



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

Welcome Back from Mr Craig

A very warm welcome back to all of our children, families and staff as we begin another exciting academic year together.

It has been a genuine joy to welcome our children back into school this week. The hallways and classrooms have once again been filled with smiling faces, enthusiasm and the wonderful energy that makes our school such a special place. Our children have spent time settling into their new classes, getting to know their teachers, learning new routines and building new friendships.

As a Catholic school community, we begin this year with gratitude for God's many blessings and with hope for all that lies ahead. Throughout the week, we have reflected on our

Back Pocket Principles: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready to Learn.

It has been wonderful to see these values already shining through in the actions of our children. By living out these principles each day, we strengthen our community and continue to follow Christ's example of kindness, service and love for one another.

Over the summer break, significant work took place across the school. A new fire alarm system and lockdown alarm system have been installed to further enhance the safety and security of our school environment. As a result, the school remained fully closed throughout the holiday period while these important improvements were completed.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all staff for their dedication and commitment during our two INSET days. Staff have worked incredibly hard, engaging in professional training, reflecting on best practice and ensuring that every aspect of our school is prepared to the highest possible standard for the children. Their hard work and professionalism are greatly appreciated and will undoubtedly benefit every pupil throughout the year ahead.

As we embark on this new school year, let us continue to work in partnership, supporting one another and placing Christ at the centre of all we do. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to seeing our children grow academically, spiritually and personally.

Here's to a wonderful year filled with joy, learning, friendship and many special memories.

All the best,
Mr Craig
Head Teacher

Thank You

A school is successful because of the many people who work tirelessly behind the scenes, often without recognition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who plays a part in supporting our school community.

In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to our Local Governing Committee. Their dedication, support and commitment to securing the very best education for our children is truly remarkable. They are a credit to our community, generously giving their time, expertise and encouragement to help our school continue to flourish.

We thank them sincerely for all they do.



"Christ leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others."

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 Reception, Yer 3 and Year 4 who won the trophy this week.

Week beginning: Monday 1st September 2026	
Year group	Attendance percentage
Reception Class	100
Year 1	96.67
Year 2	96.67
Year 3	100
Year 4	96.97
Year 5	100
Year 6	94.66

Dates for Your Diary

Please remember to check the **Dates for Your Diary** section on the final page of this newsletter, where you will find all key events and important dates for the coming weeks and months.

To help families stay informed, we will continue to highlight and signpost the most immediate upcoming events in each weekly newsletter, whilst maintaining a full calendar of events on the final page for your reference.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working together for another successful year.

Phonics Information Meeting for Reception and Year 1 Parents

We would like to invite all Reception and Year 1 parents and carers to our Phonics Information Meeting, which will take place in your child's classroom on **Tuesday 15th September at 3:30 p.m.**

To enable as many parents as possible to attend, members of staff will be available to supervise children during the session.

This is an important meeting and provides a valuable opportunity to develop your understanding of phonics, how it supports early reading and the crucial role parents can play in supporting learning at home. We will also share practical strategies and resources that you can use to help your child become a confident and successful reader.

We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend and look forward to welcoming you.

P.E. Kits & School Uniform

Can we please remind parents that children will need to bring in the correct P.E. kits. This consists of dark navy/black shorts, white P.E t. shirt and a dark navy hoodie for colder weather and the appropriate footwear (plain trainers).

If your child wears earrings they **MUST** have them covered up before they come into school or wear the retainers. P.E. kits are available from Tots to Teams our uniform supplier. You may also be able to obtain some items from the Gateshead Uniform Scheme which hold monthly markets in the area. Please see information at the end of this newsletter.

Children from Reception class, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 can leave their P.E. kits in school. These can be taken home each half term to laundered.

Please see the table below when all children will be receiving a P.E. lesson or a Swimming Lesson. Children from Year 4 to 6 can bring their kits in on the appropriate days.

Reception Class - Friday

Year 1 - Wednesday

Year 2 - Monday and Wednesday

Year 3 - Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4 - Wednesday and Swimming on a Thursday

Year 5 - Monday and Wednesday

Year 6 - Monday and Friday

Mass

We will be holding a school Mass on Thursday 10th September 9.10 a.m. in Church for children in Reception to Year 6
All are welcome to attend.



Curriculum Evenings

Our Curriculum Evenings are a wonderful way for you to gain further insight into what your child will be learning over the next academic year. Please see the list of dates below and we hope to see as many parents as possible. These meetings will begin at **4 p.m.** in your child's classroom and is for **ADULTS** only. If you are unable to attend you will be given a handout at a later date.

Monday 21st September	Nursery	Wednesday 23rd September	Year 3
Monday 21st September	Reception	Wednesday 23rd September	Year 4
Tuesday 22nd September	Year 1	Thursday 24th September	Year 5
Tuesday 22nd September	Year 2	Thursday 24th September	Year 6

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.

Share Your Talent



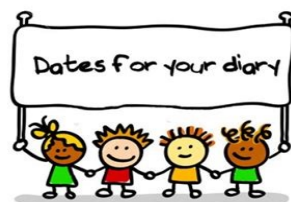
Are you a star footballer ?
Can you do gymnastics or even dance?
Do you like to help out in the community?
Is your favourite hobby painting and drawing?

In this section of the newsletter we like to celebrate the children's achievements.

If you have an image you would like to share, can you please send it to Miss Green on the email below by Thursday afternoon.

We look forward to seeing the spotlight shine.

Don't forget to send your images to Miss Green at hgreen@smtb.bwcet.com



Thursday 10th September	– Whole School Mass 9.10 a.m. in Church
Tuesday 15th September	– Parents Phonics meetings for Reception and Year 1 at 3.30 p.m.
Monday 21st September	– Curriculum Evening 4.00 p.m. Nursery and Reception
Tuesday 22nd September	– Curriculum Evening 4.00 p.m. Year 1 and Year 2
Wednesday 23rd September	– Curriculum Evening 4.00 p.m. Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday 24th September	– Curriculum Evening 4.00 p.m. Year 5 and Year 6
Friday 25th September	– MacMillian Coffee Morning 8.30 a.m. in the Hall
Friday 25th September	– Reception Welcome Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the Hall
Friday 2nd October	– Year 4 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the Hall
Tuesday 6th October	– Year 2 Assembly 9.00 a.m. in the Hall
Friday 9th October	– Year 6 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the Hall
Tuesday 13th October	– Year 3 Assembly 9.00 a.m. in the Hall
Wednesday 14th October	– Visit from GB Athlete – Whole school assembly and activities
Friday 16th October	– Year 1 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the Hall
Tuesday 20th October	– Reception Assembly 9.00 a.m. in the Hall
Wednesday 21st October	– Open evening for Possible Reception parents September 2027 – 4.00 p.m.
Thursday 22nd October	– Whole School Mass 9.10 a.m. in Church
Friday 23rd October	– Year 5 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the Hall

Half Term

Monday 26th October 2026 to Friday 30th October 2026

Thursday 5th November	– Whole School Mass 9.10 a.m. in Church
Tuesday 10th November	– Year 4 Assembly 9.00 a.m. in the Hall
Thursday 12th November	– Year 6 Mass (with Year 5 attending) 9.10 a.m. in Church
Friday 13th November	– Year 2 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the Hall
Tuesday 17th November	– Year 5 Assembly 9.00 a.m. in the Hall
Thursday 19th November	– Year 4 Mass (with Year 3 attending) 9.10 a.m. in Church
Friday 20th November	– Year 3 Celebration of the Word 2.30 p.m. in the Hall
Monday 23rd November	– Parents Evening
Tuesday 24th November	– Parents Evening
Thursday 26th November	– Year 5 Mass (with Year 6 attending) 9.10 a.m. in Church
Thursday 26th November	– Open evening for Possible Reception parents September 2027 – 4.00 p.m.
Thursday 3rd December	– Y3 Mass (with Year 4 attending) 9.10 a.m. in Church
Friday 4th December	– Open evening for Possible Reception parents September 2027 – 4.00 p.m.
Monday 7th December	– Reception Nativity (Afternoon)
Tuesday 8th December	– KS1 Nativity (Afternoon)
Wednesday 9th December	– Nursery Nativity (Morning) – KS1 Nativity (Afternoon)
Thursday 10th December	– KS2 Carols in the Church (Afternoon)
Friday 11th December	– KS2 Carols in the Church (Afternoon)

Christmas Holidays

Monday 21st December 2026 to Friday 1st January 2027

Spring term will commence Monday 4th January 2027

Term Dates Academic Year 2026 - 2027

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

Gateshead West Uniform Scheme

Please see the leaflet below with information about the next markets held by the Uniform Scheme. These markets are pay-as-you-feel markets, by using these markets, you are helping to save the plant stopping old uniform going to landfill at the same time saving money.

As you will see, the next market is this Friday (4th September) 3.30 p.m. - 5 p.m. at St Cuthbert's Community Hall.

This is the big blue building which is behind Morrisons. Please use the door round the back.

**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.

Did you know?
We sell surplus
stock on Vinted as
gwusne.
If it's easier, please
buy from us online.

**We have children's
Halloween costumes
and other fancy dress
too. Please donate
your outgrown
costumes to us and
shop with us for this
year's outfits.**

**Sept/Oct 2026
Blaydon Markets...**

Friday 4th Sep 3:30pm - 5pm
Saturday 12th Sept 9:30am - 11am
Saturday 19th Sept 9:30am - 11am
Monday 28th Sept 6pm - 7pm
Friday 2nd Oct 3:30pm - 5pm
Saturday 10th Oct 9:30am - 11am
Saturday 17th Oct 9:30am - 11am
Monday 26th Oct 6pm - 7pm

Find us in St Cuthbert's
Community Hall NE21 5PT, next to
the big blue building behind
Morrisons. The door we use is
ROUND THE BACK ❤️

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