



IMPORTANT REMINDERS/TASKS THIS WEEK:

- There will be a scooter/skateboard session for KS2 pupils on Tuesday (23.6.26) and a balance bike/bike/scooter session for Reception Class and KS1 on Wednesday (24.6.26). See more information below.
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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Well done to the 25 Year 4 pupils who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion for the first time at a beautiful celebration Mass on Friday evening at St Mary's RC Church. It was a truly special occasion, and it was wonderful to see the church filled with family and friends who came together to support and celebrate this important step in the children's faith journey.

The pupils conducted themselves with great reverence and maturity, and we are incredibly proud of the commitment they have shown in preparing for this Sacrament. They are now able to take a full and active part in the celebration of Mass, and we continue to support them as they grow in faith and understanding.

We continue to keep them in our prayers:

*Lord Jesus,
we thank you for the gift of the Eucharist
and for the joy these children have experienced
in receiving you for the first time.*

*Bless them as they continue their journey of faith.
Help them to grow in love, kindness and trust in you each day.
May they always feel your presence guiding them
and drawing them closer to you.*

*Through the loving intercession of Mary, our school patron,
and St Carlo Acutis, an example of devotion and faithfulness,
may they be inspired to live lives of grace, courage and holiness.*

Amen.

SPORTS DAY:

Thank you to everybody who was able to come along to Sports Day on Wednesday to cheer pupils on and support the event. We are very grateful to the Gateshead School Sports Partnership for organising another well-run and fun-filled day.

Pupils from Reception through to Year 6 took part in a wide range of events, showing great enthusiasm, determination and excellent sportsmanship throughout. Every effort counted towards house totals, with points from all year groups contributing to the final result.

We are delighted to announce that St Aiden House were the overall winners, achieving the highest combined score across all events. Congratulations to them, and well done to all pupils for their fantastic participation and team spirit.

Y6 VISIT TO SAFETY WORKS:

Year 6 visited Safety Works in Newcastle on Monday, where they took part in a series of extremely informative and engaging sessions delivered by a range of professional organisations. These included the RNLI, Tyne and Wear Metro, the Blue Cross, and Northumbria Police and Fire Services. Each workshop helped pupils to explore real-life scenarios and understand how to stay safe in a variety of everyday situations.

Throughout the morning, pupils learned about the importance of making positive choices, particularly when faced with peer pressure, as well as practical ways to prevent accidents and reduce risks. They were also given valuable guidance on how to respond effectively in emergency situations, including who to contact and how to act calmly and responsibly.

The visit provided a highly interactive and memorable learning experience, equipping pupils with essential life skills as they prepare for the transition to secondary school. The children represented the school exceptionally well, showing maturity, thoughtful engagement and respect throughout the day.

Y5 VISIT TO PIZZA EXPRESS:

Year 5 had a fantastic trip to Pizza Express in the Metrocentre on Tuesday, where they enjoyed a hands-on and engaging experience learning how pizzas are made. Pupils were introduced to the different ingredients that go into a classic margherita pizza and were guided through the techniques used to prepare and shape the dough.

The children particularly enjoyed the opportunity to create their own pizzas, carefully adding toppings and learning about the importance of presentation as well as taste. Back in school, they were delighted to sample their creations, which made the experience even more memorable.

Throughout the visit, pupils showed great enthusiasm and curiosity, asking thoughtful questions and representing the school brilliantly. It was a fun and informative trip that brought learning to life in a practical and enjoyable way.

STAFFING UPDATES:

There will be no movement among teaching staff for September. Therefore, class teachers for September 2026 will be as follows:

- Reception Class – Mrs R Smith
- Year 1 – Mrs N Sanderson
- Year 2 – Mrs C Joyce
- Year 3 – Mrs L Goole
- Year 4 – Miss B Beadling
- Year 5 – Miss L Riddell
- Year 6 – Mr M Colling

We would like to congratulate Miss Bell, who will be moving on to take up a permanent Teaching Assistant position at St Mary's. We thank her for her contribution to school life and wish her every success in her new role.

We are continuing our search for an additional member of support staff to join our team for 25 hours per week. The role may be particularly suitable for a parent or carer who has responsibility for dropping off and collecting children from school, offering a balance around the school day. If you know somebody who may be interested, please encourage them to apply.

SCOOTER, BIKE AND SKATEBOARD SESSIONS:

Key Stage 2 pupils are invited to bring in their scooters or skateboards on Tuesday for a dedicated session where they can practice and showcase their skills. Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils are welcome to bring balance bikes, bikes and scooters to take part in age-appropriate activities.

We are especially grateful to Nellie's dad (Reception Class), who has kindly helped secure the loan of some brand-new balance bikes for our youngest pupils to use during the session. This is a fantastic opportunity for Reception children to build confidence and develop their coordination skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Following this session, we plan to continue these activities on a weekly basis for the remainder of the school year, so please keep an eye on future newsletters for updates.

Please note that all pupils must bring their own helmet and, ideally, should be able to put it on and take it off independently. Helmets should be checked at home to ensure they fit securely. Pupils should also be able to walk their bike, scooter or skateboard safely through the school gates and onto the yard without assistance. All equipment must be taken home at the end of the school day, as we are unable to store items in school.

Sessions will take place during breaktimes, with those not participating enjoying their normal playtime activities.

A LOOK AHEAD:

A reminder of the important term dates for the remainder of this academic year:

- 30.6.26 and 1.7.26 St Thomas More transition days
- 1.7.26 Transition-day for St Mary's pupils
- 2.7.26 Y5 to attend the Bishop Wilkinson CET 'Celebration of Sport'
- 6.7.26 1pm String Orchestra showcase – Y5 pupils and small group strings
- Wb/6.7.26 Explore the Curriculum Celebration events:
 - 6.7.26 2:30pm Y5
 - 7.7.26 9:15am Y4
 - 7.7.26 2:30pm Y3
 - 8.7.26 9:15am Y1
 - 8.7.26 2:30pm Y2
 - 9.7.26 9:15am Reception
 - 9.7.26 2:30pm Y6 (culmination of 'fiver challenge')
- 7.7.26 KS2 SATs results
- 10.7.26 annual reports shared with parents/carers
- 16.7.26 Y6 Leavers' Mass and premier of Leavers' Film 2026 (9.30am Mass with reception at school following Mass – approx. 11:30am finish)