



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

A visit from our Trust CEO

This week we had a wonderful visit from our Trust CEO, Mrs Stephenson. It was a pleasure to have her with us as she helped welcome children and families into school as the gates opened. Mrs Stephenson then spent time visiting classrooms and joining lessons. She was very impressed with the strong vocabulary being used across the school, particularly when Year 2 pupils confidently explained what a nomad is.

In Year 1, she took part in a phonics session and enjoyed seeing the children's enthusiasm for early reading. She also discussed literature with Year 5 pupils and explored learning about the rainforest with Year 6.

In Year 4, Mrs Stephenson was put to the test with their impressive multiplication knowledge, and she enjoyed sharing a fantastic story with the children in Nursery.

Overall, it was a wonderful visit, with children across the school demonstrating our high standards and expectations.

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Stephenson again on her next visit.



Year 4 Multiplication

The assessment window for the Year 4 multiplication check opens just after the half term break. Please ensure your child/children continue to practise their times tables on Times Tables Rock Stars in order to maintain the fantastic progress they've made so far!

Inset Day

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding half term, I would like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support. Your partnership with us makes a profound difference, not only in your child's academic progress, but also in their personal and spiritual development.

It is such a pleasure to see the children grow in confidence, resilience and kindness over recent weeks, and this is only possible because of the strong home-school relationships we share.

We now look ahead with excitement to the final half term of the school year. This is a time filled with many special moments. We have a number of wonderful events planned, including Sports Days, transition days for our pupils moving on to their next stages, and, of course, our much-anticipated leavers' productions. These occasions provide fantastic opportunities to celebrate achievement, build memories, and mark important milestones in your child's journey.

Thank you once again, as always, for your ongoing support of our school community.

Wishing you all a happy and restful half term break, Mr Craig.



"The extraordinary outpouring of Pentecost continues.
The Holy Spirit transforms us and wants to transform the world."

Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)



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 3** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 18th May 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	94.07
Year 1	84.81
Year 2	92.72
Year 3	98.99
Year 4	97.49
Year 5	97.22
Year 6	98.41

Half Term / Inset Day

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

Whole School Mass

Children from Year 6 will be leading Mass on Thursday 4th June, 9:05 in church. All are welcome to attend.



Trip to Beamish

Our Year 2 children will be visiting Beamish Museum on Wednesday 2nd June.

This visit will enhance their topic for this term which is the Victorian Era and how Victorian children lived.

First Holy Communions

On Saturday 6th June some of our children will be taking their First Communion. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.



Water bottles

Can we please remind parents and carers to ensure that your child has their water bottle with them in school at all times during this hot weather spell. They should also have an all day suncream applied before they come to school and if possible have a sun hat available for protection.

Let us enjoy the lovely weather safely.

Spotlight Celebration



Miles from Y2 and his football team entered a tournament at the weekend and won it. Well done Miles!



Ivy has passed stage 5 swimming, well done for working so hard.



Well done to Penny for achieving the Gold Award at swimming this week and moving up to the next class!



Well done boys for their rugby awards at the weekend.



Anya won a Ping Junior Tour golf competition in Clitheroe this weekend - wearing her y6 leavers' hoodie!

She also won the TW Elliott Trophy at Close House recently, and has been asked to play for the County team.



Elena received her results for her Primary grade Tap examination and passed with Distinction! She did amazingly well and we are so very proud.

Luca and Elena both participated in their weekly Junior Parkrun at Prudhoe last Sunday. Luca came 1st among around 30 runners. He ran in a super fast time of 08:55. Well done.



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

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

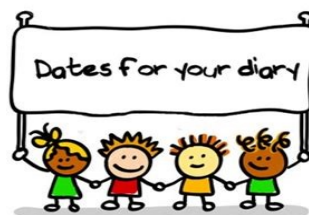
School Mass (Leavers) 9.05 a.m. in Church

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



Amended or additional dates will be in bold