

**ATTENDANCE (%) 2nd September to 21st January 2016 ( National Average = 96.1%)**

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
96.4	93.5	96.5	97.8	96.9	96.4	96.6	96.3

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

**Holiday Closing Date Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes**

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes
<b>Autumn 2015</b>		
Autumn half-term 2015	Friday 23 October 2015	Monday 2 November 2015
<b>Christmas 2015</b>		
Spring half-term 2016	Friday 18 December 2015	Tuesday 5 January 2016
<b>Easter 2016</b>		
May Day 2016	Friday 12 February 2016	Monday 22 February 2016
Summer half-term 2016	Thursday 24 March 2016	Monday 11 April 2016
<b>Summer 2016</b>		
	Monday 2 May 2016	Tuesday 3 May 2016
	Friday 27 May 2016	Monday 6 June 2016
	<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



**STARS OF THE WEEK**



	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
<b>Stars of the Week</b>	Maya	Abigail		Christian	Jazmin	Abi	Jamie H

<b>Kindness Award</b>	Franki (Y3)
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<b>Look Smart</b>	Drew (Y3)	<b>Act Smart</b>	Amy (Y6)	<b>Be Smart</b>	Liam (Y5)
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	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
<b>Speaker</b>	Harvey	Emma	Harry H	Harvey	Bailey	Ebony	Alex
<b>Listener</b>	Addison	Ellie	Hattie	Leland	Jazmin	Isabelle	Leo
<b>Writer</b>	Maya	Mya		Franki	Jessica	Evan	Arella
<b>Handwriter</b>	Nathan	Sophie	Heidi	Samuel P	Alfie	Erin D	Jimbon
<b>Reader</b>	Liam	Oliver	Jacob	Jaden	James Bu	Isaac	Nathan
<b>Maths</b>	Matthew	Oliver M	Tyler	Owen	Jason	Isobel	Rebekah
<b>Scientist</b>		Neve	Sophie	Isaac	Ben		Serenna
<b>Artist</b>	Pearl	Elijah		Kieran	Robert	Joshua	Niamh
<b>Sports</b>	Harry A	Georgia	Hope	Lucy	Brendan	Lewis	Lily

# ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: 22nd January 2016

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

**Events**

**Thursday 28th January 2016**  
Mass Y2, 3 & 4

**Thursday 28th January 2016**  
Reading Workshop for Reception parents (3.30-4.30pm)

**Friday 29th January 2016**  
Y4 Assembly

**Friday 29th January 2016**  
Y5 Viking Day

**Friday 29th January 2016**  
60s & 70s PTA Party Night Adults Only (tickets available from the office for £5)

**Tuesday 2nd February 2016**  
Y3 Mini Tennis (Woodham)

**Tuesday 9th February 2016**  
Reception trip to Preston Park

**Wednesday 10th February 2016**  
Spare Chair Afternoon

**Thursday 11th February 2016**  
Mass Y6 & Rec

**Thursday 11th February 2016**  
PTA Valentine's KS1 Disco

**Friday 12th February 2016**  
Y3 Assembly

**Friday 12th February 2016**  
PTA Valentine's KS2 Disco

Please note there will be no Football club on Friday 12th February

**Friday 12th January 2016**  
Break up for Half Term

**Monday 22nd February 2016**  
Back to School



Dear Parents & Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back.

It seems odd to be talking about school closures with the temperatures we have been experiencing for the past month but just as a heads up: in the case of severe weather, we will endeavour to open as long as there are 4 Teachers and 4 Teaching Assistants in school. If, however, the conditions are deemed too dangerous to travel, we will inform parents as quickly as possible by text. You will be able to check school closures on the Durham County Council website and the local radio stations: BBC Newcastle, BBC Tees, Star, Capital and Metro.

We have had a fantastic start to the New Year with the children watching the pantomime Peter Pan performed by M& M Productions. The feedback both in comments and the volume of the shouting told us that yet again the company had produced a fantastic show. On the last day of term during all the festivities Mrs Mason completed an application for a group of children to go on funded trip to Agincourt. Citing our links with the school in France, Mrs Mason sent off the details. Last week we learned that St Mary's had been chosen as one of the schools to take part in the trip. So four lucky children in Y5 will be off to Agincourt at the beginning of March for 4 days accompanied by Mrs Mason and Mrs Miles. Bon Voyage. Following on with our international connections pupils from Miss Natalia, our Russian visitor's, school have been corresponding with the children in Y5. They were very excited last week when a parcel of letters and gifts arrived from Russia. During the Easter break Miss Miles, Ms Wise and Mrs Sowden will be visiting Miss Natalia in Russia to strengthen the school links. Added to this Mrs Bowron's Y2 class have linked up with Alafia Elementary just outside Tampa in Florida. Y2 are busy getting ready for Anzac Day so they can share their learning with the Grade 1 (our Y2) pupils.

Last week Y4 and Y6 had a fantastic day doing Robotics. Again the company that came in were delighted with the engagement and enthusiasm of our children. Well done Y4 and Y6. It is always great to hear compliments about our children. We know they are gorgeous but it is when outsiders comment on their behaviour that we get that little 'warm fuzzy'! The children have been so motivated by the robotics we are trying to get funding to enable other year groups the opportunity to do the sessions.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February we welcome Mrs Ashleigh Pratt to the staff. She will take on a role of Home School Link Worker until December. For the first few weeks she will be working in classes getting to know the children. She will also be a round at the start of and the end of the day and on Friday's to meet the parents. We are looking forward to her joining the team. Y2 are really excited to meet her as she is Australian and is coming to spend ANZAC day with them.

Over the past few weeks there has been an increase in incidents when in situations of high emotion and anxiety, parents have verbally abused staff in the school. Our curriculum includes a lot of work with the children on how to react when they are emotional and for this to be successful we need adults to be respectful and great role models of how to deal with issues calmly and appropriately.

Thank you for your continued support.

**RECEPTION NEWS** In Reception we have been watching the news! We have built a T.V. to sit inside and tell the news - the children have been having a go at writing their own newspapers too. We have also opened a toy museum in the class and are getting very excited about our up coming trip to Preston Park Museum to learn more about toys old and new.

**YEAR 1 NEWS** Year One are very excited with their new topic about India. They have looked at maps of India and learnt the name of the capital city, the national bird and the national animal. In class, we have Indian clothes and other artefacts, which we are beginning to explore.

**YEAR 2 NEWS** In Year Two, we have begun our exciting topic on Australia. We can't wait for next week when we are celebrating Anzac day with a craft and cooking day!

**YEAR 3 NEWS** I cannot believe we are approaching the end of our third week. The children are enjoying reading our Traditional Tales. Next week we will be looking at creating our own versions of some of these. Children have enjoyed bringing their own books into school and sharing them with each other.

In Science they have had great fun exploring 'Fossils and Rocks'. A big thank you to all of those parents who have allowed their children to bring some fossils into school.

We have been having some great fun in creating our own word problems in Numeracy using the Bar Model. As part of our homework this week, we have even got the chance to teach this to our parents!

We are all looking forward to our next library visit next Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> January.

**YEAR 4 NEWS** This half term we have been exploring Enid Blyton's novels and enjoyed creating our own Magic Faraway Tree novels. We have being very fortunate to have had a chance at Robotics in Year 4 learning how to decode and code programmes. Year 4 behaved exceptionally well.

Also we have really enjoyed learning about the Romans and how the Romans influenced Britain. We are lucky enough to have planned a visit to Segedunum in March. Year 4 are currently loving this topic and striving to find out more.

**YEAR 5 NEWS** We had a wonderful surprise at the end of last week. A large parcel arrived all the way from Russia, which contained lots of Christmas cards, chocolates, magnets and letters from our new friends in Sharya. We have enjoyed writing our replies and hope they receive the Christmas cards we sent them in December very soon.

Natalya informed us that the weather in Sharya is currently -28 degrees. Brrrrrr.

**YEAR 6 NEWS** We have had a busy time in last week. We had a visitor from Deacon Paul, a prison chaplain who came to talk to us about his work. The children asked some very insightful questions. The Year of Mercy has dedicated January as a time to remember prisoners, their families and the victims of their crimes.

Y6 also enjoyed a Robotics Day last week, a practical activity that involved working in teams, using and computer and maths skills to make the car move. The new topic is linked to the book War Horse and our topic work will link to WW1.

### 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](mailto:cdda-tr.WBFL@nhs.net) or website: [www.wellbeingforlife.net](http://www.wellbeingforlife.net).

### Parking



Following repeated requests we are still having problems with parents driving onto the school site to drop children off or pick them up. We must insist that parents do not do this in future as there is an increasing chance there will be an accident causing damage to people or vehicles. Please also be sensitive to local residents when parking and waiting for children.

### Contact Details

Have you changed your telephone number, address or email address? Have you changed your name, or your child's name? If you answer yes to any of these then school need to know so we can keep our records up to date.



### After School Clubs

Letters will be going out next week for the after school clubs after the half term in February (starting Monday 22nd February 2016).

Please remember, you MUST apply each half term for your child's place in the after school club your child wishes to attend. Spaces are limited in some of the clubs so all children need to have the opportunity to attend.



### Maths Challenge

If each letter is work it's place in the alphabet, e.g. a=1, b=2..... z=26, what is:

- a) The most expensive 3 letter work you can make?
- b) The most expensive work you can make?

**Answers to your teacher by next Thursday**

Following the introduction of Singapore Maths, we are planning some workshops for parents to explain what this is able to help you to help your children. Further details to follow, when arranged.

### 60s and 70s Party Night

The PTA have arranged a 60s and 70s Party Night for Friday 29th January 2016 (7.30-10pm) to be held in the school hall.

This is an **adults only** event. Don't miss out, put on your *boogie* shoes and *hustle* on over....

Tickets for the event are on sale from Mrs Hall in the office for £5 per ticket, ticket price includes Buffet.

Fancy dress optional, 18+ bar available.

### Spoken Poetry Competition

Everyone is invited to our Poetry Performance Festival on Thursday 11th February 2016. Each class will prepare and present a poem of their choice to the assembled audience.

So that children experience performance on a larger scale, our Poetry Festival will take place at **Woodham School from 1-3pm.**

The children will perform their poem from the stage in the main hall.



### Year of Mercy

'When I needed a neighbour, where you there?'

In the month of January, we pray for prisoners, their families and the victims of crime.