



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

### Well Done Year 6!

Well done to our amazing Year 6 class for making it through SATs week! You've shown incredible determination, focus, and resilience, and we are all so proud of the hard work and effort you've put in.

No matter the results, what matters most is the positive attitude and perseverance you've shown throughout.

You've all earned a well-deserved rest - great job!

We celebrated together by ending the week with leavers hoodies and a pizza and doughnut party.



### Stella Radio

The Wednesday Word on Stella FM. Thanks to Miss Hall and Mr Patterson along with our Year 5 hosts, Martha and Matteo 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.



"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship."  
St Thomas Aquinas



# A Great Day for Peter Rabbit

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations to St Oswald's Hospice. We are proud to continue raising much needed funds for this wonderful charity, while also supporting our Peter Rabbit Drive.

We are excited to share that Peter was collected today and will soon be featured in the upcoming Tales on the Tyne trail, We can't wait to see him on display!

Thank you again for your continued generosity and support.



## Parents afternoon for new starters

**Tuesday 23rd June** - Reception open afternoon for parents of children attending Reception class for the academic year 26/27. This meeting will be in the school hall commencing at 4 p.m. This is for parents only.

**Tuesday 30th June** - Nursery open afternoon for parents of children attending Nursery class. This meeting will be in the school hall commencing at 4 p.m. This is for parents only.



## Quest for Wellingtons!

Has your child outgrown their favourite wellies?

Our Busy Bees Gardening Club are looking for donations of children's wellingtons. We can reuse these to plant bulbs in for around school and help with a project that the church has planned. Any donations can be dropped off at the school office.



## School Photographer

The photographer will be coming to school on Wednesday 20th May to take class photographs. Part-time Nursery children will be able to attend class for the full day.



## Grassroots Information

Please note that there will be NO grassroots afterschool club on Wednesday 10th June, this will be rescheduled for Wednesday 15th July.

## Medicines in School – Reminder for Parents

As part of our commitment to keeping all children safe and well, we would like to remind parents of our procedures for administering medication in school.

In line with our Trust policy, medicines should only be administered in school where it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to do so.

If your child has a short-term or long-term medical condition that requires medication during the school day, we will always work with you to ensure the appropriate support is in place.

To help us support your child safely and effectively, please ensure that:

- Medication is brought to and collected from the school office by an adult.
- A parental consent form is completed before any medication is administered. We are unable to give medication without written consent. The form can be collected from the school office
- Medication is provided in its original container, clearly labelled with your child's name (including the pharmacy label if prescribed) and with dosage instructions.

Medication is kept up to date, and any unused or out-of-date medication is collected and taken home promptly.

Thank you for your support in helping us to provide a safe and caring environment for all pupils.

## 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 11th May 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	95.56
Year 1	97.41
Year 2	94.25
Year 3	97.31
Year 4	96.77
Year 5	98.96
Year 6	<b>100</b>

## CAFOD Big Lent Walk

Following our Big Lent Walk before Easter, we are delighted to share that, as a school community, we raised an incredible £2710.66 for CAFOD!

This is a fantastic achievement and truly reflects the generosity, compassion, and community spirit of everyone involved. We are so proud of our children and grateful to all families and friends who supported us through sponsorship.

Thank you to everyone who contributed – your support will make a real difference to communities overseas.

To learn more about how your donations will help those in need, please click the link provided.

You can also watch highlights from our Big Lent Walk in the video here: [\*\*\*\(Big Lent Walk 2026\)\*\*\*](#)

### Half Term / Inset Day

School will close the week of 25th May until 29th May for the half term.

### Inset Day

Please note that Monday 1st June will be an Inset day.

### Year 1 Class Assembly

On Tuesday 19th May, Year 1 children will be presenting their class assembly for parents and carers. This will be in the school hall at 9.00a.m.



## Spotlight Celebration



Ella from Year 6 travelled to Manchester this weekend to take part in an Artistic Swimming grade day. After lots of practice and hard work, she successfully passed and achieved her Bronze Award. Congratulations, Ella — a fantastic achievement!



Leonardo was super excited to be star of the week at gymnastics!

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)

## Dates for you diary

### Summer Term

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 visiting the Metro Centre
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
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 6 visiting a Careers workshop at the Metro Centre
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 2 Fun Run at Saltwell Park
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Pentecost Parade

### Half Term Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### **Monday 1st June**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> July

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July

### **Inset Day**

Year 2 visiting Beamish Museum

Year 6 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church

Holy Communion in Church

Year 4 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church

Year 3 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

Year 2 Assembly 9 a.m. in the school hall

Reception Parents afternoon - 4 p.m. - Please note the change of date

Year 6 visiting the YMT for the Primary Festival

Gateshead Athletics Festival

New Nursery Parents afternoon - 4 p.m. - Please note the change of date

Year 6 Residential at Robinwood Activity Centre

Year 1 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church

BWCET Celebration of Sport for Year 5

Keystage 1 Sports Day in the afternoon

Keystage 2 Sports Day in the afternoon

Nursery Sports Day in the morning

Year 2 Mass 9.05 a.m. in Church

Year 6 and Reception Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the school hall

School Mass (Leavers) 9.05 a.m. in Church

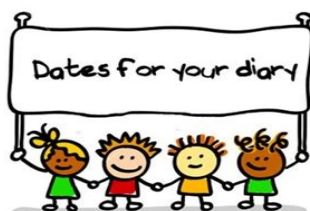
Year 6 Leavers Production

### Summer holiday Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 - Staff Inset

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 - Staff Inset



Amended or additional dates will be in bold

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

## WHERE IS IT FOUND?

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

### GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

### STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

### ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content; usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history; so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

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## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CAN WE HAVE A CHAT?

### CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

### BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

### GET SPECIALIST HELP

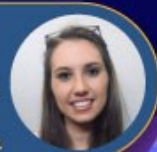
Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

### STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

## Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



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National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.education.gov.au/documents/tables/program-bullying/online-inappropriate.pdf> | <https://www.safeschools.gov.au/education/training-professionals/professional-learning-program/teachers/inappropriate-content-fact-sheet/> | <https://www.medicalgrid.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/children-media-use-year-7.pdf>



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