

# FOCUS

on

ST MARY & ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
[www.stmaryandthomasaquinas.co.uk](http://www.stmaryandthomasaquinas.co.uk)



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

27th May 2022



## Year of The Eucharist

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



## Our School Prayer

*Father in heaven, bless our school, the teachers, children and all who work within these walls. Dear Holy Spirit stay here with us, so that we may always be wise and good, always doing our best, doing harm to no-one and respecting everyone.*

*Dear Jesus, when we are happy share our joy, when we are sad comfort us. Father, Son and Holy Spirit make our school your home. Amen*



## Your opinion is important to us.

As a school we are continually striving for the very best for our children. We aim to provide our children with not only a high quality curriculum in the core subjects but are committed to producing high quality enriched and enhanced curriculum for all.

Our enhanced curriculum currently includes specialist MFL teaching e.g. a specialist language teacher teaches French throughout school, Miss Maria Bernal, who is bi-lingual, teaches Spanish throughout EYFS and we have recently appointed Miss Lesniak, a Polish teacher, who will soon be introducing Italian. We are also very fortunate to be able to offer a high quality music curriculum. Side by side arts, who are music specialists deliver high quality class music lessons throughout school. Joe and Stuart currently teach piano lessons to approx. 40 children whilst Mr Innerdale and Mr Patterson teach guitar to children in Keystage 2. Outdoor learning is one of our great strengths in EYFS and Keystage 1 and this is an area we want to further develop in Keystage 2.

We are very proud of what we currently have on offer but are always mindful on new initiatives and ideas which can be incorporated into school.

Your opinion is important to us so we please ask you to complete the questionnaire and return to school as soon as possible. Please let us know what else you would like to see developed in school and we will try our best.

Questionnaire on the next page.

*Thank you*

## May Procession

A huge thank you to all of our parents and children who so generously brought in bunches of flowers for the May procession this week. We ended up with more than 200 bunches of flowers which was fantastic. All of the children spent time in church in a May liturgy and then processed up the lane singing Immaculate Mary. The children then spent time in our school Gospel Garden where they crowned our lady with a garland of flowers.

All of the flowers were then collected and children from Year 5 and Year 1 made them into bouquets with the help of Joanne Duncan Leo's mum in Year 1. Last night Jennifer Meikle in Year 5 and her mum took lots to Ryton Towers and tonight Ethan Batey (Year 5) and his mum will be taking the remainder of the flowers to Hadrian House.

It was a beautiful May procession and thanks to all of the parents and children for making this day so special.



## Goodbye and Goodluck

Today we say goodbye to our Year 6 teacher, Mr Iain Knox. Iain has been teaching at our school more than 20 years and will be missed by us all. We wish him every future success as he takes up his new role as Initial Teacher Training (ITT) manager at Carmel College, Darlington.

## School Closures

A reminder that school closes tonight for the half term holiday and will re-open again on Monday 6th June. School will also be closed on Friday 1st July and Monday 11th July for staff training.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6

Please tick the above box to indicate which year group your child is currently in.



Name of parent completing survey.....

## Questionnaire for parents - May 2022

Please read the following statements and tick the answer which best fits what you think about the school. Please only tick one box per statement. If you cannot answer leave it blank.

	(Please tick.)	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	My child is happy at school				
2	My child feels safe at school				
3	The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved				
4	The school keeps me updated about what my child will learn during the year				
5	If your child has SEND, does school give them the support they need to succeed?				
6	When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly.				
7	The school has high expectations for my child				
8	The school lets me know how my child is doing				
9	My child does well at school				
10	There is a good range of subjects available to my child				
11	The school supports my child's wider personal development				
12	If you have ticked either the disagree or strongly disagree box could you please briefly explain your reasons. It is important that we continue to improve as a school and appreciate your views on what you would like to see improved.				
13	Any other comments				

Thank you for taking time to comment.  
Please return this completed survey as soon as possible

## Spotlight on.....

### Max Robinson in Year 4

Max plays football for Heddon United FC. The team recently won their league, having been unbeaten the whole season.

They also won the Northumberland Football League Cup

Final. Their club presentation was on Sunday 22nd May. Max was awarded Best Attitude for never missing training or matches, never moaning, always having high spirits and always supporting his team mates. We're so proud of him!

### Violet Gilbert In Nursery

Violet was in a dancing show recently at the Forum Theatre, Billingham where she performed every night from Monday-Saturday. It was her first show at only 3 years old, and she dances for Nadine's Dance Company, Hartlepool.



Well done children, we are very proud of you both !

### Blaydon Winlaton Children's Centre

The centre have Covid vaccination clinics running for children ages 5-11 years old at the centre itself on the following dates and times:

Sunday 29th May 1.15 - 4.00 p.m. / Wednesday 1st June 1.15 - 4.00 p.m. / Sunday 5th June 1.15 - 4.00 p.m.

No appointments needed, as it is a walk in site. If anyone wishes to make an appointment, they can do so via the NBS system.

### Dates for your diary so far:

7th June	-	Queens Jubilee Picnic
9th June	-	Year 3 Mass
11th June	-	First Holy Communions - Year 4
14th June	-	Year 2 visiting Seahouses and Bamburgh
13th/17th June	-	Year 6 Holy Island Residential
16th June	-	Year 2 Mass
20th/23rd June	-	Year 6 at Newburn Activity Centre
23rd June	-	Year 4 Mass
24th June	-	Year 6 Transition day at St Thomas More
28th June	-	Year 6 visiting Emmaus Youth Village
29th June	-	Whole class photographs
30th June	-	Theatre group for KS 1 - 'The Jungle Book'
1st July	-	<b>Bank Holiday for the Platinum Jubilee</b>
5th July	-	Nursery Welcome Evening for parents
6th July	-	Nursery Fun Day
7th July	-	KS1 Sports afternoon
8th July	-	KS2 Sports afternoon
8th July	-	KS2 Athletics Festival at Gateshead Stadium
11th July	-	<b>Inset Day - School closed to children</b>
14th July	-	Year 4 Mass
20th July	-	Leavers Assembly
21st July	-	Leavers Mass

### Safety on Stella Lane

A gentle reminder to everyone that the school gates don't open until 8.30 a.m. each morning. Over the past few weeks, a large group of children have started to gather at the bottom of the gate from 8.15 a.m. Unfortunately, the path at this point isn't wide enough to cater for large groups of children which means that sometimes the children stand on the road! Please remember that there is no staff supervision before 8.30 a.m. Can we also remind parents not to drive up the lane during school drop off and pick up times.

### Spotlight on.....

Would you like to celebrate and share the talents and achievements of your child? Please click on the link below that will take you to a form to complete.

<https://forms.gle/9cWTqxTKghhtYsit5>

### Queens Jubilee Picnic

On Tuesday 7th June we ask all of the children to come to school wearing red, white and blue as throughout the day we will be celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee.



# Spotlight on our website

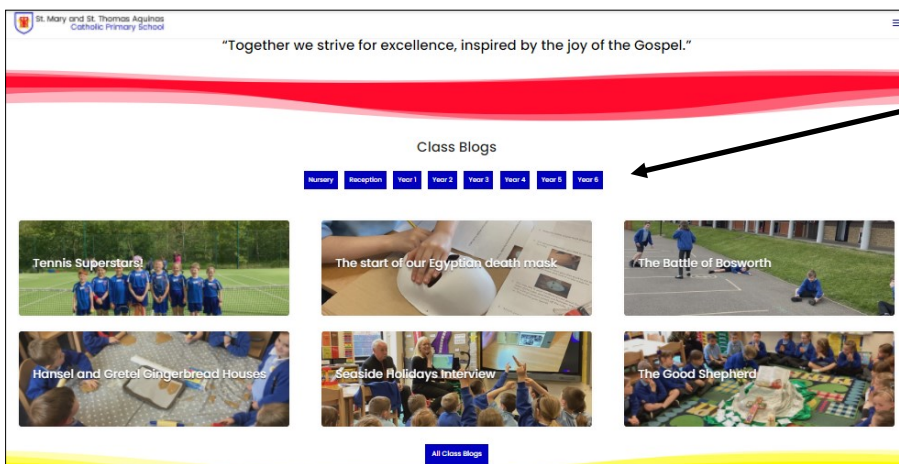
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## Class Blogs

Scan the QR code to access the homepage



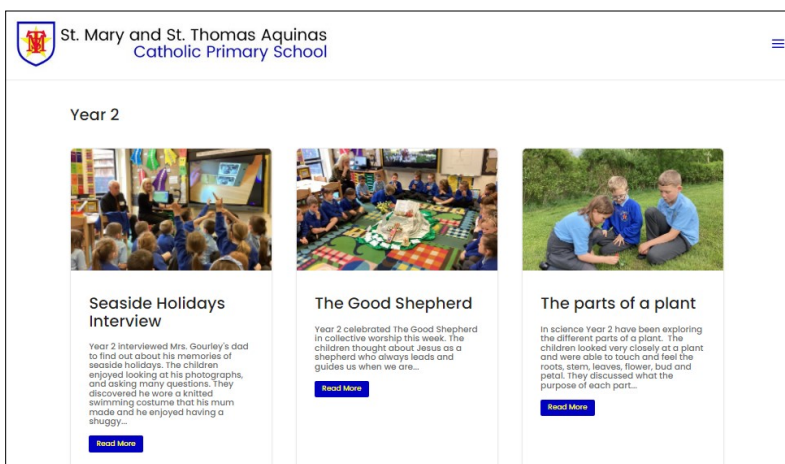
The class blogs showcase some of the wonderful activities and tasks that your child takes part in across all areas of the curriculum. Staff update these regularly so you can keep up to date with your child's learning and celebrate some of their achievements. You can access each class blog from the homepage of our website.



Click on a class to see their posts.

The images show the latest 6 posts from across the school

Once you've opened up a class blog you will be able to access all posts. Then click on the on the blue 'read more' tab to see the full post.



There is also an opportunity to leave a comment on each blog post.

Please spend some time browsing through our class blog posts.

We'd be delighted to hear your feedback on our achievements by leaving a comment.