



FOCUS



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

11th January 2019

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to Everyone!

Thank you

Thank you for all of the lovely Christmas cards and presents that staff received, they were all very much appreciated.

Poppy Appeal

£147.72 was collected by our school for the Poppy Appeal last term. Without your help, the British Legion would be unable to continue their vital welfare and benevolent work. Thank you.



Children in Need

£366 was raised by our children for this appeal which helped to support disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. Thank you for your generosity.



School Meal Price Increase

We have just been informed by the Local Authority that there will be a small price increase to school meals. The cost of a school meal from 1st April will be £2.70.

Gentle Reminder

We are still collecting payments for Christmas DVD'S and photographs. DVD'S were £5 and the photographs were £3.00.



Access to School

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding whilst we trialed the new entry to and from school each day.

It appears that this has been very successful and therefore we will continue using the bottom gate as the main access route for school entry and exit. Many parents have commented how they feel it is a much 'safer route' for the children.

Thank you everyone for your support.

Attendance and Punctuality - Every day counts!

A reminder that the school bell sounds at 8.50 a.m. for the start of each school day.

The doors to Reception class open at 8.40 a.m. each morning. The doors in Keystage 2 open at 8.40 a.m. Children in Keystage 2 are encouraged to come straight into school each morning ready for teaching to begin at 8.50 a.m.

The bell on Keystage 1 yard rings at 8.50 a.m. and children line up on the yard and are escorted into school by their teachers.

Any children arriving at school after the registers have been taken at approximately 8.55 a.m. will be given a late mark.

Good attendance and punctuality are vital for success at school, and to establish positive life habits that are necessary for future success.

Easyfundraising - Update

We have 34 supporters now and they have raised £28.28. Top supporters are Chris, Jennifer and Leanne. Are you thinking about booking your summer holiday or a short getaway? All of the major travel retailers are on #easyfundraising; TUI, Booking.com, Expedia, First Choice, Thomas Cook, Jet2, Flybe, KLM, Hotels.com, Cottages.com, James Villas, Best Western, Virgin Holidays, Eurocamp, Opodo, P&O, PurpleParking plus +250 others! The average family holiday would raise over £50 for St Mary & St Thomas Aquinas Primary School! – and it's all completely FREE! So please, please, please remember to use #easyfundraising when you book so we don't miss out! To find out more, visit: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

Mobile Numbers - Can you please keep the office up to date with mobile numbers and email addresses.

First Holy Communion Group

Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they prepare for the celebration of First Confession and First Holy Communion:- Isaac & Thea Baker, Charlie Baxter, Daniel Chesters, Adam Cooper-Snaith, Jacob Dowson, Caleb Gardener, Isabelle Grime, Lewis Grimmond, Millie Hillard, Stella Hooker, Florence Jackson, Nicholas Jokelson, Jak Jones, Owen Leigh, Charlotte Lisgo, Sophie Main, Cody Martin, Joseph Martin, Ellie McNestry, Eva Osbourne, abbie Proud, Cora Ramsey, Luke Ritson, Harry Robinson, Charlie Shaw, Ananth Smulders, Oliver Thompson, Harry Spoons, Max Troiano, Haydee Wilson and Sophie Woroniak.

Important dates for your diary

28th Jan	Whole School Mass to celebrate the feast of St Thomas Aquinas
28th/29th Jan	Year 5 residential at Allensford Youth Village
30th Jan	Reception Assembly 9.10 a.m.
1st Feb	Year 2 Liturgy
4th Feb	Movie Night
6th Feb	Year 6 Assembly 9.10 a.m.
13th Feb	Year 5 Assembly 9.19 a.m.
13th Feb	Governors Admissions Meeting
15th Feb	School closes at 3.15 p.m. for the Half Term holiday and re-opens again on Monday 25th February
1st Mar	Year 6 visiting St Thomas More - Challenge morning
1st Mar	Year 5 Class Mass
6th Mar	Ash Wednesday
6th Mar	Governors Finance Meeting
11th Mar	Movie Night
13th Mar	Year 3 Assembly 9.10 a.m.
15th Mar	Year 4 Assembly 9.10 a.m.
20th Mar	Full Governing body meeting
24th Mar	Year 5 attending 'Big Sing' at St Thomas More
1st Apr	Parents Evening
2nd Apr	Parents Evening
3rd Apr	Year 2 Assembly 9.10 a.m.
5th Apr	Year 4 Class Mass
13th - 17th May	Keystage 2 Sats Week
6th June	Year 6 visiting St Thomas More - Challenge Morning
14th June	Year 6 at Gibside
15th June	First Holy Communion Day
17th - 21st June	Year 6 residential on Holy Island
24th June	Year 6 at YMT festival
25/26/27 June	Year 6 at Newburn Activity Centre
11th/12 July	Year 6 performance supported by Keystage children
10th July	Year 6 leavers Mass with other Year 6 children across Gateshead
17th July	Year 6 leavers Liturgy
19th July	School closes for summer holidays

Agora payment system

From 7th January 2019 parents can use our new parent payment system to pay for school lunches, trips and afterschool clubs. Every parent should have received a letter this week giving them their unique invitation code and instructions on how to get started. This online software will make it much easier for parents to make payments without the need to come in to school. It can be done in the comfort of home. For the time being we are still issuing letters to parents and these letters will also be available to view through Agora. However in the future we intend to communicate these types of letters through Agora as consent can be given through the system. Therefore we recommend parents make a habit of regularly going into Agora to see any letters that may have been uploaded. You therefore don't need to worry about losing a letter as it can be viewed at any time while it is live on Agora. If you have any queries or difficulties with the system please contact the office staff who will be very happy to help you.