

ATTENDANCE (%) 2nd September to 23rd October 2015 (National Average = 96.1%)

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
96.8	94.4	96.0	99.0	97.1	97.4	96.7	96.8

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>
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
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.



STARS OF THE WEEK (23rd October 2015)



	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Stars of the Week	Oliver	All the class	James	Sophie	All the class	Keisha	Dylan

Look Smart	Lily (Y6)	Act Smart	Harry (Rec)	Be Smart	Finley (Y4)
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	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Speaker	Martha	Ellie	Rebecca	Isabelle	Alfie	Paige	Serenna
Listener	Addison	Daniel	Alex	Emily	Finley	Asiel	Nathan
Writer	Taylor	Georgia	Rowan	Max	Ben	Lewis	Niamh
Handwriter	Nathan	Samuel	Harry E	Anthony	Lois	Ben	Dylan
Reader	-	Tia	Faye	Harvey	Robbie	Liam	Drew
Maths	Harry	Sophie	Ruby	Franki	Connor	Milly	Leo
Scientist	Bria	Joel	Ava	Sophie	-	Oliver	Matthew
Artist	Pearl	Emmie	Olivia T	Macy	Jazmin	Emma	Marques
Sports	Maya	Ruby	Olivia L	Eleanor	Thomas Bin.	Evan	-

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: 23rd October 2015

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

Events

Friday 23rd. October 2015
3.15pm-break up for half term

Monday 2nd November 2015
8.55am Back to school

Friday 6th November 2015
Y4 Assembly

Friday 6th November 2015
PTA Autumn Social
6.00-9.30pm

**Mon 9th – Wed 11th
November 2015**
Y6 Kingswood

**Wednesday 11th November
2015**
Y4 Retreat

**Wednesday 11th November
2015**
Rob Lewis (Author) in for the
afternoon

Thursday 12th November 2015
Y6 Safety Carousel

Thursday 12th November 2015
Y5 & Y1 Mass

Thursday 12th November 2015
Yoga/Relaxation Session for
Parents and Children

**Wednesday 18th November
2015**
Y5 Centre for Life

Friday 20th November 2015
Christmas Fayre

Thursday 26th November 2015
Christmas Babysitting evening



Dear Parents & Carers

Wow, half a term has flown by at the drop of a hat.

What a fun- packed, work- filled eight weeks we have had. The children have settled into their new classes so well and have produced some outstanding work. This week, I have had the pleasure of trying handmade (paper!) lollies by Reception, who have been concentrating on the letter 'L'. I was invited to and attended the Y4 Ancient Greek banquet. During the banquet, myself and the children were able to taste Feta cheese (really not a fan – it has to be Wensleydale for me), figs, humus, honey and different breads, such as pitta and flatbread. The children had a great day. Thank you so much for providing excellent costumes. Also, I have had a sneaky peek at the Y1 Harvest Festival rehearsals. Food items have been coming in throughout the week. A huge thanks for those who have donated.

You will have noticed that we have had some transformations to the building. Last year, a parishioner donated a large sum of money for something we thought the children would use long term. After much deliberation, we decided a gazebo for the field would be a great addition to the school and would last longer than a piece of ICT equipment. Finally, it has been built. We are just waiting for the storage seats to be installed. Please have a look at it, it's lovely. The new interactive televisions are proving very successful and allowing us to do so much more in terms of adding to the class blogs we have on the Class Dojo site.

Next half term, we are rolling out the Class Dojo app to all parents and carers. The feedback we received from the parents trialling it this half term has been really positive. Please look out of the letter telling you how to access the site. We have also had some very positive comments about the lunchtime room and how children are able to use this if they want to have a quiet time. Thank you to the parents of one of our families, who submitted some ideas that led to this room being put into action.

This Christmas, we are doing a very different fund raiser. Each class will be given a tree to decorate, using a theme, and these will be raffled out during the last day of term. We need 8 more trees. If you feel you could donate either a real or artificial tree, or know a company that might be able to help, we would be very grateful if you could inform us.

Only thing left to say is thank you from myself and the staff for all your support this half term and have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

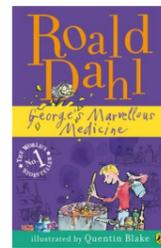
Mrs. A. Sowden, **Head Teacher**

RECEPTION NEWS In Reception, we have been getting to grips with Phonics - and the children are doing really well! Yesterday, we learnt about the letter F. We invited the firemen in and learnt about fire safety, made paper flowers, talked about how to care for a pet fish and looked carefully at the different fish you can buy in the supermarket. We are all looking forward to the half term break to recharge our batteries. Have a wonderful holiday together.

YEAR 1 NEWS Year 1 have enjoyed preparing for their Harvest Festival class assembly. This has fitted in well with their science work about Autumn. They also enjoyed their Autumn walk, where they looked for all the different signs of Autumn in nature. Most of them also enjoyed getting very muddy wellies!

YEAR 2 NEWS In Year 2, we have really enjoyed creating our paper plate pirates and pirate poems. We tried to use rhyming words and tell a story in our poems.

YEAR 3 NEWS We had great fun creating instructions to make our own group version of George's Marvellous Medicine. This week we have designed our own medicine labels; we had fun using alliteration to create some exciting descriptions.



In Science, we have had fun learning about the job of the skeleton. We have even got the chance to make our own moving skeleton. Next half term, we are looking forward to learning what life was like in the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.

YEAR 4 NEWS In Year 4, we celebrated our Ancient Greek Day and had a banquet of food, created wreaths, listened and danced to Greek music and wrote our names in Greek. On Monday, we had a visit from Value Pets Vets to teach us about animal bones and comparing them against human bones. We really enjoyed learning new facts about bone structure and how to help injured animals. In music, we have finally completed learning the song of Mamma Mia. We love our Friday afternoon music lessons after philosophy.



After half term, we will be creating our own Ancient Greek Mythical creature. Please could you bring in any cardboard boxes (cereal boxes) or materials spare to support children with their Design and Technology project.

YEAR 5 NEWS We have continued to look at poetry inspired by the Solar System and used similes and powerful verbs to describe the Sun. Here are some of our ideas: The Sun— Sizzles like crackling on roast pork on Sundays. Glistens like raindrops caught on a web. Illuminates like a lollypop man on a dark winter's night. Shines like precious diamonds on a queen's crown.

We also listen to Planets by Gustav Holst and looked at abstract artists Kandinsky and Pollock. We combined both arts when painting in an abstract style allowing, the music to guide our brush strokes.

YEAR 6 NEWS This week, we are taking a cross curricular approach to our Highwayman Topic. The children have been using "real life" maths skills to purchase items for an Inn for Bess and the Highwayman. We have some children with very expensive tastes, whilst others are certainly keen to spot a bargain.

The class are very impressed with how quickly parents view and like our class blog. The post from Dylan and Charlie, one morning last week, was viewed almost immediately.

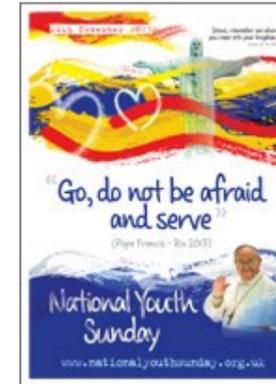
School Reminders

Please can we remind everyone that, as part of our uniform, the following must be adhered to:

- No jewellery to be worn (including friendship bracelets)
- Long hair must be tied up at all times
- Nail varnish is not allowed

National Youth Sunday

On Friday 20th November, there will be a special assembly to celebrate Youth Friday, in readiness for National Youth Sunday on 24th November. The assembly will be led by some of Year 4, who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion, and other pupils from each class.



The theme is 'Love Undeserved' and in his World Youth Day letter, Pope Francis challenges us to reflect on how much we are worth in the eyes of God and how much we are loved—then to see others as God sees them.

PTA Autumn Social

Tickets are now on sale for the PTA's Autumn Social event, on Friday 6th November, from 6.00—9.30pm, in the school hall. There will be an Autumn Fancy Dress Competition, Pumpkin Carving Contest (pre-carved), party games, refreshments and an 18+ bar. Come along and have some fun. Tickets available from Mrs Boys and Mrs Bain-Collins. **If you can spare some time at the beginning, or end, of the day, the PTA need volunteers to sell tickets.**



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.

Charity Bike Ride

Mrs Forster runs our Knitting Club and her son (Chris Forster) is taking part in a bike ride from London to Paris, in aid of the charity Shine. If you would like to sponsor him, please contact Mrs Hall in the office.

Wellbeing for Life



Wellbeing for Life is a FREE service supporting people who live in County Durham. It provides support with: healthy eating, stopping smoking, physical activity, practical cooking, weight loss and mental wellbeing. Contact the service on 0800 8766887, email: cdda-tr.WBFL@nhs.net or website: www.wellbeingforlife.net.

Gazebo

Here is a picture of the gazebo, which has recently been installed at the school following a generation donation from a local parishioner. We know this space will give the children many years of enjoyment.



Activities during Half Term

We have a number of leaflets and flyers about activities taking place during half term:

- Education Enterprise at Woodham Academy—tel 07825 459384
- Cricket Camp & free Aqua Fun—£10 per person—contact John Walker on 03000 266751 or 07901 862567
- Durham Police are holding a Family Fun Day on 31st October at Sedgfield Racecourse
- ROF 59 is a new Trampoline Park and Adventure Climbing Wall is open on Aycliffe Business Park Tel 01325 728222.

There is also a list of Half Term events in and around Newton Aycliffe on our website <http://www.st-marysrc.schooljotter2.com/our-school/newton-aycliffe>