



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

**Welcome back to the second half of our Spring Term.**

It finally feels as though spring has truly arrived, and I hope these bright, uplifting days continue. Regardless of what the weather brings, I know we have a positive and exciting term ahead.

We have already enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, and there are plenty more activities planned for this short but busy half term. As we journey through the season of Lent, we will once again be taking part in our Big Lent Walk in aid of CAFOD. Just as we did last year, our staff will be organising a local walk to raise funds for this important charity. This event is a meaningful way for us to come together in the spirit of Lent, focusing on *giving, acting, and praying*.

We also look forward to welcoming families into school for our upcoming parent and carer meetings, and our Year 5 children are preparing for the first residential of the year, an overnight stay at Emmaus Village (YMT), which promises to be a memorable experience.

Here's to a wonderful and productive half term ahead.

All the best,  
Mr Craig

**Year 5 Residential Parent and Carer information meeting**

On Tuesday 10th March at 3:30 p.m., we will be holding a parent and carer information meeting about the upcoming YMT class residential. This meeting is for Year 5 parents and carers which will be held in the Year 5 class.



**Year 3 Class Assembly**

On Tuesday 17th March there will be a Year 3 class assembly in the school Hall, parents and carers are welcome to attend.  
9.10. a.m.



Class Assembly

**Year 1 Celebration of the Word**

On Friday 13th March, children from Year 1 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.



Celebrating God's Word

**Grassroots Gymnastics Club**

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

This date has been rescheduled for Wednesday 1st April.

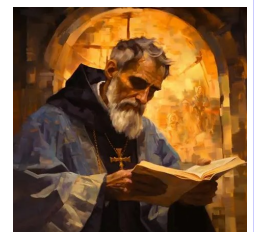
Sorry for any inconvenience caused

**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.



"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love."  
St Augustine



## 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 6** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 2nd March 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	98.52
<i>Year 1</i>	96.06
<i>Year 2</i>	95.40
<i>Year 3</i>	97.64
<i>Year 4</i>	98.92
<i>Year 5</i>	98.26
<i>Year 6</i>	<b>99.21</b>

## Travelling Book Fair

The book fair will be arriving at school on Thursday 19th March and will stay until Tuesday 24th March. Children can use their World Book Day vouchers at the fair, these will enable the children to get £1 off a book of their choice. The book fair will be open from 8.30 a.m. until 9 a.m. and 3.15 p.m. until 4 p.m. each day.

## Guardian Consultations

We will be holding a parents evening on Monday 30th March and Tuesday 31st March.

You will be able to book your own time slot on Arbor from Monday 9th March at 8am until Friday 20th March at 4pm.

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.

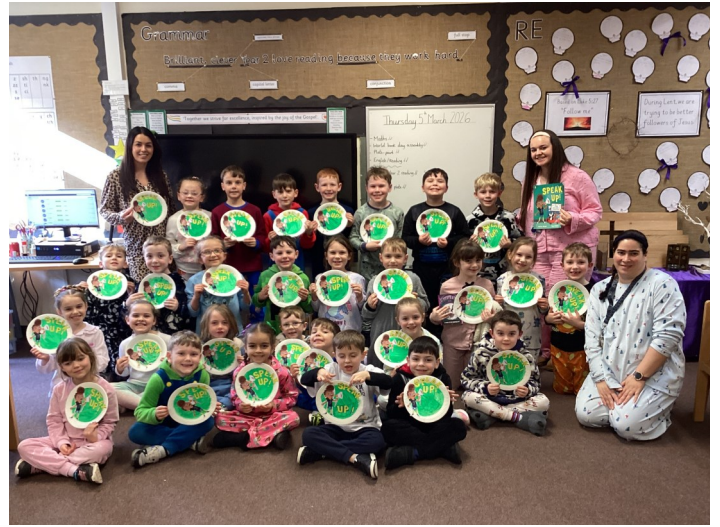
Anyone who has not chosen an appointment will be allocated one w/c 23rd March.

If you need any assistance with this matter, please contact the school office.

## World Book Day 2026

We enjoyed a fantastic World Book Day celebration in school this week. A huge thank you to Mrs Bennison and the whole team for their enthusiasm, creativity, and hard work in making the day so special. The children had a wonderful time taking part in the activities and embracing the joy of reading.

You can find more photos, class activities, and blog posts from the day on our school website.



## Spotlight Celebration



Well done to Grace in Year 1 who completed Stage 1 in swimming this week!



Matty from Year 2 planted some seeds. I wonder what he has planted?



Seb had his hair cut off to raise money and awareness for The Little Princess Trust charity and has already raised so much money!

He managed to get 4 ponytails out of it!

He's hoping to raise enough money to help them make a wig out of it (and will continue to raise money over the year until he's achieved his goal).

Kimberley  
Jane  
Baume's  
JustGiving  
Page



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](mailto:hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com)

## Spotlight Celebration



Grace had a fabulous time at the Mamma Mia musical at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle with her family. The show was amazing and she sang the whole way through!



Some of our Year 3 boys finished their five week winter tournament at the weekend and had success in their finals for Crawcrook Athletic and Monaco. Well done Bobby, Harry C, Archie, Ben, Isaac, Finn, Henry, Leo, Tom, Blake, Harry S and Dylan.

Addy Lanning Year 2 - recently passed her second Taikwondo jnr grading, and passed her fourth full Kickboxing Grading (Green Belt). Not limiting herself to gradings, she also recently attended an interclub where had not one, but two skills bouts (no headshots) against some tough opposition, and is looking forward to her next skills bout in April.



During half term Theo from Year 4 attended a goalkeeper camp with England GK coach Sam Meek, he was impressed with his technique and attitude.

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](mailto:hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com)

## Spring Term

Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> - 25 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastic Traveling Bookfair in school
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	School Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Guardian Consultations
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Guardian Consultations
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Reception Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	School Mass (Easter) 9.05 a.m. in Church

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

## Summer Term

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

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

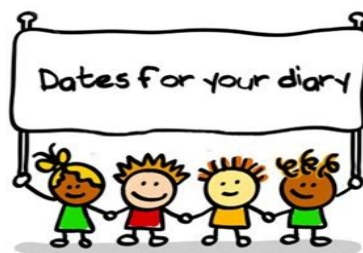
Monday 1st June	Inset Day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school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




# **RYTON ROCKETS**



**UNDER 6&8  
UNDER 10  
UNDER 12  
UNDER 14  
UNDER 16&18**

Looking to give basketball a go?  
Come and join in a **FREE** taster session  
and train with a local team.



J.Bertram@eaglescommunityfoundation.com



Blaydon Youth Centre



<https://newcastle-eagles.com/rockets/>

Gateshead  
Libraries



Gateshead

# 100 Years <sup>NE</sup> North East Celebration Day

North East  
Combined  
Authority

Kim McGuinness  
North East  
Mayor

## Gateshead Central Library

Saturday 7 March • 9am-4pm

Join us to celebrate 100 years of Gateshead Central Library with a special day of events and activities.

<b>Maker Place activities</b>	10am - 3.30pm
<b>Exploring Your Family History</b>	10am - 4pm
<b>Photomontage Workshop with Tommy Anderson</b>	10am - 1pm
<b>Family Storytelling with Chris Adriaanse*</b>	10.30am - 11.30am
<b>What's Behind the Door? Library tours*</b>	10.30am and 2pm
<b>How to Care for your Family Collections*</b>	11am - 12pm
<b>Book Illustration Workshop with Josie Brookes</b>	1pm - 4pm
<b>Meet Author Peter James*</b>	2pm - 3pm
<b>GemArts Heritage Detectives Workshop</b>	10am - 12pm

All events free apart from **Peter James** (small charge) and those marked with \* are **pre-bookable in advance**.

Discover more at Gateshead Libraries

