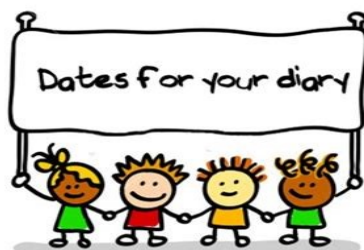
Monday 1st June	Inset Day
Thursday 4 th June	Year 6 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 11 th June	Year 4 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 12 th June	Year 3 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 2 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 2 nd July	Year 1 Mass 9.05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

Monday 31st August - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 1st September 2026 - Staff Inset

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Staff Inset



Amended or additional dates will be in bold



GATESHEAD WEST UNIFORM SCHEME



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 Blaydon site
behind Morrisons.



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

Did you know?

We sell surplus stock
on Vinted as gwusne.
If it's easier, please
buy from us online.

All markets
are at
Blaydon,
NE21 5PT.

Please check for changes to
dates/times on Facebook, before
you travel to a market...

March/April 2026 Markets...

Fri 6th March 3:30pm - 5pm
Sat 14th March 9:30am - 11am
Sat 21st March 9:30am - 11am
Mon 30th March 6pm - 7pm
Fri 3rd April 3:30pm - 5pm
Sat 11th April 9:30am - 11am
Sat 18th April 9:30am - 11am
Mon 27th April 6pm - 7pm

All at St Cuthbert's
Community Hall, Blaydon
NE21 5PT, next to the big
blue building which is
behind Morrisons.

As the weather
improves,
please come
and get school
summer dresses
& shorts from us!



www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform

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

contact@GatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk

and find us as gwusne on Vinted

