

ATTENDANCE (%) 5th September to 15th September 2016 (National Average = 96.1%)

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	TOTAL
98.3	96.2	94.4	96.8	99.8	98.9	97.1	97.4

Above national average

Same as national average

Below national average

TERM DATES 2016—2017

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>	<u>Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes</u>
Autumn 2016		Monday 5th September 2016
Autumn half-term 2016	Thursday 20th October 2016	Monday 31st October 2016
Christmas 2016	Friday 16th December 2016	Tuesday 3rd January 2017
Spring half-term 2017	Friday 17th February 2017	Monday 27th February 2017
Easter 2017	Thursday 6th April 2017	Monday 24th April 2017
May Day 2017	Monday 1st May 2017	Tuesday 2nd May 2017
Summer half-term 2017	Friday 26th May 2017	Monday 5th June 2017
Summer 2016	Friday 21st July 2017	

Staff Training Days

Friday 21st October 2016
Friday 3rd February 2017
Friday 7th April 2017

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: Friday 16th September 2016

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

Events

Monday 19th September 2016
Y3 Multi-skills Festival

Wednesday 21st Sept 2016
Reception Welcome Liturgy in Church (2.15pm)

Wednesday 21st Sept 2016
Meet the teacher (Reception)

Thursday 22nd September 2016
Y5 & Y1 Mass

Friday 23rd September 2016
Head Boy and Head Girl Assembly

Friday 23rd September 2016
Y5 visit to 3M

Friday 30th September 2016
Y6 Assembly

Tuesday 4th October 2016
Y5 visit to The Life Centre

Wednesday 5th October 2016 & Thursday 6th October 2016
Book Fair

Thursday 6th October 2016
Y2, 3 & 4 Mass

Wednesday 12th October 2016
Y4 Greek Day

Thursday 13th October 2016
Y6 & Rec Mass

Friday 14th October 2016
Y5 Assembly

Thursday 20th October 2016
Y3 Harvest Festival Assembly

Thursday 20th October 2016
BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

Friday 21st October 2016
PD Day (School closed for children)

Monday 31st October 2016
BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Parents & Carers

A very warm welcome back, especially to our new children, parents and staff. We hope you will all be very happy at our school and settle in quickly. School is looking lovely and cheery at the moment. Mr Wheatley, our caretaker, has put up four large circular tables that have enabled the children to eat their packed lunches outside in the glorious weather experienced since returning. Over the next few weeks, a portion of the KS1 playground will be sectioned off as builders convert our outside classroom into a proper room. With the expansion in numbers, space is of a premium in the building and we need to have extra meeting rooms, poor Mrs Pratt is having to give up her room so much she can't meet as many parents as she would like.

Our Reception children have settled in beautifully. The assembly led by Y2, where they introduced a friend from Reception, was a fantastic way to start the year. They are already showing their talents and look forward to seeing them further improve those and develop new ones. Next Wednesday afternoon is the New Starters Liturgy, the children from St Mary's and St Joseph's are welcomed into the Parish of the Holy Family at St Mary's Church. It would be so nice if not only the parents of children in Reception but other parents and family members came to see them join our church family.

It has been lovely to see so many of our parents and carers attending the Meet & Greet the Teacher sessions. We hope you found them informative. For those parents and carers who were unable to come please check the class and whole school dojo boards for updates of events, homework and general messages. I would like to remind parents and carers that staff will not be responding to messages sent to them via the Class Dojo board. The facility for comment is there for you to respond to photographs and information children have shared.

On a rather sad note can I please reiterate that you do not share photographs taken in school either by yourselves or by the school on social media? We have had reports that some of the photographs from the whole school blog have been screenshot and then posted on social media sites. We do have some children who are not permitted to have their photographs in newspapers or websites and it would be a real shame if we had to stop posting photographs of the great events we hold.

If you ever need information we have our school website which is regularly updated and has details about our curriculum, clubs being held during and after school, significant events etc. Please take a look at

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

We look forward to working closely with you to ensure that your child has a successful and positive experience.

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

Snow Dogs

St Oswald's Children's Hospice has teamed up with Wild in Art to stage Tyne and Wear's biggest ever mass-participation, public art event – Great North Snowdogs!

Our Snowdogs, beautifully decorated by artists and generously sponsored by local businesses, will be on show for 10 weeks from September 2016, in locations across Tyne and Wear. They will be joined by a pack of little Snowdog sculptures designed by local school children. Check out the website

www.greatnorthsnowdogs.co.uk



Our Snowdog is called 'All animals are equal but some are more equal than others.'. The sculpture is being kenneled at Washington Galleries for the duration of the project, the sculptures are being placed on astro-turf and behind a picket fence with all the school pen portraits being displayed on 60inch LED screen.

Any child who visits and provides a photograph of themselves with the Snowdog will be given a Dojo.

Items for Sale

We have a few Ikea chairs (see picture) for sale at £5 each and some bicycle helmets for £4 each. If you are interested in any, please give school a call.



RECEPTION NEWS What a fantastic couple of weeks! The children have settled really well and are thriving from their new environment. They have also responded to their new rules and routines and are making lots of friends. Thank you for all of your support leading up to our Superhero Sponsored Walk, we have had brilliant fun and have been 'super' sensible when walking around Newton Aycliffe!

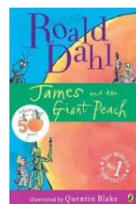
YEAR 1 NEWS We have all settled very well into Year 1. We have enjoyed exploring the classroom and discovering lots of new and exciting resources. We have begun our 'Frozen Planet' topic and have talked about polar animals and their habitats.



YEAR 2 NEWS WOW! What a great start to Year Two we have had so far! Considering this is only our second week back, we have done so much. Last week, we began our new topic all about Pirates; the children enjoyed spending a whole day with Mrs. Sowden and created passports of themselves as pirates which included some very interesting pirate names. I'm sure we will have lots of fun calling each other by our new pirate names. A pirate day is going to be arranged sometime this half term where children can come to school dressed up as a pirate and take part in a variety of activities. Further details about the "Pirate Day" will be posted on Class Dojos and on the next newsletter.

As well as that, Year Two have been spending time with the new Reception class. The children have really enjoyed playing and getting to know the little ones and are excited to introduce them for the very first time in the assembly on Friday.

YEAR 3 NEWS The children are settling well into Year 3 and having fun. We are enjoying reading our Class Reader of James and the Giant Peach. We have been busy doing some handwriting and Art work in preparation for Beamish Agricultural show. I wonder how many certificates our school wins this year? Watch this space!



We are going to soon be exploring how we can keep our bodies healthy in Science. We have had fun in our Inspire Maths, exploring making 3 digit numbers using dienes rods. "I enjoyed playing the dice game, where I made up my own numbers and had to use dienes rods on a Place Value grid."

On Tuesday we have had a Roald Dahl afternoon to celebrate his 100th birthday. We learnt a bit about his life, watched a live broadcast from Puffin Live and got a word search and bookmark to take home.

YEAR 4 NEWS WOW!! What a fantastic start to the Autumn term first week back and Year 4 have had 100% attendance.

Children have created some fantastic pieces of poetry, ready for the Beamish Agricultural show. This half term we have some exciting visitors and activities planned for Science and our History topic of the Ancient Greeks.

Please can children read for at least 20 minutes a night.

YEAR 5 NEWS Well what a lovely start to the new school year. We have started our new science topic Earth and Space and have been finding out about the different planets, writing mnemonics to help us remember which order the planets orbit the Sun, and have found evidence to convince Miss Miles that the Earth is not flat and is in fact spherical. We look forward to visiting 3M on the 23rd September to see how they make various safety equipment including specialist breathing equipment.



YEAR 6 NEWS Y6 have settled into their new routines and it was impressive to see them all working at 8:56 this morning with register done!

The topic this term is "Shelters" and is linked to our class text Kenzuke's Kingdom. We had some very interesting letters of persuasion - having a year off school to sail around the world.



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.



Class Dojos

Remember to login to both class and school Dojos to keep up with our news. Please also remember that and photographs taken of the children in school or seen on the Dojos must not be posted on any social media sites. This in accordance with our School Policies and Home School Agreements.



Altar Training

Altar Servers Training - For all St Thomas and St Mary's adults and children who have made their First Holy Communion and wish to train – the **one** training session will be held at St Mary's on Saturday **24th September from 10.00am – 1.00pm**. Please give names to Father Michael office@aycliffeholymfamily.com

Year of Mercy

'When I needed a neighbour, were you there?'
In the month of September, we pray for Our Community.

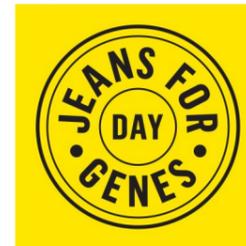


Loving Jesus
You taught us to show mercy through the story of the Good Samaritan.
You ask us to go and do the same, to be good Samaritans to others.
May we be your hands and feet of mercy, helping those in need through our actions.
May we be your eyes of mercy, looking with compassion on the world.
May our school be a community of mercy, showing love to others in your name.

Amen

Jeans for Genes Day—23rd September 2016

1 in 25 children has a genetic disorder that makes their life very difficult. That's one in every class. Simply by wearing our jeans and donating, we will change the lives of these children.



All children and staff are invited to wear their jeans on **Friday 23rd September** to help Jeans for Genes Day reach its target of £2million. We'd like everyone to take part so please send your child into school on the Day wearing their jeans and with a **£1 donation**.

If you'd like to find out more about how our support will help, please visit their website at www.jeansforgenes.org

Starting School—September 2017

Do you have a child who will be 5 on or between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018? If so, you need let Durham County Council know which school you would like your child to attend from September 2017 by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions. You can apply online for a school place from 12th September 2016 and the deadline for applications is midnight on 15th January 2017.

For more information, please contact the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

Pastoral Day

Last week saw the children come together for a day of reflection as part of a Pastoral Day. You should see the fruits of this work over the coming weeks as part of a display in the hall. The children also looked at the idea of a prayer garden, this will be a quiet reflective area allowing our school community to reflect and pray outside. We have asked the children to draw out their designs and bring them into school.

Lost Property

We have a new Lost Property bin in reception. From September this bin will be checked for items with children's names in (of which there are not many) and the rest will be put in the Salvation Army Recycle with Michael clothes bank near the school yard every Friday.



Please can you put your child's name in ALL uniform items so we can return them to the right children.