



FOCUS



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ST MARY & ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.stmaryandthomasaquinas.co.uk

26th November 2018

We're off to the finals!!

Huge congratulations to our Year 5/6 football team who took part and won the U11 Boys National League Trust Football Cup at Gateshead Stadium competing against 11 other teams.

We won 4 out of the first 5 games to get through to the semi finals as winners of our group. We then had to play Bill Quay and managed to win that after playing extra time and then going to penalties. The final was an extremely close game, but we came through to win 1-0! Hooray!!! Well done boys.



The boys showed fantastic skill, teamwork, persistence and did us all proud! We're all looking forward to the next round early next year.

Easyfundraising

I'm sure everyone is aware from the media that school budgets are very tight for all schools now. We need your help to raise funds! If you shop online, please could you sign up to easyfundraising to support St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas' Primary School? It's a really easy way to raise money for us - you just use the easyfundraising site to shop online with more than 3,300 well known stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S. When you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you. There are lots of holiday booking companies and hotels who participate and they are large purchases that you would be making anyway. We want to raise as much as possible, so please visit our new easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stthomasaquinasps/> and click 'support us'. Thank you!

SAFETY OF CHILDREN ON STELLA LANE

Staff and governors are becoming very concerned about the safety of our children on Stella Lane as they walk to and from school. The lane is becoming increasingly busy at the beginning and the end of the school day.

Cars are parking on double yellow lines, the yellow zig-zag lines immediately outside of school, and have now even started to reverse into the school drive as children are entering and exiting. It has been brought to our attention by a few parents, that over the last few weeks there have been a "few misses", where children have been trying to cross the road, or walk down the lane and have almost been hit by a car!

Parents with children in buggies are often forced to walk on the road as cars are mounted on pavements. We continue to receive many phone calls and complaints from residents, about inconsiderate parking outside of their house, sometimes even blocking their driveways. Last week a number of our parents received a fine for illegal parking and I have been told that the 'parking enforcement officer', will continue to patrol Stella lane identifying illegal parking!

Our utmost priority MUST be the safety of our children especially on these dark, wet mornings and evenings, therefore we will be trialling a 'safer route to school'.

From Monday 3rd December until Christmas, the pedestrian gate, adjacent to the double gates, will be locked from 8.15 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day. All access to school will be via the bottom gate, which leads up to the internal path in school. This entrance to school will ensure a much safer route for children.

The bottom gate will be open from 8.00 a.m. until 9.10 a.m. each morning and from 3.05 p.m. until 5 p.m. each evening.

A member of staff, wearing a high-viz jacket will be present at the bottom gate from 3.15 p.m. until 3.30 p.m. each day, assisting children to cross the road safely.

Please give us your support with this trial which will run from, Monday 3rd December until Friday 21st December. We will continue to review this route to school over the next few weeks before any final decisions are made.

Please help us to keep your children safe! Thank You

Dates for your diary

3rd Dec	Parents Evening
4th Dec	Parents Evening
5th Dec	Year 4 Assembly - 9.10 a.m.
11th Dec	Reception Nativity 2 p.m.
12th Dec	School Christmas Lunch
13th Dec	KS1 Nativity 2 p.m.
14th Dec	KS1 Nativity 2 p.m.
18th Dec	Nursery Nativity 10 a.m.
18th Dec	KS2 Carol Service - 2 p.m.
18th Dec	Reception & KS1 Party day
19th Dec	Nursery Party Day
19th Dec	Year 1 - Year 6 Pantomime
20th Dec	Nursery Nativity 2 p.m.
20th Dec	KS2 Carol Service - 10.30 a.m.
20th Dec	KS2 Party Afternoon
21st Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
21st Dec	Christmas Mass in Church 9.15 a.m.

School closes at 3.15 p.m. on Friday 21st December for the Christmas holidays and opens again on Monday 7th January 2019

After school clubs this W/C 26th Nov

Monday	
Tuesday	Irish Dance / Italian Club
Wednesday	Hoopstarz
Thursday	Keystage 2 Football
Friday	Karate

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Children in Need Day. We raised a grand total of £366.00.
Well done everyone.



Well Done

Congratulations to Livia Michelini (Yr5) on achieving 2nd place at the North East Regional Qualifiers Irish Dance Competition on 11th November.
Well done!

Christmas Fair

Thank you to the PTA and other parents for helping to run our Christmas Fair. I think a wonderful day was had by all. Even Father Christmas managed to pop in. We are still counting the money so haven't got a grand total yet. We still have some unclaimed prizes in the office if you wish to check your tickets.

White 138	Yellow 756	Orange 864	Pink 21	Blue 511
Orange 661	Pink 556	Yellow 556	Yellow 131	Yellow 766
Pink 731	Pink 901	Orange 111	Pink 891	Yellow 641
Pink 806	Scott Evans 871			