

ATTENDANCE (%) 2nd September to 9th September 2015 (NA = 96.1%)

| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | TOTAL |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 96.9 | 98.1 | 99.5 | 99.4 | 98.9 | 98.6 | 95.8 | 98.2 |

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Above national average | Same as national average | Below national average |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

TERM DATES 2015—2016

| <u>Holiday</u> | <u>Closing Date</u> | <u>Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Autumn 2015 | | |
| Autumn half-term 2015 | Friday 23 October 2015 | Monday 2 November 2015 |
| Christmas 2015 | Friday 18 December 2015 | Tuesday 5 January 2016 |
| Spring half-term 2016 | Friday 12 February 2016 | Monday 22 February 2016 |
| Easter 2016 | Thursday 24 March 2016 | Monday 11 April 2016 |
| May Day 2016 | Monday 2 May 2016 | Tuesday 3 May 2016 |
| Summer half-term 2016 | Friday 27 May 2016 | Monday 6 June 2016 |
| Summer 2016 | Friday 15 July 2016 | |
| Staff Training Days | | |
| Monday 4th January 2016 | | Please note the day we break up for Summer 2016. It is earlier than most schools, as we have used the 3 days at the end of term as Staff Training Days |
| Monday 18th—Wednesday 20th July 2016 | | |

Toddler Group Coffee Morning

**Toddler Group are holding a coffee morning in aid of
MacMillan Cancer Care**

on

Wednesday 30th. September 2015,

**from 9.15-11.00am. Come and join them for a cup of coffee and
cake. You don't have to have a toddler to join in!**



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: 11th. September 2015

WEBSITE: <http://st-marysrc.schooljotter2.com/>

Events

Thursday 17th. September 2015

Year 3 visit to
Beamish Museum

Thursday 17th. September 2015

Book Fair Begins

Friday 18th. September 2015

Y2 and Reception Assembly

Thursday 24th. September 2015

Book Fair Finishes

Friday 25th. September 2015

Y5 Assembly
Reception New Starters Service
in Church

Wednesday 30th. September 2015

Y1 visit to Hartlepool Historic
Quay

Thursday 1st. October 2015

Y2 visit to Hartlepool Historic
Quay

Monday 5th. October 2015

Y6 Parents' Meeting for
Kingswood

Friday 9th. October 2015

Y6 Assembly

Friday 16th. October 2015

Reception Class trip to Blue
Reef Aquarium

Week Beginning 19th. October 2015

Parents' Evenings-dates for
each class to be arranged

Friday 23rd. October 2015

Y1 Harvest Assembly

Friday 23rd. October 2015

3.15pm-break up for half term

Dear Parents & Carers

A very warm welcome back, especially to our new children, parents and staff. We hope you will all be very happy at our school and settle in quickly.

If you ever need information we have our school website which is regularly updated and has details about our curriculum, clubs being held during and after school, significant events etc. Please take a look at

<http://st-marysrc.schooljotter2.com>

We look forward to working closely with you to ensure that your child has a successful and positive experience.

School is looking lovely and cheery at the moment. Mr Wheatley, our caretaker has worked hard during the summer, he has been making sure the builders did a great job installing the new toilets in Y3/4. In addition, he has painted the entrance hall and put up a new display for our statue of St Mary.

The children may have returned home excited about our new interactive display screens. We have purchased 8 new screens that are not only portable but convert into interactive tables. Staff and children are looking forward to using these in their lessons.

Thank you so much for the huge response we had to the request to complete the new Governing Body by appointing two parent governors. It was lovely to see how many people want to get involved in the life of the school. Ballots will be held over the next week.

It has been lovely to see so many of our parents and carers attending the Meet & Greet the Teacher sessions. We hope you found them informative.

Mrs. A. Sowden

RECEPTION NEWS

In Reception, we are settling in very well and Miss Owens is very proud of us. This week, we met our buddies in Year 2 and had a great time getting to know them. We also enjoyed our first yoga lesson and sat beautifully during a performance of "The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe".

YEAR 1 NEWS

In Year 1, we have been starting our work on writing sentences. We are also going to be learning about different explorers and are looking forward to our visit to Hartlepool Historic Key.

YEAR 2 NEWS

The children in Year 2 have made a fantastic start to the new school year. They are very excited about our new topic "Pirates" and have already begun to create their own pirate adventures.

YEAR 3 NEWS

We are settling down well in our new class and are enjoying Year 3. So far, we have started reading "George's Marvellous Medicine". We have also been preparing some work for our trip to Beamish Museum Agricultural Show, next week. "Healthy Eating" is another of our topics.



YEAR 4 NEWS

In Year 4 this half term, we are looking at the Ancient Greeks. Children will be designing and making their own Greek vases. Year 4 will be looking at how the Ancient Greeks influenced some of the architecture used in Britain today and learning about the daily life of the Ancient Greeks. The children are enjoying this topic and love finding out about the Ancient Greeks.



YEAR 5 NEWS

We have settled well in to Year 5 and thoroughly enjoyed watching the performance of "The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe". We are using this wonderful and much loved story to inspire our creative writing. In Numeracy, we are working with some extremely large numbers and are enjoying challenging ourselves with times tables. We are looking forward to learning about the Earth and Space -our new science topic.

YEAR 6 NEWS

The children have settled in to Year 6 and have started their topic of "The Highwayman". You can keep up to date, if you log on to your child's dojo account. Year 6 also enjoyed the performance of "The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe".



Help For Refugees

Over the past two weeks we have been thinking about the refugees and migrants and what we as a school can do to help. The children are collecting underwear, socks and toiletries instead of money as we thought this would be more practical for the children arriving here with only the clothes they land in. There are two baskets in the entrance hall and donations are being gratefully accepted.



Tuesday Coffee Morning in Church

Every Tuesday morning at 9.05am (during school term time) the church meeting room opens for coffee and cake and toys for the children to play with. All are welcome.

There will be a Mass at 10am, for those who would like to stay, with a stay and play session after Mass.



New Starters September 2016

Do you have a child who will be 5 on, or between, 1st. September 2016 and 31st. August 2017? If so, you need to fill in an application form to say which school you would like your child to attend. You will still need to apply, **even if your child has a sibling in the school**. The form can be accessed at:

www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

The deadline for applications is midnight on 15th. January 2016.

North East Autism Society

The North East Autism Society are having a coffee morning on Thursday 24th. September 2015 and Thursday 22nd. October, from 10.00am—12.00pm. Anyone who has a child with any kind of special need is welcome to attend to relax, have a chat and meet other parents.

You can find the North East Autism Society at Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6UN. Contact Theresa Arrowsmith on 01325 328080, or email info@ne-as.org.uk.

Term Time Leave Requests

A new form has been produced, with guidance and FAQs, if you wish to apply for Term Time leave of absence for your child. The form is available from the office. We have put our PD Days on the end of the summer term to help. Some parents have reported they have saved a great deal of money booking their holidays starting on Saturday 16th July 2016, because we break up a week earlier than the rest of the country.

School Uniform

A number of children have already lost their jumpers or cardigans, please can you check the labels and return any that do not belong to your child. We know it's easy to pick up the wrong one. Greatly appreciated!



Breakfast Club

Don't forget that we have breakfast club in school, every morning from 8.00am. Latest arrival is 8.20am. It costs £2, per day, per child for breakfast and sports activities.



Headlice

Please be vigilant as we start the new term. Long hair should be tied up at all times please. Remember if you find any 'visitors' the whole family must be treated. Apparently a little bit of hair spray on clean hair helps.