



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

Thank You

A huge thank you for your generous donations to our Tombola stall for Stellafest. The team are currently sorting through all the items in preparation for the event on 15th July.

Children's Cancer North Run (In School)

On Wednesday 8th July, we will once again host the Children's Cancer North Run in school.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to take part in a whole-school running event while supporting a fantastic cause.

The event will begin with a warm-up led by Mrs Morris from GrassRoots in the world-famous Birty Warm Up Zone, followed by the main run around the school grounds.

In the lead-up to the event, there will be opportunities for children to purchase t-shirts, water bottles, pencils, and other items to help them get ready for the day.



Cricket Tournament 2026

Key Stage 2 enjoyed a fantastic cricket tournament this week.

Pupils were divided into teams and, with the support of Mrs McDonald, GrassRoots, and Durham Cricket, they took part in a range of cricket matches and sporting activities.

It was a wonderful event, and a great time was had by all.



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 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.



"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

St Augustine



Parking

Can we please remind parents / carers to take into consideration our neighbours when you drop off and collect your child from school. We have once again received emails and telephone calls into school from local residents informing us that their driveways are being blocked by cars and people continue to park on the double yellow lines.

 **NO** 
PARKING
KEEP GATE
CLEAR

Year 1 Mass in Church

On Thursday 2nd July, Year children will be leading Mass in church.

All are welcome to attend from 9.05 a.m.



Reception and Year 6

On Friday 10th July, children from Reception and Year 6 will be hosting a Celebration of the Word for their parents at 2.30 p.m.

It would be lovely to see you all there.



Discovery Museum

On Friday 3rd July our Year 1 children will be visiting the

Discovery museum in Newcastle to enhance this terms history topic of 'Our Recent Past' and 'Ships and Seafarers'.

We hope that they have a wonderful time.

Hats and Suncream

It looks like the sunshine has arrived for the next week, 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](#)



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 Reception class who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 22nd June 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception Class	98.52
Year 1	92.96
Year 2	91.19
Year 3	97.31
Year 4	91.40
Year 5	95.49
Year 6	94.05

Nursery Parents afternoon for the new academic year

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.

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.

Grassroots Afterschool Club - UPDATE

Due to Stella Fest taking place on 15th July, the Grassroots session scheduled for that afternoon will be cancelled.

The last session will be on Wednesday 8th July and will be a water fight day!!
Super soakers and a towel will be required.

Year 6

Our Year 6 children have a few exciting events happening next week.

On Tuesday 30th June they will be visiting St Thomas More for the full day as part of their transition to secondary school.

The following day they will be going on an adventure to Robinwood Activity Centre for 3 whole days.

We hope that they have a lovely time and make lots of new friends.

Bishop Wilkinson Celebration of Sport

The Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust 'Celebration of Sport' event which is being held on Thursday 2 July 2026 at Gateshead International Stadium.

Over 1,200 pupils from our Trust are being invited to take part, including Year 5 pupils from each Trust primary school. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to take part in a range of sports and activities in an internationally recognised arena.

On the day, our Year 5 pupils will represent both our own school as well as one of five 'clusters'. Each cluster is made up of the primary schools that traditionally link in with one of the five Trust secondary schools.

Our school will be competing as part of the St Thomas More cluster. As well as a competitive element to the day, there are also fun activities for pupils to enjoy, as well as a chance to be involved in a mass participation dance led by a professional dance instructor.

We hope that the weather stays sunny for them.

Children's Flu Spray - 20th October 2026

The Nasal Flu spray will be available to children from Reception to Year 6 from September 2026. Vaccinating your child against Flu will help protect them, their vulnerable friends and families by reducing it's spread.

The flu vaccine is offered as a spray up the nose or an injection in the upper arm. (Children will be offered the injection at a community clinic).

The online consent can be accessed via any device. Please click on the following link

<https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

This will direct you to the online consent form. Our school code is **NB149052**

Please complete the consent form at the earliest opportunity.

If you do not wish for your child to be vaccinated, please complete a non-consent using the above link also.



flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Spotlight Celebration



Well done to Penny and Martha in Year 5 who achieved their Brownies Gold Award this week!



Jake received a medal and certificate for distance week at swimming.



Well done to Jack in Year 2 and Marco in Year 1 who earned their Respect Certificate of Achievement at Little Kickers this week!



This week at swimming Dylan smashed his 400m swimming target. 16 lengths, we're super proud of his progress.



Well done to Bobby who also received a swimming award this week.



Leighton achieved his 100 meters in his swimming lessons this week.



Ellen was very happy to get her 25m swimming certificate this week.

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

STELLA STARS KARAOKE



UNLEASH YOUR
INNER STAR AT
STELLAFEST26



15th
JULY

MUSIC
& FUN

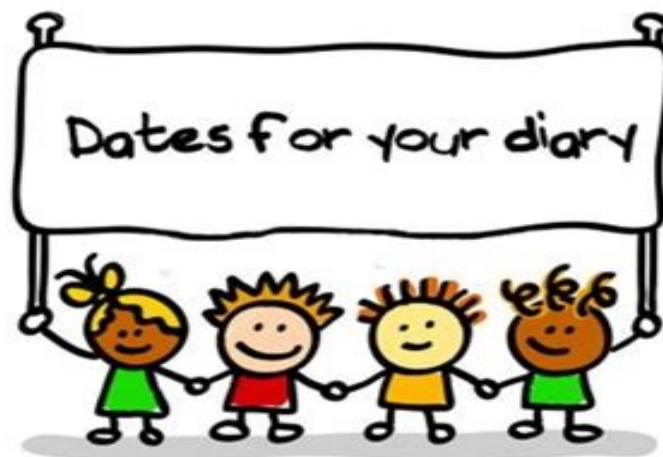


Dates for you diary

Tuesday 30th June	New Nursery Parents afternoon - 4 p.m.
Tuesday 30th June	Year 6 visiting St Thomas More
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 2nd July	BWCET Celebration of Sport for Year 5
Friday 3rd July	Year 1 visiting The Discovery Museum
Monday 6th July	Keystage 1 Sports Day in the afternoon
Tuesday 7th July	Keystage 2 Sports Day in the afternoon
Wednesday 8th July	Nursery Sports Day in the morning
Wednesday 8th July	Children's Cancer North Run
Thursday 9th 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
Monday 13th July	Year 6 and Year 5 walking to Newburn
Wednesday 15th July	StellaFest
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