



FOCUS



on

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

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



13th 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



Half Term Holiday

School closes at 3.15 p.m. on Friday 27th May for the half term holiday and will re-open again on Monday 6th June.

Year 1 Mass

The children in Year 1 will be celebrating Mass in church on Thursday 26th May at 9.10 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Goodbye and Good luck

On Friday 27th May we will be saying goodbye to Mr. Iain Knox. Mr Knox has been a highly respected teacher at our school for more than 20 years and we are all going to be sad to see him go. Throughout his time here at St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas, Iain has always been highly committed to promoting excellence and has been a great role model and mentor to other teachers.

As well as being a great teacher, Iain has always had a passion to train and support trainees and teachers new to the profession.

On June 6th, Iain will take up his new role as Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Manager at Carmel Academy in Darlington where he will be responsible for training our future teachers.

Iain has been a great asset to our school for many years and will be missed by all here at school.

We wish him every future success as he embarks on his new role at Carmel.

We need your help

If you are having a clear out of old toys, Nursery are looking for old toy cars or construction vehicles that the children can play with in their outdoor play area. Thank you.



What's up with WhatsApp

Please click on the link to find out more information and advice for parents and carers.

Whats App is a 16+ app but still some children in our school are using it. The information shows parents how to unlink a child from a group that they are not happy being in and lots more information.

<http://www.stmaryandthomasquinas.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/New->



Bake Sale



Please join us in raising funds for the people of Ukraine.

Our bake sale will be held at Ye Olde Cross, Ryton Village
On Sunday 15th May at 11 a.m.

Donations are welcome on the morning of the sale at the venue. All proceeds will be donated to The Disasters Emergency Committee.

Arranged by Anya Conway and supported by her friends in Year 5



Spotlight on.....

We are all very proud of two of our pupils in Year 4. Henry Thomson is a chorister at Newcastle Cathedral and has been chosen to sing at a prestigious event at the Cathedral at which representatives from 42 Anglican Cathedrals across the country will be in attendance. This is a great achievement.

Well done also goes to Lucas Philo in Year 4 who is a budding tennis player. Lucas plays at County level and has recently been selected to play for the academy. Last weekend he represented the County at an important tournament at Harrogate.

Each week we would like to celebrate and share with you all, the fantastic achievements of our children. Many of our children throughout the school have many talents and skills and we would like to share these with everyone. Some children are very involved in charitable works and other organisations and again this is something that we want to celebrate.

If you would like us to celebrate and share the talents and achievements of your child, we ask you to complete a form outlining your child's achievements.

This form will be available from next week via e-schools.

We will aim to include as many children as possible in our 'Spotlight' section of the FOCUS over the next few months.

Government information regarding an increase in Hepatitis Cases in Children

Since January 2022, an increase in the number of acute (sudden onset) hepatitis cases in the UK in children aged 10 and under has been detected. The link below takes you to a blog that looks at the symptoms of hepatitis, how to avoid spreading childhood infections and what parents should do if their child is unwell with symptoms of a viral infection.

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/05/09/an-increase-in-hepatitis-cases-in-children/>

Piano Lessons

If your child has decided to stop participating in the Piano lessons held in school, can they please return the Piano book that they used in the lessons. If you have any questions regarding piano, can you please contact Stuart on info@sidebysidearts.org

Coffee and chat

We have arranged an informal coffee and chat morning for the parents of children in Year 1.

It would be great to see as many Year 1 parents as possible at our coffee and chat morning on Friday 17th June in the school hall. The doors will be open from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

This will be an opportunity for you to speak to Miss Wilson and Mrs Bowden but also to meet Mrs Gourley who will be teaching the children in Year 2 next academic year.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday 17th June.



Dates for your diary so far:

- 24th May - Year 6 visit to Nissan
- 26th May - Year 1 Mass
- 27th May - Theatre workshop with Year 5&6 - Oliver Twist
- 27th May - Year 4 fun run at Saltwell Park

May half Term 30th May - 3rd June incl

- 7th June - Queens Jubilee Picnic
- 9th June - Year 3 Mass
- 11th June - First Holy Communions - Year 4
- 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 - Bank Holiday for the Platinum Jubilee**
- 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 - Inset Day - School closed to children**
- 14th July - Year 4 Mass
- 20th July - Leavers Assembly
- 21st July - Leavers Mass

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Pay 360 Information

Holy Island

Final payments are now required for this trip.

Year 6 - Primary Summer Festival

Can parents of Year 6 children please log onto Pay 360 to access information about this trip. There is NO COST for this trip, but you still 'purchase' the product and place it in your basket as this acts as your consent for the trip.

If you have not completed the online 'purchase of this trip', your child will bring home a hard copy of the paperwork to complete and return to school as soon as possible.