

**ATTENDANCE (%) 2nd September to 24th September 2015 ( NA = 96.1%)**

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
97.5	94.9	96.8	99.6	96.5	97.6	97.1	97.2

Above national average	Same as national average	Below national average
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**TERM DATES 2015—2016**

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes</u>
<b>Autumn 2015</b>		
Autumn half-term 2015	Friday 23 October 2015	Monday 2 November 2015
<b>Christmas 2015</b>	Friday 18 December 2015	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Spring half-term 2016	Friday 12 February 2016	Monday 22 February 2016
<b>Easter 2016</b>	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
<b>Summer 2016</b>	<b>Friday 15 July 2016</b>	

**Staff Training Days**

Monday 4th January 2016  
Monday 18th—Wednesday 20th July 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

Attendance at school is important but we understand that there may be unavoidable or genuine reasons for your child's absence. Please remember that you must contact the school on the first day of your child's absence to provide a reason. If your child has a medical or dental appointment, we ask that you bring the appointment letter/card to school so that this can be recorded.

## 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!**

*Coffee Morning*

*Everyone Welcome*



# ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: 25th. September 2015

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

**Events**

**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

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of our fourth week in school. Where does time go? All of the children have settled well in to new classes and routines and, today, Reception Class went to Mass to be introduced to our Parish Family. It is amazing how much they have grown up in just a few weeks!

Today, Year 5 reminded us, in their assembly, that we are never too young to help others. We have collected quite a lot of items to help refugees, so thank you for all your donations. For our Harvest Festival, later this half term, we are going to be collecting items such as rice and pasta, which will also be donated to help those in need. We have an amazing group of children at our school, who already go the extra mile to help others, and we can all be very proud of them.

Mrs. A. Sowden  
Head Teacher

## RECEPTION NEWS

The children have been busy making and sending 'thank you' cards to nursery, performing in their first assembly and preparing for their New Starter Mass on Friday. We are also getting excited about starting our new topic 'under the sea' next week.

## YEAR 1 NEWS

Year 1 have started learning about Captain Scott and his journey to the South Pole. They are excited about their visit to Hartlepool Historic Quay to learn more about explorers and to go on board the Trincomalee to learn about life at sea.

## YEAR 2 NEWS

In year 2 we have been writing our own pirate adventures using 'The Pirate Cruncher' as a starting point. We have described fantastic pirates and amazing monsters.

## YEAR 3 NEWS

We have been busy reading George's Marvellous Medicine. We have got up to the exciting point where George is making the medicine! This Friday we are having a Roald Dahl day to celebrate his birthday, (which was on 13<sup>th</sup> of September). We can bring in our favourite Roald Dahl book from home. Also we will be doing some artwork in the style of Quentin Blake. Our afternoon will end with us watching a Puffin Live Roald Dahl show and we might even get some popcorn as a treat!

## YEAR 4 NEWS

As our topic this half term is the Ancient Greek's, we have been looking at life as an Ancient Greek and how this compares to modern life today. We have been using a sketching and shading techniques in Art of some British buildings and how this has been influenced through Greek Architecture.

Children designed and created some beautiful Greek Vases of their own design. Year 4 are really enjoying the current topic within History and completing extra work at home. Well done Year 4 !!

## YEAR 5 NEWS

This week we have been looking at how the Earth, Moon and Sun are related in terms of their movement and shape. We have looked at what evidence there is to suggest that the Earth is a spherical body and used this to write a persuasive piece of writing to persuade little Freddie Flatly that the Earth is round and not flat. We have been practising for our assembly, thinking carefully about the good work of St Vincent de Paul and how we can follow this in school and the wider community.

## YEAR 6 NEWS

There was a sports theme to the week last week. The children had a taster session in fencing, a talk about rugby, took part in their weekly yoga session and developed ball skills in PE with specialist coaching.

Just an early warning that KS2 Sats will be the week 9th - 13 May 2016. That is 4 weeks after the end of the Easter holidays. Those 4 weeks are busy ones for the children.

Y6 won the attendance cup, the Tidy Classroom and shared the Tidy bathroom with Y5 last week - well done.

Please remember to sign up on the Dojo site if you have not already done so and check Class Story to see all our news. I try to update at the weekend. The aim is to get the children to do it eventually.

## 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.

## 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.

## Y3 visit Beamish

We have had an amazing week. Our school trip to Beamish Agricultural show was the best! We experienced lots of new things at the show, watching sheep shearing, a sheep-dog herding, (with Anthony as a trainee shepherd!) Mrs. Moran was asked to help with the strong man display. We also won lots of prizes for handwriting, a collection of vegetables that were kindly donated from parents throughout the school (We got a second prize for those!). Anthony won first prize for his flowers and Eleanor and Samuel came joint third for their vegetable animals. A well done to Max for winning second prize for his Gingerbread characters. Another Outstanding School contribution award! The children particularly enjoyed the crafts marquee where they all had a go at 'Proggy' mat making; some of them developed some skills in wood making! A big thank you to all the parents and grandparents for giving up your time and energy to support your children and our school as a whole- it was greatly appreciated! Your children are a credit to you and we had lots of people commenting at Beamish about their manners and enthusiasm. Keep an eye out for our report in the Newton News!



## 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](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions). The deadline for applications is midnight on 15th January 2016.

## Money Matters

ALL money coming into school should be in an envelope marked with your child's name, year, amount paying and what the payment is for. Unfortunately, in the past money has been lost or mixed up because it is not in an envelope. **To this end, if you would like to purchase some of the small envelopes, they are available from the office at a cost of £1.00 for a pack of 50 envelopes. From Monday 28th September, money will not be accepted at the office if it is not in an envelope.**

Also, all cheques should be made payable to Durham County Council, except for uniform, which is made payable to St. Mary's R.C. Primary School. If you are unsure, please ask Mrs. Hall in the office.

## 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.



## 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.