



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

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy and successful term it has been!

We begin by sharing some wonderful news: a huge **congratulations** to Miss Hall in Year 1. Following a thorough interview process, Miss Hall has been appointed to a permanent class teacher position here at St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas. We are delighted that she is now a permanent member of the Stella team.

We are also very pleased to welcome back Miss Wilson (Mrs Ogilvie) from maternity leave. She has re-joined our Nursery team and will be teaching the class for the remainder of the academic year. It is fantastic to have her back in school and working with the children and staff once again.

This Spring term has been filled with wonderful achievements and memorable experiences. Our children have taken part in the in-school Winter Olympics, the CAFOD Big Lent Walk, and our whole-school Inclusion Day. Year 5 enjoyed their first residential, and our school football team continues to lead the local league, securing two more excellent victories. We also celebrated success at the Gateshead Swimming Gala, and, as always, our pupils have continued to work hard, maintaining our high expectations and making impressive progress across the curriculum.

As we look ahead to the final term of the year, there is much to be excited about - from upcoming trips and residential to our May Day celebrations, First Holy Communions and Year 6 Leavers Celebrations.

I hope you all enjoy a happy and restful Easter break surrounded by family.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back on 20th April.

God Bless.



A Huge Thank You

Thank you all so much for the incredibly quick responses to the Peter Rabbit ideas. Mr Craig will now bring everyone's suggestions together so we can finalise our design for Stella Peter, ready to paint after the Easter break.

He'll then be returned to St Oswald's Hospice for the trail on 1st May, and we'll share the location as soon as it's confirmed. We're already looking forward to welcoming him back to Stella once the event has finished.



Inset day

Please note that school will be closed on Thursday 7th May due to our school being used as a polling station.

Staff will be in school on this day for training.

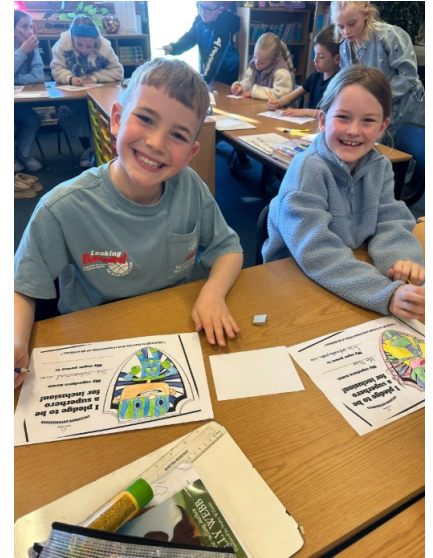


"People who have peace in their hearts have Christ dwelling within them."
St. Gregory of Nyssa



Inclusion Day

What a wonderful success! This was a fantastic day where we raised awareness for National Autism Day and celebrated Autism Awareness Month. The children created their own Inclusion Superhero, and these will be shared on our school display. Here are just a few below...



If you would like to find out more about Autism Awareness Month, please click the link below.

[World Autism Month | Autism Speaks At school](#)

Year 3 / 4 Swimming Lessons

Year 4 have now completed their swimming lessons for this academic year. After Easter the children from Year 3 will be partaking in swimming lessons. These will take place on a Tuesday afternoon, just after lunch with the first lesson being on Tuesday 21st April.

Children can wear swimming goggles and should wear a swimming hat if they have long hair. They are not allowed to wear earrings, bikinis, Bermuda shorts or use talcum powder in the changing rooms.

Parents have already completed the online consents given their child permission to 'engage in swimming lessons inline with the national curriculum'.



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



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 30th March 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	99.67
<i>Year 1</i>	95.07
<i>Year 2</i>	96.55
<i>Year 3</i>	99.13
<i>Year 4</i>	99.08
<i>Year 5</i>	98.21
<i>Year 6</i>	100

Big Lent Walk

Our Big Lent Walk for CAFOD video is now live, please watch and share. The children and staff had such a terrific time.

<https://youtu.be/FpHxZ2Vvyt0>



If you still have any sponsorship money to collect, can you please bring it into school when we come back after the Easter break, once we have received all of the money we will give you the grand total.

Spotlight Celebration



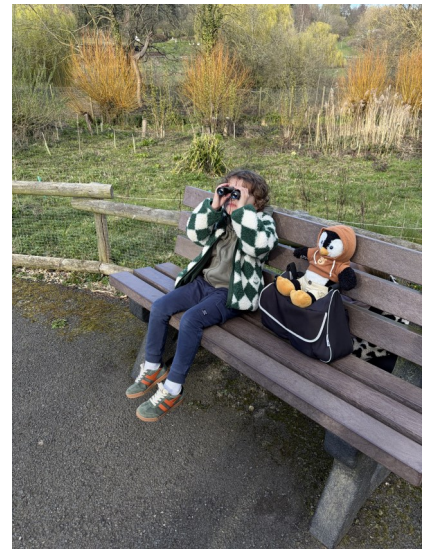
Mason (Year 4) and his NCJ team became u9 league champions on Saturday after being unbeaten all season. Well done Mason.



Zach has had a brilliant week across all of his sports, on Saturday he scored his first hatrick and was voted player of the match by his coach. On Sunday he scored 6 tries for his rugby team! He then received 'trainer of the month' award from his football team and 'defender of the week' at basketball. Well done, Zach!



Jack (Y2) and Marco (Y1) achieved their Ball Mastery milestone at football this week....well done boys!



Euan and Monty had a very adventurous weekend, they went to The Wildfoul Park and followed the Gozzle trail and also visited the Angel of the North. What a busy weekend!

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

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
Tuesday 19th May	Year 6 visiting the Metro Centre
Wednesday 20 th May	Photographer in school taking class photographs
Thursday 21 st May	School Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Thursday 21st May	Year 6 visiting a Careers workshop at the Metro Centre
Friday 2nd May	Year 2 Fun Run at Saltwell Park
Friday 22 nd May	Pentecost Parade

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

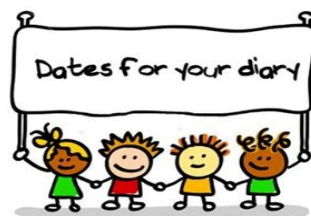
Monday 1st June	Inset Day
Thursday 4 th June	Year 6 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Saturday 6th June	Holy Communions in Church
Thursday 11 th June	Year 4 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church
Friday 12 th June	Year 3 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 2 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Friday 26th June	Year 6 visiting the YMT for the Primary Festival
Friday 26th June	Gateshead Athletics Festival
Wednesday 1st-3rd July	Year 6 Residential at Robinwood Activity Centre
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