

ATTENDANCE (%) 2nd September to 10th March 2016 (National Average = 96.1%)

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
95.4	93.6	96.2	97.6	96.8	96.2	96.1	96.0

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		
Christmas 2015	Friday 18 December 2015	Tuesday 5 January 2016
Spring half-term 2016	Friday 12 February 2016	Monday 22 February 2016
Easter 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

How helpful are your kids at home? What jobs could they do to help you around the house?

Have you tried..



Helping to cook dinner?

Helping to hang or fold the washing?



Helping to make the beds?

Hoovering the house?

Got a handy tip for other mums and dads? Please feel free to contact me at a.pratt300@durhamlearning.net or through the school office if you have any queries or questions.

The PTA are looking to hold a games night on Friday 22nd April 2016. Look out for more information to follow.

**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Newsletter date: 11th March 2016

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

Events

Monday 14th March 2016
Italian Themed Lunch

Wednesday 16th March 2016
Y1 trip to Low Barnes

Thursday 17th March 2016
Y1 Assembly (please note change of day)

Thursday 17th March 2016
Y6 trip to Heugh Battery

Tuesday 22nd March 2016
Spare Chair Afternoon

Tuesday 22nd March 2016
PTA Easter Craft Night (3.30-5pm)

Wednesday 23rd March 2016
Dance Festival—Leisure Centre

Wednesday 23rd March 2016
Lenten Market (2pm)

Thursday 24th March 2016
Easter Egg Competition

Thursday 24th March 2016
Lenten Service

Thursday 24th March 2016
Break up for Easter

Monday 11th April 2016
Back to school

KS2 SATs
9th—12th May 2016



Dear Parents & Carers

What a fantastic week we have had here at St Mary's. On Wednesday and Thursday we had Deacon Kevin, Danielle and Emily from More Than Dance, who worked with each class to produce a beautiful Liturgy on Thursday afternoon, full of dance and music along with time to reflect. Parents who were able to come at the end of the day will agree what a moving experience it was.

This morning, Reception did a marvellous assembly on Spring and growth and their singing was delightful. It is amazing how they have grown in the six months they have been here as part of our family.

Our four Y5 children have returned from Agincourt absolutely buzzing from their visit. Apparently they were incredible ambassadors for our school and did their parents proud. Y5 are basing a great deal of work on the Battle of Agincourt and are having a great time.

Unfortunately, Y4 have discovered that laptops are disappearing in school and their classroom is now a crime scene. They have been helping the police to identify suspects and interview them. Hopefully we will get to the bottom of the problem soon.

Over the next two weeks the children will be busy on our Enterprise project, getting ready to host this year's Lenten Market. Each class has been given £10 to use to raise as much money as they can. Last year was a roaring success and I know they have been really creative with their ideas for products this year. We look forward to seeing as many as possible at the market.

Thank you for your support.

Anette Sowa

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

RECEPTION NEWS In Reception we have been busy preparing for our assembly on Growth and Change. We have been focusing on the parts of the plant, how to plant seeds and looking at animals and their babies. We have just welcomed 5 little caterpillars and are patiently waiting to see what happens, they are currently wriggling about and eating a lot. We shall keep you updated!

YEAR 1 NEWS Year 1 have enjoyed working with More Than Dance, learning new Liturgical dances. We are also continuing to learn about mini-beasts and habitats, ready for our visit to Low Barnes Nature Reserve - let's hope the weather is good! Can we remind you that our assembly is next THURSDAY 17th. March, not Friday.

YEAR 2 NEWS We have loved creating our own zoo leaflets this week. We have been watching the zoo keepers on Panda Cam to write our own instructions.

YEAR 3 NEWS We have been very busy preparing our newsletter report about the Seven Stories; Mrs. Brown sent it to the Newton News and we were lucky enough to have it in last week's edition. Our class are really proud of our class display and book about our trip. Our work on poetry is going well, as we start to explore how rhyme is used in poems. We are about to examine the work of Robert Louis Stephenson. In our Numeracy work we have started to learn about time.

On Wednesday morning we had great fun working with the company, "More Than Dance", as we worked in pairs to do some liturgical dance linked to a Lent theme.

Our first week got off to a great start, as we went on our class trip to the Seven Stories museum in Newcastle. We had an amazing day; we got the chance to illustrate our own nursery rhyme. Also we explored different exhibitions including Rhyme Across the World, the work of the illustrator, Michael Foreman and some pictures of the new Harry Potter book. We are looking forward to doing more work on poetry and illustration work in the next few weeks.

YEAR 4 NEWS This week we have been on our amazing trip to Segedunum Roman Fort as part of our History Topic. We have been working on journalistic writing for the past two weeks and we have created some fantastic newspaper reports of our class crime scene. PCSO Gavin has been working with us to solve the crime of the missing laptop. Children have been great detectives.

Also we have completed our Roman Chariots this week we hope you are enjoying playing with them at home.



Thank you for all donations of scrabble tiles, it is greatly appreciated.

YEAR 5 NEWS We have been looking at the Battle of Agincourt over the last week or so and have found out reasons why, Henry V and his army successfully defeated the French, even though the odds were stacked against them as they were vastly outnumbered. This was mainly due to the expertise of the English Archers and Henry's tactical prowess. However, we have also discovered that the soil conditions played a major part in the battle, and the outcome may well have been different if it hadn't rained heavily the night before. Check out our display for an explanation of these reasons complete with a genuine sample of soil from the battlefield itself.

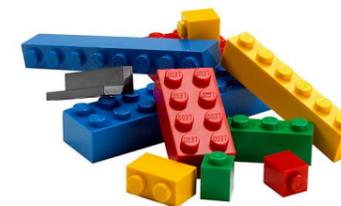
YEAR 6 NEWS Enjoyed their work with More Than Dance this week to perform a liturgical dance to illustrate the resurrection.

Also this week we have taken on the role of soldiers in a trench in readiness for our trip to the Heugh Battery Museum next week.

Lego Day

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

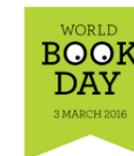
We are hoping to hold a Lego Day during Science Week in March and are looking for donations of Lego.



Unfortunately, we will not be able to return the Lego after the event. Donations can be left at the office. Thank you in anticipation.

World Book Day (3rd March 2016)

Thank you to everyone who supported World Book Day. The children's costumes were fantastic. The Book Fair was a great success and we know that there were sales of about £350. A percentage of which is donated back into school funds.



SNAG Update

Our Mother's Day lunch proved to be very popular.

Our next theme day on Monday, 14th March - the theme is Italian.

A reminder to all parents about completing our survey on school meals. If we could have them back by Monday 14th March that would be great. This will give us time to collect together people's feedback. We will be doing a similar one with pupils next week in school.

PTA Easter Craft Night

The PTA are holding an Easter Craft event on Tuesday 22nd March 2016. Come and join the fun making Easter Bonnets/ Crowns, puppets and much more. Refreshments will be provided. The cost is £3 per child or £5 per family. Parents will need to stay with children in Rec, Y1 and Y2. Children from KS2 can attend with or without their parents. See letter sent home with this newsletter to book.



Mini Vinnies

We will be holding our next meeting on Tuesday, 15th March. Our plans for the Lent craft market will be discussed, together with a plan for starting to design our Easter cards for the elderly and housebound members of our parish.



Parking

We have again been approached by residents in nearby streets complaining about parking. Some residents have not been able to enter or exit their property due to parents/carers parking across their driveways. We ask, yet again, that you are mindful of residents and their properties when dropping off and collecting children from school. Tesco car park is only a short distance away, with ample parking for the short time it takes to walk children into school.



School Library

Library timetable (Week 2 is starting Mon 14th March):

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

As yet the winner of the prize from the Cultivate 4 Life raffle has not come forward. Please check your raffle tickets for a Pink ticket number 354 (Ref AA38 YG4Z).



Easter Egg Competition

It's that time of year again, get those creative fingers working. On the last day of term, Thursday 24th March 2016, during assembly, we will be holding an Easter Egg Competition. There will be prizes for Best in Class, Best in KS1 and KS2, Best Overall. There will also be a prize for best parent/carer egg.



Year of Mercy

'When I needed a neighbour, where you there?'
In the month of March, we pray for those without clean water.