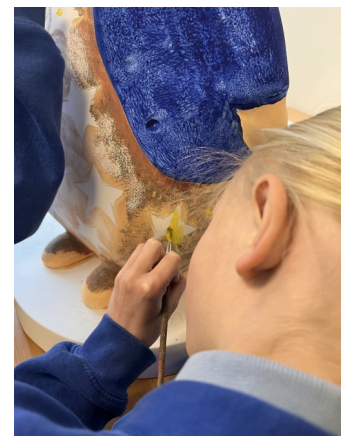




'Together we strive for excellence, inspired by the joy of the Gospel.'

Non - Uniform Day 15th May

The children will be taking part in a non uniform day on the 15th May in support of our Peter Rabbit – St Oswald’s Hospice charity drive. There is no need to bring money into school; instead, if you are able, we kindly ask that donations are made via our Peter Rabbit donation page. Please see the link for further details.



Please click on the QR code to access our page.



Bank Holiday Monday

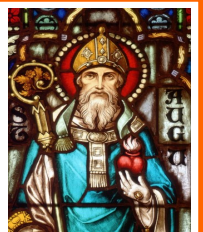
A reminder that school will be closed on Monday 4th May due to Bank Holiday

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 Max 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.



“Trust the past to God’s mercy, the present to God’s love and the future to God’s care.”
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 1** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 27th April 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
<i>Reception</i>	97.04
<i>Year 1</i>	100
<i>Year 2</i>	99.62
<i>Year 3</i>	98.99
<i>Year 4</i>	98.57
<i>Year 5</i>	96.88
<i>Year 6</i>	98.81

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.

Attendance

Thank you to our parents and families for your continued support with attendance. This week, we have seen days of 100% attendance and an impressive whole school average of 98%. This is a fantastic achievement, and we hope to maintain this momentum through to the end of the academic year.

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.

Good Luck

Best of luck to our school football team who will take part in a champions league style tournament on Thursday. This is an opportunity for those children to play the winners of other Gateshead leagues for the overall champions title.

Parents afternoon for new starters - Change of dates

Please note we have changed the dates of the open afternoons for September new starters.

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

Tuesday 30th June - Nursery open afternoon for parents of children attending Nursery this academic year 26/27. This meeting will be in the school hall commencing at 4 p.m. and is for parents only.

Hats and Suncream

Dare we say the weather is beginning to Improve? As we do each year, we would like to remind families that children may wear hats and suncream during warmer weather. Children should come to school with suncream already applied, as staff are not permitted to apply it. Please also ensure your child brings a full water bottle to school each day to stay hydrated. Pupils may now wear summer uniform, and we ask that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

[School Uniform – St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary School, Blaydon](#)

Back in Church

It was a joy to return to Church this week. The whole school community, from Nursery through to Year 6, came together to celebrate Mass on Thursday. The children were delighted to be back in Church and to be guided by Fr Rose once again. It was especially lovely to hear everyone singing together and sharing in this special time as one school family.



Church May Procession

On Sunday 3rd May there will be the annual May procession. Everyone wishing to attend are to assemble in the church back garden at 10:15 a.m.



MAY CROWNING
MARY QUEEN OF ALL



Year 4 Celebration of the Word

Year 4 Celebration the of Word will take place on Friday 8th May. This will take place in the school hall at 2.30 p.m. followed by coffee and a chat.

It would be lovely to see you all there.



Parking

Can we please remind parents and carers about parking at drop off times. Cars should be parked in the allocated parking spaces on the main road. We have noted that several cars are parking on the double yellow lines, this has led to reports of near misses, where drivers have narrowly missed parents and children walking to school. Let respect one another as we all take care in coming to and from school.

Thank you for your co-operation with the matter.



Spotlight Celebration



Harry Burns, Year 4 at his West End football presentation.

Just before Easter, Mateo and Edo passed their brown belt in karate . Well done.



Penny in Year 5 helped send out over 5,000 Junior and Senior Blaydon Races numbers this week ready for the 9th of June!



Agnes played in the under10s rugby festival at the weekend for the last game of the season.

Darcey passed her Grade 2 Tap exam with a distinction. Amazing work Darcey



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

Dates for you diary

Summer Term

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 19 th 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 21 st May	Year 6 visiting a Careers workshop at the Metro Centre
Friday 22 nd 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

Wednesday 3rd June

Thursday 4th June

Saturday 6th June

Thursday 11th June

Friday 12th June

Tuesday 16th June

Tuesday 23rd June

Friday 26th June

Friday 26th June

Tuesday 30th June

Wednesday 1st-3rd July

Thursday 2nd July

Thursday 2nd July

Monday 6th July

Tuesday 7th July

Wednesday 8th July

Thursday 9th July

Friday 10th July

Thursday 16th July

Thursday 16th 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

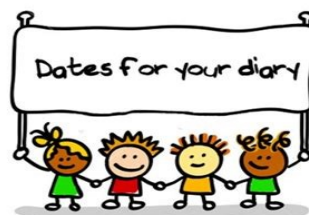
Year 6 Leavers Production


Summer holiday Monday 20th July until Friday 28th August 2026

Monday 31st August - Bank Holiday

Tuesday 1st September 2026 - Staff Inset

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 - Staff Inset





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 site in Blaydon
(NE21 5PT)

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

Proof of eligibility
drop in sessions to
help with paperwork
to claim brand new
uniform, on 9/5 and
20/6 alongside our
usual Saturday
markets.

Please check our
Facebook page for
any changes to
market days,
including additional
summer markets.

May/June 2026 Markets... ALL AT BLAYDON

Friday 1st May 3:30pm - 5pm
Saturday 9th May 9:30am - 11am
Saturday 16th May 9:30am - 11am
Monday 25th May 6pm - 7pm
Friday 5th June 3:30pm - 5pm
Saturday 13th June 9:30am - 11am
Saturday 20th June 9:30am - 11am
Monday 29th June 6pm - 7pm

Enter via THE BACK DOOR of
St Cuthbert's Community Hall,
Blaydon NE21 5PT, next to the
big blue building which is
behind Morrisons.



www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform
<https://www.gatesheadwestuniformscheme.org.uk>
contact@GatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk
and find us as gwusne on Vinted

At the Blaydon site, they have plenty summer dresses and grey school shorts, plus the usual branded items, trainers, PE joggers, school shoes, fancy dress outfits and coats. They currently have quite a few school rucksacks and lunch box bags too.