

ATTENDANCE (%) 2nd September to 4th February 2016 (National Average = 96.1%)

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
95.7	93.5	96.6	97.7	96.8	96.1	96.6	96.2

Above national average

Same as national average

Below national average

TERM DATES 2015—2016

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes
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		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 4th January 2016		
Monday 18th—Wednesday 20th July 2016		

Home School Link Worker

Hello, my name is Mrs Ashleigh Pratt and I am the new Home School Link Worker. I am delighted to join the St. Mary's School community and I look forward to supporting you and your family as we journey through the school year. If you have any queries, comments or concerns, no matter how big or small, please feel free to contact me on my email address

a.pratt300@durhamlearning.net and I will be happy to arrange a time to meet. I will be in school every day, except Wednesday, and I am happy to arrange times outside of the school hours.



Valentine's Disco

Don't forget to get your Valentine's Disco tickets from the office.
 KS1 Disco is on Thursday 11th February, 3.30pm-4.30pm (£2.00 each)
 KS2 Disco is on Friday 12th February, 3.30pm-5.00pm (£2.50 each)



The ticket price includes a drink and a bag of crisps. Children can bring up to £1 to spend at the tuck shop. Children should bring their party clothes to school and they will get changed in class. Parents should collect children at the end of the party.

Quote: Do not handicap your child by removing all the obstacles

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: 5th February 2016

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

Events

Monday 8th February 2016
Y5 Viking Day

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

Tuesday 23rd February 2016
Y3 trip to Seven Stories

Thursday 25th February 2016
Mass Y5 & Y1

Friday 26th February 2016
Y6 Assembly

Wednesday 2nd March 2016
Mother's Day lunch

Friday 4th March 2016
Y2 Assembly

W/C 7th March
Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 9th March 2016
Y4 trip to Segedunum

Friday 11th March 2016
Reception Assembly

Dear Parents & Carers

Let us sing out our praises



Following the publication of the data for last year's Y6, St Mary's pupils are in the:

- Top 10% of schools nationally of disadvantaged pupils achieving L4+ in maths
- Top 20% of schools nationally of KS2 SEN / lower achieving pupils achieving L4+ across subjects.
- Top 20% of schools nationally of KS2 pupils making progress in reading at a greater rate than expected.
- Top 30% of schools nationally of KS2 pupils making progress in maths at a greater rate than expected.
- Top 30% of schools nationally of KS2 pupils making expected progress in reading.
- Top 30% of schools nationally of KS2 pupils making expected progress in maths.

They worked really hard last year with the help of Mrs Hargreaves, Mrs Machin and Ms Wise. A huge thank you to them and congratulations to our pupils last year.

What a week we have had! As ever there has been so much going on. We rounded off the week with a great assembly organised by Mrs Clausen to display music being performed by each class. Last year Mrs Clausen asked if we could put a focus on music and we did. This morning saw each class perform a piece for the parents. Those who were lucky enough to come into school were entertained by a wide selection of music ranging from Reception doing a lively version of the Animal Fair, to Y4 doing a superb rendition of Mama Mia accompanied by xylophones. Key Stage 2 children showcased their recorder playing as did Y2 whilst Y1 showed us attitude with their song. Thank you Mrs Clausen for organising this, we can't wait for next year's event.

Speaking of events can I remind parents and carers that on Thursday next week the whole school is taking part in a Spoken Poetry Event Woodham Academy have very kindly offered their hall and stage so the children will get the experience of performing on a large stage in a 'big' hall in front of a great audience. The event starts at 1.30pm and all are welcome to attend. Each class has been asked to perform a poem from memory. Please try and come as it is a large hall!

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and marks the start of the Lenten Season. Father Michael is coming into school at 1.30pm to distribute ashes if you would like to attend. This year we are holding our Lenten Market on Wednesday 23rd March. Please help support this great event. It help our children to appreciate commerce and develop their enterprise skills.

Thank you for your continued support and help over the past few weeks whilst Mr Wheatley has been absent. We hear he is doing well and is missing the children and the school quite a lot!

Amyth Sood

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

RECEPTION NEWS In Reception we were shocked to receive a scary visit from a slimy monster - thankfully we had our teddies from home to rescue us! We are looking forward to our school trip to Preston Park on Tuesday.



YEAR 1 NEWS Year One have been busy learning their rap for our music assembly. We had great fun trying to sound cool! We are also busy learning our poem for the spoken poetry performance. It is very funny and we are trying hard not to laugh as we are saying it!

YEAR 2 NEWS We had an amazing day on 26th January in Year 2. We celebrated Australian Day by baking (and eating) Anzac biscuits, point painting boomerangs, photo booth surfing and creating our own bouncy kangaroos.



YEAR 3 NEWS Where is the time going this half term? We have been busy this week planning our own versions of a traditional tale. I wonder which characters will be changed to goodies? How many happy endings will we have? We are also having fun practising our poem for the Poetry competition. Our music skills have really improved this week too, as we have been doing our final practise for this Friday's music assembly.

We had great fun this week at the Multi Skills festival at Woodham. We had an amazing time and learnt lots of new skills. We even had a golfing coach there from Oak leaf- she gave us all a free voucher for a golf lesson.



A busy week lies ahead of us as we have to also prepare for our class assembly next Friday!

YEAR 4 NEWS Over the past few weeks we have been learning about Sound in Science and recognising how sounds can travel. During literacy we have created our own stories based on the author Enid Blyton. Children have created some fantastic imaginative stories. We have worked hard learning and rehearsing for our music assembly this Friday.

Enid Blyton

YEAR 5 NEWS This week we have looking at poetry, including the poem The Tyger by William Blake and Kenning poems which the Vikings liked to create too. We have set a new date for our Viking day, 8th Feb, hopefully the weather will not prevent it from taking place this time. We have enjoyed looking for lots of unusual words to bluff everyone with including ratoon, barnburner, brouhaha and doozy!!



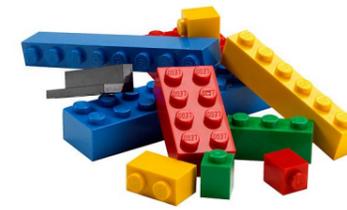
YEAR 6 NEWS Here in Y6 life is very busy! We are rehearsing our poem "If" by Kipling and the music for assembly on Friday in between assessments and practice Sats style questions.

We are turning our attention to Lent and our Lenten market and are collecting glass jars of all sorts of shapes and sizes as well as tea lights and candles to be transformed into something special.



Lego Day

Do you have any unused Lego lurking in a cupboard or loft? If so, please can we have some?



We are hoping to hold a Lego Day during Science Week in March and are looking for donations of Lego. Unfortunately, we will not be able to return the Lego after the event. Donations can be left at the office.

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.



Children left unsupervised

We are concerned to find that some young children are being left on the school grounds or in the school yard on their own. Staff are not on duty until 8.45am, please do not leave children before this time unless they are attending Breakfast Club or an arranged activity within school.

SNAG Update

Our American theme day lunch went really well. Our next special menu is coming up this Monday to celebrate Chinese New Year. Mrs Brown is looking forward to sampling the menu too (she might even bring in some chopsticks).



Forthcoming theme days:
 Mother's Day Lunch 2nd March
 Italian Day 14th March

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.



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.

School Library

Our school library is now up and running. We are planning on doing 2 library sessions to borrow books per week. Students will be allowed to borrow up to 2 books to read over 4 weeks. The date they are due to return the books will be stamped in the front of the book.



Library timetable (Week 1 starts w/c 8th Feb 2016— 12.30pm each day):

Weeks	Tuesday	Thursday
1	Yr 5	Yr 3
2	Yr 5	Yr 3
3	Yr 4	Yr 6
4	Yr 4	Yr 6

Cultivate 4 Life

Cultivate for life are holding a raffle. Prizes range from a meal for 2, wine, chocolates with a 1st prize of either an overnight stay for 2 at the Manor House Hotel, or spa day for 2 at the Manor House Hotel. Tickets are available from Mrs Bain-Collins.



Year of Mercy

'When I needed a neighbour, where you there?'
 In the month of January, we pray for all those who are sick, injured, or dying.