

ATTENDANCE (%) 2nd September to 19th May 2016 (National Average = 96.1%)

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
95.5	94.1	96.4	97.6	97.0	96.1	96.1	96.1

Above national average	Same as national average	Below national average
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Proposed TERM DATES 2016—2017

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes
Autumn 2016		Monday 5th September 2016
Autumn half-term 2016	Friday 21 October 2016	Monday 31st October 2016
Christmas 2016	Wednesday 21 December 2016	Tuesday 3 January 2017
Spring half-term 2017	Friday 17 February 2017	Monday 27 February 2017
Easter 2017	Thursday 12 April 2017	Tuesday 25 April 2017
May Day 2017	Monday 1 May 2017	Tuesday 2 May 2017
Summer half-term 2017	Thursday 25 May 2017	Monday 12 June 2017
Summer 2016	Friday 21 July 2017	

Staff Training Days
1st & 2nd Sept 21st Oct 2016
3rd Feb 2017, 7th March 2017

Please note the day we break up for **Christmas 2016**. Major changes to **Easter** and **May** half term. This would allow families to have a fortnight holiday in May when it is cheaper



STARS OF THE WEEK—10th June 2016



	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Stars of the Week	Macey	Samuel G	Alex	Leland	Finley	All Yr 5	

Holy Family Parish Events

Family Sunday Mass and Party— 10th July, 10am St Mary's Church. All children Interested in joining in with the ministries of Sunday Mass should contact the church office or fill in the forms that will come in the school bags next week. Let's celebrate the end of the school year together as a church family and the start of the summer family fun. There will be a fun day for children after Mss, donations for a raffle and children's tombola would be greatly appreciated. Check out the church bulletin for a list of summer fun activities.

Family trips in the Summer:

Please sign up on the posters in the church porch or contact Louise Elgey if interested so buses and bookings can be made. Prices and times to follow.

22nd July, Teddy Bears Picnic July, afternoon, 29th July, Saltburn on the train, 3rd August, Hamsterley Forrest – Den Building. 12th August, Farm trip, 19th August, Hardwick Park picnic in the park, 26th August – South Shields, 2nd September – Air Trail at Tees Barage (Bus)



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: Friday 24th June 2016

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

Events

- Monday 27th June 2016**
Y5 Big Bang North East Fair
- Tuesday 28th June 2016**
New Starters (Sept 2016)
1.30pm (Children only)
- Tuesday 28th June 2016**
Y6 Transition visits (Greenfield and Woodham)
- Wednesday 29th June 2016**
Y5 Woodham Academy
- Thursday 30th June 2016**
Y6 Transition visit (Carmel)
- Thursday 30th June 2016**
Head Boy & Head Girl Interviews
- Friday 1st July 2016**
Y4 Assembly
- Friday 1st July 2016**
Y6 Transition visit (Carmel)
- Friday 1st July 2016**
Reports home
- Wednesday 6th July 2016**
Y6 Maths Challenge Final
- Wednesday 6th July 2016**
Y6 Leavers Play 6:00pm—7:30pm
- Thursday 7th July 2016**
Y6 Leavers Play 6:00pm—7:30pm
- Friday 8th July 2016**
New Starters (Sept 2016)
9:00am (Children only) staying for lunch
- Friday 8th July 2016**
Moving Up Morning.
Children to meet their new teachers
- Tuesday 12th July 2016**
Y6 Leavers Assembly 9:00am
- Wednesday 13th July 2016**
Y6 Leavers Mass 2:00pm
- Friday 15th July 2016**
Celebration Assembly 9:00am



Dear Parents & Carers

Doesn't the sun being out just make the world look a brighter place. As we step into a slightly unknown future its great to know that here at St Mary's the children are doing really well.

This morning our Y5 class did a superb assembly on the rainforests. What a fantastic assembly. They really put across the arguments for and against deforestation. The subject has obviously captured their interest, demonstrated by almost 100% attendance this week. Well done Y5.

Talking about having enthralled by a subject our Y3 are really 'into' (as they would say) their topic on Ancient Egypt. The work they have produced at home has been amazing. Keep it up Y3.

For the past fortnight we have had a focus on Healthy Lifestyles and eating. Mrs Brown organised for us to try a Smoothie Bike— this required you to pedal hard in order to blend the fruit, an ice cream maker, a soup maker and a yoghurt maker. The children have been great at trying different things. I have lucky enough to be able to taste the yoghurt, ice cream and the smoothies. Thank you to Mrs Brown for spending time to get the machines into school.

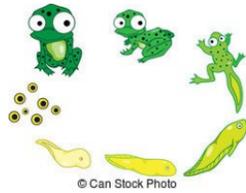
On the back of the newsletter you will find the proposed dates for next academic year. We have tried like this year to provide a time for families to get cheaper holidays without taking time off school. The proposal for next year is to have a shorter Easter break and a fortnight at May half term. Some parents said they saved nearly £500 this year as we are breaking up before the rest of the country. Please can you look at them and if you have any objections let me know on Monday or Tuesday at the latest as the Governors would like to make a decision next Wednesday.

On the whole we have had a great fortnight week. It's hard to believe we have only 3 weeks left. There are lots of events over the next few weeks please check the side panel and the Events List sent home this week.

Mrs. A. Sowden, Head Teacher

RECEPTION NEWS

In Reception we have enjoyed a Forest School taster session with Rio. The children had a great time in the nature area having fun whilst learning about the importance of living an active healthy life. In other news the tadpoles have FINALLY grown legs and our broad bean plants have bean pods!



YEAR 1 NEWS

Wow - what a fantastic couple of weeks we have had! We have had a HUGE rise in phonics scores and all of the children have done so well. We have had great fun making and tasting our vegetable soup this week and are looking forward to our turn making smoothies and ice-cream for Healthy Eating Week.



YEAR 2 NEWS

In Year 2 we had a fantastic afternoon on Wednesday as part of our Healthy eating Week. We made fruit smoothies using a Bike Smoothie Maker. You had to pedal it to blend the smoothie! They were delicious even Mrs Sowden thought so when she came in to find out what the noise was!



YEAR 3 NEWS

I cannot believe we only have 3 weeks left until the end of term! We had fun working on our Health challenges to support Healthy Eating week; we had a special breakfast last Thursday, where we all had to try a new food. Passion fruit pineapple and berries might be going on a few shopping lists from now on. Not to mention the delicious warmed croissants!

This week we had a special visitor in to share with us his experiences of Egypt. Grace's grandad kindly offered to come into school to share with the children what he learnt about his time in Egypt. The children enjoyed writing their thank- you letters to him, sharing what they had learnt.

We visited Newton Aycliffe library for the last time as children of year 3 yesterday. We love our reading!

YEAR 4 NEWS

I would like to start by praising Year 4, all of the children were a pleasure on our school trip to Beamish. This week children have enjoyed completing mini literacy projects around Beamish and created some lovely pieces of persuasive writing. Over the weekend, I have asked children to start thinking about finding some inspirational pointillism pictures to support their art skills next week. Children have shown a keen interest in this and had some great ideas. Well done Year 4



YEAR 5 NEWS

In year 5 we have created some amazing paintings of plants and animals from the rainforest using different media including pastels and watercolours. We looked at the affects of deforestation and compared reasons for and against this destructive practice. We shared all our recent learning about the rainforests in our class assembly and hoped to get the message across, with the help of some striking and informative posters, how important it is to Save Our Rainforests. We even changed the words of the hymn He's Got The Whole World in His Hands to try to encourage others to be respectful and caring of our environment.



YEAR 6 NEWS

Three weeks left in Y6 bust still, busy, busy, busy... Tickets are now on sale for the Y6 Panto - Cinderella Rockerfella. This week Y6 discovered a new way to create smoothies - using a bike! Fun was had by all creating healthy drinks by using peddle power. Thursday saw tasting of freshly made ice- cream and fresh fruit.

Next week see the children continuing with transition activities as well as a trip to Hitachi Rail here in Newton Aycliffe

Little Princess Trust

Julie Seddon (parent and staff member) is having all her hair cut off to support the Little Princess Trust at the end of June.

The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs for children suffering with hair loss. If you would like to make a donation or sponsor Julie, the collection box and sponsor form are available at the school office.



Healthy Eating

Our Healthy eating week proved to be a huge success, with all classes taking part in some way to encourage children to take up some of the Healthy Eating challenges. Some classes made yogurt from the resource box we hired. This week we continued the theme on by some classes trying out making a smoothie by using a bike; while others got the chance to make some vanilla ice cream.

5 main goals:

- ◇ Having breakfast
- ◇ Trying new foods
- ◇ Keeping active
- ◇ Eating 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day
- ◇ Drinking plenty of water.



Lost Property

If you have visited school recently, you will have noticed there is a pile of lost property at the main reception desk. We do try to go through and take items out with names in and return them to children. Please check the lost property on Monday for any lost items. Any unclaimed items will be put in the charity bin on Tuesday.



Year of Mercy

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

In the month of June, we pray for the refugees.

Lord Jesus,
we remember that you were a refugee
when your family had to flee to Egypt to
escape Herod.

Look with mercy on today's refugees
who are fleeing from danger and persecution,
hungry and afraid, separated from loved ones
and with nowhere to call home.

With trust in God's love and mercy we bring
our prayers to Him. Amen



Sports Day

School Sports Day has been rescheduled for **Thursday 7th July 2016** starting at 1pm. Staff and young people from Woodham Academy will be helping on the day and the PTA will be providing refreshments. All parents welcome to attend.



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.



Please note that staff are not allowed to apply sun cream. 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).



FATHER'S DAY LUNCH

It was lovely seeing so many dads in school this week to celebrate Father's Day with their children. I am sure they all had a lovely time!



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.

