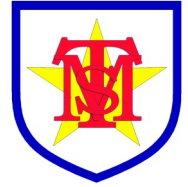


# FOCUS



on

ST MARY & ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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*'Together we strive for excellence, inspired by the joy of the Gospel'.*



17th December 2021



## Year of The Eucharist

Go out and serve the world through the nourishment of the Eucharist.



## A Christmas Message from Miss White



It has been a very busy, successful term in spite of all of the Covid restrictions. Unfortunately, parents have been unable to come into school to watch their child perform in the traditional Nativity plays but hopefully, you will enjoy the recordings on our school website.

The Christmas spirit comes in many forms but the source of our Christmas remains the same. We started off our celebration in school with Advent Liturgies and Mass. This was followed by visits from a Theatre group performing 'Snow White' and then an afternoon of fun on Christmas Jumper day when the Biking Viking on stilts played the Northumbrian pipes for us. The children had great fun on their party days and have taken part in lots of Christmas activities such as making Christmas cards and calendars etc as well as chatting with Santa in Lapland.

In the midst of all this however, we were mindful of the need to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Our children have already been sharing the meaning of Christmas and celebrating the birth of Jesus through their wonderful singing of carols in school and taking part in the nativity play which has been recorded for all parents to see.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, families, children, friends and parishioners for your continued support.

We wish you a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to an exciting New Year full of health and happiness.

### Terry the Viking

Terry the Viking along with Liz have sent a letter to school thanking the children for their fantastic fundraising on Christmas Jumper Day.

Liz writes.....

Dear Miss White

On behalf of The Biking Vikings North East I'd like to say a huge thank you to you, your staff and your delightful children for supporting Brain Tumour Research during your Christmas jumper day 2021. We raised a magnificent £631.61. I have asked Brain Tumour Research to send a certificate to the school to acknowledge your great effort.

Terry and I had a great time. One youngster said that he wished Terry could play his pipes for him every single day for the rest of his life because he enjoyed it so much!

The children are an absolute credit to your school.

They were well mannered, exceptionally well behaved and had a great sense of humour. The four Year 6 children who helped me on the Viking stall were a huge help and showed great patience and kindness to the youngest children.

Thank you once again for supporting Brain Tumour Research.



## Reverse Advent Calendar THE RESULTS



A huge thank you to everyone who has donated to this very worthy cause.

The calculators came out as there was such a big amount to count.

The final amount came to 1417 items of food. Gateshead foodbank will be making up some lovely Christmas hampers for families who will be struggling over the Christmas period. Now for the packing and delivering to the foodbank collection depot. Once again thank you for all of your donations.



## Consent forms

Year 6 and Year 5 should have brought letters home this week.

The Year 5 letters were about swimming lessons and the Year 6 letters were about bike ability. Both of these events start in the new year and we must have the consent forms returned by Wednesday 5th January. Places are limited for bikeability on a first come first served basis.

## Tapestry for Nursery & Reception

Thank you to those parents who have activated their accounts. Some parents have not yet joined. We used the email address that you gave us on the permission form. You may need to check you spam folder if you have not received it. Can you please let me know if you have not received the email with your log in details and I will resend another one.

## Christmas Holidays

School will close at 3.15 p.m. on Friday 17th December for the Christmas Holidays and re-open again on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

## Email Addresses

Throughout school we use several programmes that use parents email addresses for example Eschools for newsletters, text messages and booking parents evening, Pay360 for payment of dinner money and any other monetary transactions and now Tapestry which is a programme which Nursery and Reception will be using. If you change your email address or are not receiving any of these products can you please inform the school office on [hazelandagreen@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:hazelandagreen@gateshead.gov.uk).

## Stella Christmas Mass Times

Friday 24th Dec - 2.30 p.m. First Mass of Christmas - Children/Families;  
4.00 p.m. 2nd Mass of Christmas - Children/Families;  
5.30 p.m. Third Mass Of Christmas;  
7.00 p.m. Fourth Mass of Christmas.  
Saturday 25th Dec 10.00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass.  
\*\*\*No 5.00 p.m. VIGIL MASS TODAY!\*\*\*  
Sunday 26th Dec - 10.00 a.m. Sunday Mass - The Holy Family;  
11.00 a.m. Sunday Mass - The Holy Family.

The early Christmas Eve Masses tend to be more orientated towards the children and families, with the children coming along in 'onesies' and often fancy dress too. They also do the readings and the Offertory Procession.

## Nursery Applications

The closing date for applications to our very popular Nursery school is 31st December 2021. Therefore, if you have a child who is eligible to start Nursery from September 2022 please submit your application before the 31st December deadline.

Application forms can be obtained from the School Business Manager by emailing [theresacostello@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:theresacostello@gateshead.gov.uk) or calling the school office on 0191 4143116.

