



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

Year 6 Residential 2026 – Robinwood

Our Year 6 children have just returned from an unforgettable residential visit to Robinwood. Throughout the week, they embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, developing valuable skills including teamwork, resilience, communication, patience, and independence.

The children had a fantastic time taking part in a wide range of exciting activities and created memories that will last a lifetime. If you would like to see more of their adventures, please visit the **News** section of our school website, where you can find blog updates from each day of the trip.

Mr Craig was incredibly proud of every single one of our Year 6 pupils. They were outstanding ambassadors for our school, demonstrating kindness, politeness, respect, and excellent behaviour throughout the visit. It was a pleasure to share such a wonderful experience with them.



Shoebboxes

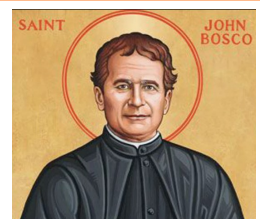
Year 6 will begin a new project on Monday and are on the lookout for shoeboxes. They would really appreciate if you could donate any unwanted boxes to school. These could be dropped off at the office.

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 Luis 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.



“Always think well of everyone, and be ready to help others. Do this and you will be happy.”
St John Bosco



Children's Cancer North Run (In School)

We are delighted to announce that next week - Wednesday 8th July - is our annual **Children's Cancer North Run** here at school!

On the morning of the event, we will be selling a range of merchandise, including bottles, t-shirts, bubbles, pens and much more. Please can children bring in the correct change, where possible, so they can purchase different items at our stall. All proceeds will go towards supporting this wonderful charity.

In the afternoon, the whole school will come together to take part in the run and we are excited to be welcoming special visitors from Children's Cancer North to join us for the event.

If you would like to support your child or your child's class, we would greatly appreciate any donations.

You can also leave a motivational message for them via our fundraising page:

[Children's Cancer North: Children's Cancer North Day 2026](#)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support - let's make this another fantastic and memorable event!

Team Stella.

Merchandise Price List



Item	Price
Ballpoint Pen	£1.00
Neck Buffs Colours: Black & orange / Orange & white	£5.00
Pencil	£1.00
Slap Wrist Band Colours: Orange / Blue / Purple	£2.00
Stacking Crayons	£2.00
Water Bottle	£5.00
Children's Cancer North Navy Tech T-Shirts	£5.00
Bubbles	£1.00



Raring 2 go!

The Raring2go! SUMMER magazine is out now.

It is full of ideas for things to do and places to go, many of them FREE.

Just click on the image below.



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.



**Celebrating
God's Word**

Year 2 Mass in Church

On Thursday 9th July, Year 2 children will be leading Mass in church.

All are welcome to attend from 9.05 a.m.



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 29th June 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception Class	98.89
Year 1	97.41
Year 2	88.51
Year 3	98.32
Year 4	91.76
Year 5	94.10
Year 6	96.43

After school clubs

Karate - Monday 6th will be the last Karate lesson. (Gradings will take place Monday 13th if you wish you child to take part).

Gardening Club - Tuesday 7th will be the last gardening club.

Grassroots Gymnastics - Wednesday 8th will be the last session due to Stella Fest taking place the following week.

Tennis - TBC

Girls Football - Thursday 9th will be the last session.

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

Teas and coffee will be available in the school hall from 8.30 am. Once the children have been registered we will bring them down to the field for a 9.15 am start.



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.



We are located In
St Cuthbert's
Community Hall
(our door is round
the back), NE21 5PT
next to the big
blue building
behind Morrisons.

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

*We are all volunteers and
even volunteers need
holidays - sometimes this
means there is no one to
run a market.



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

July/August 2026 Markets... ALL AT BLAYDON

Friday 3rd July 3:30pm - 5pm

Saturday 11th July 9:30am - 11am

Saturday 18th July 9:30am - 11am

Monday 27th July 6pm - 7pm

Sat 15th Aug 9:30am - 11am

WE CONDENSED SOME MARKETS

into this one market

Sat 29th August 9:30am - 11am

Then back to normal...

Fri 4th Sept 3:30pm - 5pm

Side by Side Arts Private Music Tuition

Please click on the image
below if you wish for your
child to partake in private
music lessons.

These will be held during the
school day and are run by
side by side arts.

Children from Reception to
Year 6 can experience Guitar
or Piano lessons.



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.

Spotlight Celebration



Amelia-Rose, Year 5, took to the stage to perform with her theatre school at His Majesty's Theatre, home to Phantom Of The Opera, in the heart of London's West end theatre district. The show was a sell out and a huge hit, she loved every minute of it. We are very proud of Amelia-Rose, what a fantastic achievement and experience.



After an offer from all 3 North East academies, (Newcastle, Sunderland and Middlesborough), Lexie played her first football match for her chosen team this week at Sunderland. Well done to Lexie, and what an achievement to get to choose from 3 academies. Well done.



Iona (Year 1) completed the CHUF Toddle on Sunday 28th June at Close House with her baby sister. They raised £150 for CHUF and had a lovely day out!



Hallie received her 100 metre swimming award last 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

Spotlight Celebration



Anya won another golf competition, the Northumberland County Girls Swinburne Trophy at Morpeth at the weekend - the picture is of her with the trophy and the County mascot. She gets to keep the trophy (with her name on!) for a year.



Tom was proud to receive his trophy for most improved player for Team Monaco at the weekend! Well done Tom!



Jack (Year 1) and Luke (Reception) completed the CHUF Toddle on Sunday, raising £100. Well done boys!



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

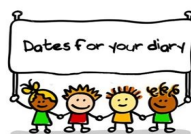


Dates for you diary

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



Term Dates Academic Year 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term 1	Tuesday 1st September 2026 to Friday 23rd October 2026 <i>(Inset day Tuesday 1st September 2026 and Wednesday 2nd September 2026)</i>
<i>School Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026</i>
Autumn Term 2	Monday 2nd November 2026 to Friday 18th December 2026
<i>School Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027</i>
Spring Term 1	Monday 4th January 2027 to Friday 12th January 2027
<i>School Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 15th February 2027 to Friday 19th February 2027</i>
Spring Term 2	Monday 22nd February 2027 to Thursday 25th March 2027
<i>School Holiday</i>	<i>Friday 26th March 2027 to Friday 9th April 2027</i>
Summer Term 1	Monday 12th April 2027 to Thursday 28th May 2027 <i>(Inset day TBC - Polling Day)</i>
<i>School Holiday</i>	<i>Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4th June 2027</i>
Summer Term 2	Monday 7th June 2027 to Friday 16th July 2027 <i>(Inset days on the 19th to 21st July 2027)</i>