



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

Holy Week

Holy Week is a very special time: it includes Palm Sunday, the celebration of the Last Supper, the washing of feet, the agony in the garden, Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and his resurrection. Everybody is invited to come and join in celebrating the start of this week and what makes it special.

We pray...

Dear Lord Jesus, as Holy Week approaches, we thank you for giving your life for us, so that one day we too may know the joys of heaven. Amen.



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look forward to the Easter period, we are excited 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.



Church News

Unfortunately there will be no Mass on Thursday 2nd April.

Please see the dates below for Holy Week.

Holy Thursday Mass : 6.30 pm

Good Friday:- Stations of the Cross 10 am

Service of the Lord's Passion 3 pm

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass : 5 pm

Easter Sunday Mass: 10.15 am



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, Logan 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.



"Holy Week is a time to give Jesus our hearts. On the Cross He gave us all of His love."

St. Teresa of Calcutta



Reception Class Assembly

Reception class will be presenting their assembly Tuesday 31st March. This will be in the school hall and parents are welcome to arrive from 8:30 for a 9:10 a.m. start.



Guardian Consultations - 30th & 31st March

Thank you to those who have already booked their appointment for the up and coming parents evenings.

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

If you were unable to make an appointment, you will be contacted by Miss Green throughout the week.

Afterschool clubs on next week

Monday - Karate Gradings only

Tuesday - International club, Gardening club

Wednesday - Grassroots and Drama

Thursday - Arts and Craft, Tennis and girls football

Arbor

Parents are request to log onto Arbor on a regular basis to make payments for school trips and to pay for school lunches.

If you need any help navigating this portal, please contact the school office.

Nursery Coffee and Chat (Next Week)

We would like to invite all nursery parents to join us for a coffee and chat in the school Hall on **Wednesday 1st April at 2.45pm**. This will be an opportunity to meet with Mrs Ogilvie (Miss Wilson) who will be returning from maternity leave as the Nursery class teacher after the Easter Holidays. Mrs Ogilvie will be sharing some information about the Summer curriculum and will be happy to answer any questions that you might have. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Blaydon Breakfast & Afterschool Club

Nikki from Blaydon youth and community centre has requested that we remind parents who use the breakfast and afterschool club that there will be no provision on Thursday 2nd April due to staff training. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Stella Football Stars

Last night, our Year 6 boys' football team competed in Round 2 of the league as they continue to defend their League Winners title.

They secured two fantastic victories: winning 2-0 against Ryton and 4-0 against Chopwell. The boys were a real credit to the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour, teamwork and a positive attitude throughout.

Well done, boys! We can't wait for the final round after the Easter holidays!



Grassroots

Easter Sports & Activity weeks

Option 1 : Tuesday 7th - 10th April
(*St Joseph's Catholic Primary School*)

Option 2 : Monday 13th - Friday 17th April
Time: 9.30am - 3.30pm

The course will involve various sports; including football, cricket, gymnastics, rounders, tennis, hockey etc and will involve fun based activities such as water games, crash mat tournaments and tug of war competitions.

These activity weeks are available for Reception children up to Year 6 children.

Children will need a packed lunch, a change of clothes, in case they play water games, and are to be collected promptly at 3.30pm.

To book onto this course, please visit www.grassrootssports.co.uk where you can pay by direct/credit card.

Individual days are priced at £25 per day and be booked via email

(indivdays@grassrootssports.co.uk)

If you are unable to pay online, please contact 07703533556 (Keith) or 07725128717 (Sarah)

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 **classes 3, 4, 6** and **Reception** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 23rd March 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	100
<i>Year 1</i>	96.55
<i>Year 2</i>	96.55
<i>Year 3</i>	100
<i>Year 4</i>	100
<i>Year 5</i>	93.75
<i>Year 6</i>	100

Reception, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 attendance

Well done to our Reception, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 classes for achieving 100% attendance this week. Mr Craig is so proud of the classes 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%.

Parking

Can we please remind parents to try and refrain from driving up the lane to drop off and collect children from school, please appreciate the volume of children and families using the lane to access school.

There are no allocated parking spaces at the top of the lane as the flats opposite school have a private parking for Karbon home use only. As the children enter the school grounds in the morning from the pedestrian gate at the lower end of school, we suggest that parking near Stella Road as a better alternative. Additionally, the weather is slowly improving and it could be an ideal opportunity to walk to school to get those much needed steps in!

Thank you for helping us to keep your children safe.

Spotlight Celebration



Agnes ran cross country at Eltringham Farm on Saturday for the last in the season of the NEHL. Well done.



Well done Freya for moving up into the Primary Development team at gymnastics.



Olivia in Nursery completed her first ever swimming lesson and got star of the week!
Ava from Year 1 also got star of the week for her great swimming!



Well done Reuben for passing his stage 3 swimming!! Your hard work is paying off, we're very proud of you!!

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

Monday 30th March	Guardian Consultations
Tuesday 31st March	Guardian Consultations
Tuesday 31st March	Reception Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 2nd April	School Mass (Easter) 9.05 a.m. in Church - Cancelled

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

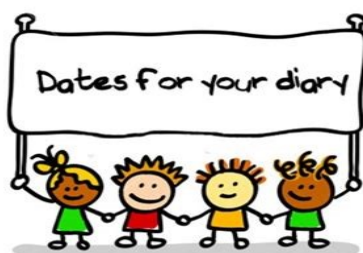
Monday 1st June	Inset Day
Thursday 4th June	Year 6 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 11th June	Year 4 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 12th June	Year 3 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 16th June	Year 2 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 2nd July	Year 1 Mass 9.05 a.m.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



Amended or additional dates will be in bold



YEAR 6 PARENTS

Great news! But action needed promptly...

We are pleased to announce that (for a limited time) we can support Year 6 pupils with brand-new Secondary uniform, ready for September, if in receipt of benefits. Proof of benefits is required. Proof of child's age is required. But we will NOT be chasing evidence this year. No evidence means no uniform issued, unfortunately.

We will be holding two Proof of Eligibility Drop In Sessions to help with filling in the form and to check proof in person (you can of course send the proof digitally if preferred). The Proof of Eligibility Drop In Sessions will be at our Blaydon site behind Morrisons supermarket: St Cuthbert's Community Hall (entrance is around the back) NE21 5PT on
Mon 27th April 6pm to 7pm and Sat 9th May 9:30am to 11am.

Our usual preloved uniform markets in Blaydon are pay as you feel for all, so please come and see if we have any pre-loved items you'd like as well. The Proof of Eligibility Drop In Sessions are handily running at the same time as our regular markets.

We do have limited resources available, so please complete the form below asap and we will advise if your request has been successful.



Here is the form...

<https://gatesheadwestuniformscheme.org.uk/uniform-grants>

Any issues or questions please contact us...
support@GatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk
07554057674 or 07442089672