



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

Wishing Our Year 6 the Very Best for Their SATs

As our Year 6 children prepare for their SATs, we want to take a moment to say how proud we are of all their hard work, resilience, and determination. These assessments are just one part of their journey, and they've already achieved so much throughout their time here at St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas.

To our parents and carers – thank you for the encouragement, support, and care you continue to give your children. It makes a real difference. We wish every one of our Year 6 pupils the very best next week. We believe in them, and we know they'll do their very best.

Good luck – you've got this!



May Procession

Our children and staff took part in a beautiful Liturgy of the Word focused on Our Lady, Mary. As May is the Month of Mary, we celebrated our annual May Procession.

We began with a service in Church before processing to our Gospel Garden, where flowers were laid at the grotto in honour of Our Lady.

Many thanks to our families for kindly providing flowers for the service. Afterward, our staff and Mini Vinnies created lovely bouquets, which were shared with local residents, care homes and parishioners following Mass on Sunday.

The notes and letters we received from those who received the flowers have been truly heart warming and remind us how wonderful it is for our children to spread joy within our community.

Please click on the image to watch our video.



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.

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.

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 9.10a.m.



Class Assembly

Tennis Club information

Please note that there will be no Tennis afterschool club on Thursday 14th May.

Stella Radio

The Wednesday Word on Stella FM. 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.



“Let the Holy Spirit be your helper and guide; He will not fail to lead you to peace.”

Pope St. John Paul II



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 4** who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 4th May 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception	94.67
Year 1	96.00
Year 2	98.62
Year 3	98.18
Year 4	100
Year 5	94.38
Year 6	99.29

Sports Days

Please see our dates below for our annual Sports Days.

Monday 6th July - Key Stage 1 Sports Day

Gates will open at 1 p.m. for the event to start at 1.15 p.m.

Tuesday 7th July - Key stage 2 Sports Day

Gates will open at 1 p.m. for the event to start at 1.15 p.m.

Wednesday 8th July - Nursery Sports Day

This will take place in the morning with times to follow.

Parents afternoon for new starters

We will be holding two afternoons for parents of children who will be starting school for the 2026 to 2027 academic year.

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.

Wednesday 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.

Football news



On Thursday, our school football team played in the Champions Final - the tournament they qualified for after winning the league. Despite facing some of the strongest teams in Gateshead, the boys produced another fantastic performance and finished as runners-up!

A huge thank you to the boys for the commitment, effort and pride they have shown all year whilst representing our school. We couldn't be prouder of everything they have achieved. There are certainly some big boots to fill when you leave us for secondary school - what a group of players you have been!

Spotlight Celebration



Arlo's football team won Outstanding Team at the Northumberland League presentation at the weekend and he won the Northumberland League Outstanding Player Award. We are very proud of him.



Mack was awarded U7s outstanding player for Swalwell Juniors FC. Well done Mack.



Well done Fearne on passing your stage 8 swimming award.

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

Spotlight Celebration



The girls took part in the Spring Dance Festival at the weekend and did very well.

Olivia, 2nd tap duet, 3rd modern trio and took part in 5 troupe dances
Evie 1st song and dance, 2nd ballet, 3 tap, 2nd tap trio, 3rd modern trio
and took part in 9 troupe dances, well done girls



Addy Lanning in Year 2 has had a busy period in terms of developing her martial arts. She recently fought a 3 round kickboxing (no headshots) exhibition in front of a near sold out crowd. Last Sunday she also got to train with one of the most famous kick-boxers in the world Benny 'the Jet' Urquidez at a seminar in Hartlepool (he's also starred in movies with Jackie Chan, and trained Patrick Swayze for his role in the film 'Roadhouse'!)
To cap it off, she passed another Taikwondo grading this week, and has also recently taken up Freestyle Karate with the hope of entering her first competition this year.

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

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

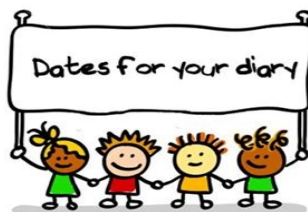
Year 6 Leavers Production

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



Amended or additional dates will be in bold



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.