

ATTENDANCE (%) 2nd September to 5th May 2016 (National Average = 96.1%)

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
95.6	94.3	96.4	97.6	97.1	96.2	96.2	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

17th to 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—6th May 2016



	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Stars of the Week	Pearl A	Joel H	Rebecca M	All of Y3	Bailey P	Erin D	All of Y6

Kindness Award	Olivia S(R), Oliva A (Y1), Tyler S (Y2), Anthony (Y3), Bailey (Y4) Jack (Y5)
-----------------------	--

Look Smart		Act Smart		Be Smart	
-------------------	--	------------------	--	-----------------	--

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Speaker	Casey	Elijah	Harry H	Grace	Laura	Thomas/Isaac/ Keisha/Isobel/	All Y6
Listener	Lola	Ellie	Kendall- Mai	Megan	Oliver	Alfie	
Writer	Harry A	Emma	Sophie	Macy	Brendan	Erin D	
Handwriter	Nathan	Olivia	Tyler	Joseph	Lucy	Emma	
Reader	Pearl	Joel	Ruby	Harvey	Alfie	Jack	
Maths	Hal	Neve	Logan	Lucy	James Bu	Liam	
Scientist	Harvey		Ava	Owen	Jazmin	William	
Artist	Liam	Sophie	Rowan	Sophie		Asiel/ Jason/ Lewis	
Sports	Addison	Abigail	Olivia L	Christian	Ben	Thomas	

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: 6th May 2016

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

Events

Saturday 7th May 2016
First Holy Communion
10am Mass (followed by
breakfast in the school hall)

KS2 SATs
9th—12th May 2016

Friday 13th May 2016
Y1 Assembly (PM)

Thursday 19th May 2016
Y2, 3 & 4 Mass

Friday 20th May 2016
Rec Assembly

Friday 27th May 2016
Feast Day Mass and Picnic

Friday 27th May 2016
Break up for Half Term

Monday 6th June 2016
Back to School

Tuesday 7th June 2016
New Starters (Sept 2016)
1.30pm (Parents)

Wednesday 8th June 2016
Y3 Oriental Museum

Thursday 9th June 2016
Y6 & Rec Mass

Friday 10th June 2016
Y6 Assembly

Tuesday 14th June 2016
New Starters (Sept 2016)
1.30pm (Children only)

Wednesday 15th June 2016
Y4 Beamish Trip

Friday 17th June 2016
Y5 Greenfield Experience

Tuesday 21st June 2016
School Photographs

Tuesday 28th June 2016
New Starters (Sept 2016)
1.30pm (Children only)

Dear Parents & Carers

What a busy time ahead we have! Tomorrow is THE biggest match of the season, forget last Monday night's. As I told the children today, tomorrow I will be living on my nerves as my dreams of finally returning to the Premiership may come true or be dashed for another year. The Boro will not go up through the playoffs!

Saturday is the First Holy Communion celebration for the children in Y4. Mass is at 10.00am at St Mary's Church and it would be lovely if children from the different years could pop down to see them Y4 children either before or just after the mass.

Next week is SATS week and I am sure all the parents, not just those who have had to live with Y6 children over the past few weeks, will join us in wishing them every success. They deserve it, as they have worked so hard. Y6, this is a chance for you to show other people how good you are. We know it, as we see you every day nearly we just want others to know how proud we are of your efforts.

Parents over the weekend you may want to watch the following video on YouTube about the Panyee Football Club with your children. We showed it today for our Y6 children to remind them of the hard work they have put in over the past year in particular and how next week there may be times when they despair. We are proud of them regardless of the results. What the tests fail to show is that each of us is unique, with our own amazing talents that may not fit into one of the boxes on a league table sheet. Without these unique ungrade-able talents, this world would be a sorer place. There are children and adults in this school who may never achieve some of the new standards expected by Government but they make this school what it is – a great place to learn and for the adults a great place to work. We must never forget that or forget to tell our children daily that whatever, we (you as their family and us as their teachers) will not give up on them. I will get down from my soap box now!

We are sending out details for our School Feast Day. This will include the time for Mass and the family celebration on the afternoon. As a staff, we are looking at the form this will take. The hope is that this will be third time lucky and it will be warm enough to have a great picnic however we will have a contingency plan in place for inclement weather. For children in the Key Stage One classes and those on free school meals, a picnic in a bag can be ordered from the school kitchen. Please see the form sent out today.

On a personal note I am doing the London Moonwalk on May 14th. It is a 26.2 mile marathon that starts at midnight in aid of Breast Cancer. If anyone would like to sponsor me – believe me this year it is proving really hard on the legs and feet- I would be really grateful. The sponsor form will be in the office next week for people to pop in.

Thank you for your support

A. Sowden
Headteacher

RECEPTION NEWS

In Reception we are still watching and waiting for our tadpoles to turn into froglets. Thankfully we have managed to get rid of the dragonfly nymph that was eating them - so that should help! (Mrs Whitfield returned it to her pond.) The chicks are growing quickly and we look forward to our Forest School Day with Rio this week.



YEAR 1 NEWS Year 1 have been working hard on their phonics and are enjoying our new morning phonics games. Year 1 and Year 2 celebrated Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday last Friday by creating their own imitations, pictures and cards for our Afternoon Tea Party

YEAR 2 NEWS In Year 2 we are beginning to plan our own (imaginary) seaside holiday. We have chosen our resort, accommodation, travel, activities and treats. We need to calculate how much it will all cost next!



YEAR 3 NEWS We have had a busy couple of weeks! In our Maths work we have all had fun working in groups to measure different things around our classroom. It has been fun learning about different authors in our Literacy work. Some of us have even started to research other famous people as part of our homework. Our afternoon to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday went really well, we all designed and made our own crowns. We had a wonderful afternoon tea, with lots of lovely treats. The music was fun too!



YEAR 4 NEWS Children have been learning about the Haka dance in PE this half term and we are having great fun with this.

We are focusing currently on explanation texts and have created some lovely pieces of writing. Please can children continue with homework tasks, reading



YEAR 5 NEWS On May 8th Sir David Attenborough will celebrate his 90th birthday. Our new topic will be about rainforests we have found out information about this famous environmental campaigner and used it to create a biography. Did you know he is the oldest man ever to set foot on the North Pole and is one of the most well travelled men ever? We have also looked at plants and how they reproduce as well as look at how artists have used plants and flowers as inspiration in their work. We have started to explore how we can combine the theme of plants and flowers using collage techniques.



YEAR 6 NEWS Well next week is Sats week. The children have worked so hard this year and we are so proud of the progress they have made. Breakfast will be available in the class from 8:15am (Monday - Thursday) for the Y6 children only.

There will still be writing to do as we have longer to submit these results.

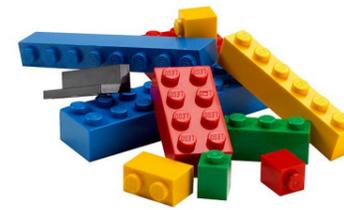
The children have been given a project to do rather than the homework grids given to the rest of the school. The topic is science and the children can produce a project on any aspect of science.

Y6 SATs

Lego Day

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

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



Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

If you have any Active Kids Vouchers lurking in the car, purse, wallet or handbag, please bring them into school. The school can get much needed sports equipment with the vouchers. Vouchers must be in 27th May.



School Meals

From September 2016, the price of a child's school meal will increase to £2.00 and an adult meal will increase to £2.40.



Finance

Please can we remind parents that cheques for school meals, trips and clubs (with the exception of Mini Olympics and Football) should be made payable to DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL. Uniform is payable to ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL and Mini Olympics/Football is payable to D ANDERSON.



Stay Safe in the Sun

To keep your child safe in the sun, please make sure you apply sun cream before they come to school, preferably with one that lasts for 8 hours. Children may bring sun cream to school in their bags but they must be able to apply it themselves and must not share it with other children.



We also ask that children bring a sun hat and a bottle of water (which can be topped up in school).



Got the parental blues? Need some inspiration? Or just need to feel that you are not alone?

Take a look at the Parenting Support Centre website at www.parenting.co.uk

Check out these **Parenting** tips and short video clips on:

Babies: calming a crying baby, new baby with older children, new baby what to expect

School: starting school, homework problems, school gate tips, children's friendships

Behaviour: aggressive behaviour, sibling rivalry and squabbling, get kids to do as you ask, stop shouting and relax

Teenagers: Listening to your teenager, improve teenage behaviour, relationships with teenagers.

*If you want your children
To keep their feet on the ground,
Put some responsibility on their shoulders.
-Abigail Van Buren*

Milk in School

- If your child is under 5 they will automatically receive milk each day in school.
- When your child turns 5 they can still receive subsidised milk through school by contacting Cool Milk.
- If your child is entitled to benefit-based Free School Meals, they can receive free milk each day in school.

If your child is over 5 and is entitled to benefit-based Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Hall to discuss the options. To set up paying for your child's milk, please contact Cool Milk or pick up a registration form from the office. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Hall.

Cool Milk

Year of Mercy



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

In the month of May, we pray for the poor.

Library

Due to the SATs for Year 6 there will be no library sessions week commencing 9th May 2016.

