

ATTENDANCE

At St Mary's RC Primary School, we recognise the importance of full attendance and we aim to ensure that all pupils achieve and maintain high standards of attendance.

Regular attendance is vital to a good education, especially in Reception and Key Stage 1 with the introduction of Read Write Inc. which introduces a sound a day, therefore it is a priority for the school. We are committed to providing a full and efficient educational experience for all pupils.

We reward classes that achieve 100% attendance on a weekly basis, as well as pupils.

Pupils that achieve less than 90% attendance become a cause for concern and their attendance will be monitored. Parents/carers of those pupils will also be contacted in order to discuss ways of improving their child's attendance. As a school, our aspirational target is 97%.

(%) 5th September to 13th October 2016 (Ofsted Above Average Target = 96.1%)

The symbols below show if the class has improved attendance ↑ since the previous newsletter, stayed the same = or decreased ↓.

| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | TOTAL |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 97.5 | 95.9 | 93.5 | 95.5 | 98.5 | 98.8 | 96.7 | 96.6 |
| = | ↑ | ↑ | ↓ | ↓ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Above national average | Same as national average | Below national average |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

TERM DATES 2016—2017

| Holiday | Closing Date | Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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 | Friday 7th April 2017 | Tuesday 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
 Monday 24th April 2017 (please note changed date—was originally Friday 7th April 2017)

Year of Mercy

'When I needed a neighbour, were you there?'
 In the month of October, we pray for the Hungry.



Loving God

We pray for all those who struggle to get enough to eat, especially all the children who feel hungry each day. We ask that they may know they are not forgotten and that they may come to share in the abundance given for us all. Help us to follow your example of mercy to build a brighter future and a fairer world as we work together to end poverty and injustice. We ask this in your name, Lord. Amen

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: Friday 14th October 2016

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

Events

Monday 17th October 2016
Y2 Pirate Day

Monday 17th October 2016
Y6 Outdoor Shelter Activity

Thursday 20th October 2016
Y3 Harvest Festival Assembly

Thursday 20th October 2016
Y6 Mass

Thursday 20th October 2016
PTA Autumn Disco

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

Friday 4th November 2016
Y4 Reconciliation—St. John's

Friday 4th November 2016
Y2 Assembly

Friday 4th November 2016
Y1, 2 & 3 Flu Immunisations

Monday 7th November 2017
Y6 visit to Hitachi

Wednesday 9th November 2016
Y1 visit to Hardwick Park

Wednesday 9th November 2016
Y3 Farm to Fork at Tesco

Wednesday 9th November 2016
Y6 Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre

Thursday 10th November 2016
Y6 Safety Carousel

Friday 11th November 2016
Y4 Assembly

Monday 7th to Thursday 10th November 2016
Parents Evening

Dear Parents & Carers

Gosh week 6 finished. The children have settled back into school life so well. This half term we have introduced Read Write Inc. This is a new approach (for us) to the teaching of phonics, reading, writing and spelling. The feedback from parents has been really positive. Many have stated how their child/ren's attitude to reading is changing and they are now motivated to read. The success of the reading challenge and the book fairs has also fuelled children's interest in reading.

A huge thank you to the parents who attended the workshops held to explain Read Write Inc. We hope you found it informative. For those unable to attend please check the school website. Click on the 'Learning' Tab and then on to 'reading'. On there you will find links to videos that you may find helpful with the pronunciation of the sounds. I have to admit coming from the 'Boro' I have found some of the sounds difficult. The PowerPoint used at the workshop can also be found on there. Thank you to Mrs Mason—our Reading Leader and Mrs Hargreaves for hosting the workshops.

Our after school clubs this term have proved very popular. The science, craft and cookery clubs are still doing well. It is lovely to see children doing the sport clubs as well.

The week starting the 8th November 2016 we are holding Parent/Pupil/Teacher Consultations. The teachers have arranged various nights to make themselves available to meet with **you and your child** to share their targets with you. This is an ideal opportunity for us all to work together to help your child reach their potential. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible. Please look out for the timetables being put up on classroom doors. As in the past we are asking parents to sign up for the appointments.

On Thursday 20th we will be holding a mini Harvest Assembly led by Y3. The Mini Vinnies in school have asked that we bring in tinned foods, biscuits, dried foods such as rice and cereals to distribute to those who may need support.

Best wishes

Mrs. A. Sowden, Head Teacher

RECEPTION NEWS

This week, Mrs Muir had to change all of her plans to make way for the children's new fascination - Halloween! We have been exploring pumpkins, and have found a range of things we can use pumpkins for. Next week, we will be tasting pumpkin, making pumpkin seed necklaces and planting our own pumpkins. We are looking forward to seeing the Hey Presto performance on Wednesday too at the local library. I can't believe we have almost completed a half term already. Well done Reception.

YEAR 1 NEWS

We have been learning about how and why the Inuit people build their Igloos. Next week we are reading 'The Little Red Hen' to get ready for our school Harvest festival.



YEAR 2 NEWS

The disappearance of the Big Bad Wolf has finally come to an end. After investigating the scene of the crime at Grandma's house and following his footprints into the deep dark wood, the wolf is definitely gone for good. The children have done a fabulous job at describing the Wolf as well as the scene of the crime and are now busy writing an alternative version to "The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf". The story plans they created yesterday are fantastic! I can't wait to read their stories!

YEAR 3 NEWS

One week to go until half term, we cannot believe it! We have had a great time exploring our topic 'Where does our Food come from?'. We had a class challenge of trying to bring in food packaging from different countries, and used these for our class display. In class we have been using our new ipads to research facts about where the foods we eat came from. We have also been exploring how climate can affect the food we eat, by exploring why foods come from certain parts of the U.K and particular countries too.



We had great fun on our first visit to the library and are looking forward to going again after half term. We have nearly finished our class reader of James and the Giant. Think we might get the chance to watch the dvd next week if we work hard! I think with all our hard work with the Ready Steady Read we will be lucky. We also have our Harvest assembly to prepare too! A busy week ahead for us all!

YEAR 4 NEWS

WOW!! We are nearly towards the end of the first half term.

This week children enjoyed a day in the life of Ancient Greeks. Children enjoyed Greek food, Greek dancing, music, writing their name in Greek and making their own Greek crowns, creating Greek vases. We have had a fantastic time. Last week we were greeted by Rebecca a vet and she discussed different animal skeleton structures and how to mend broken bones. We also enjoyed dressing up as vets ready to operate. Please can all children be reminded to read 20 minutes an evening.

YEAR 5 NEWS

Last week Y5 had a fantastic time at the Life Science Centre in Newcastle. We had the opportunity to participate in lots of fun and hands on activities, including finding out how hard it would be to carry out DIY in space, investigating the absorbency of a nappy and finding out what would happen to your blood and other bodily fluids if you dared to venture out into space without a pressurised space suit. Lets just say we don't recommend you do so!

We do recommend, however, that you visit the Life centre yourself, as it is jam packed with lots of great and exciting things to do. We were so inspired by our visit that we wrote some 'Trip Advisor' style reviews, so if I haven't convinced you why you should visit, then I know they will.

YEAR 6 NEWS

A busy week this week. Sports and more sport in Y6. The children tried out a variety of sports and skills on Monday. Curling was a particular hit. The Winter Olympics here we come! Tuesday was the class taking part in a basketball coaching session.

As part of our Shelters topic and linked to our class text Kensuke's Kingdom the children have created Japanese style art worked and calligraphy. The children can write their names in Japanese. Don't worry we are still working hard on all our other subjects as well.



STARS OF THE WEEK— 14th October 2016



| | Rec | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 |
|-------------------|--------|------|--------|-------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Stars of the Week | Hannah | Evan | Rachel | Kendall-mai | All Yr 4 | All Yr 5 | William |

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| Look Smart | Ava (Year 4) |
| Act Smart | Addison (Year 1) |
| Be Smart | Mya (Year 2) |

| | Rec | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 |
|------------|----------|---------|----------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Speaker | Bella | Olivia | Abigail | Sophie | Lily | Harry | Emma |
| Listener | Olly | Liam | Oliver T | Leah | Max | Jazmin | Asiel |
| Writer | | Daniel | Rachel | Heidi | Sophie | Erica | William |
| Handwriter | Krystian | Rishon | Emmie | Nathan | Lucy | Robert | Jason |
| Reader | Samiel I | Bria | Oliver M | Phoebie | Christian | Millie | Liam |
| Maths | Samuel M | Pearl | Oliver C | Kendall-mai | Joseph | Laura | Morgan |
| Scientist | Will | Harry A | - | Faye | Ava | Ben | - |
| Artist | Rosie | Addison | Sophie | Hattie | - | - | Ben |
| Sports | Lewis | Taylor | Mya | Ava | Maya | Brendan | Ruby |

School Council

Following all the amazing fund raising efforts that St Mary's has recently been involved with, the School Council have decided to start raising money for Children in Need.



As the theme this year is spots, the council asked the rest of the school to come up with fun and inventive spotty ideas. Suggestions came thick and fast, including spotty cake sale, wear spotty clothing day, sponsored jumps on the spot, spotty face day and so on. Other, non spotty ideas were pj day, movie and/or babysitting night, guess the name of the teddy, bear themed egg decorating, bring and buy sale and lots more.

As you can see it was a hard task choosing from so many great ideas so the council decided that they would incorporate lots of events on Children in Need day and call it a FUNdraising Fete, with possibly a few little activities until then.

Initially the idea was to 'think big' and have lots of events leading up to Children in Need day on 18th November rather than a single event on the day itself. However, after careful consideration they thought that asking for lots of contributions would be unfair, especially so close to Christmas, so decided that a main multi activity event, with a possibility of the odd activity until then, was a much better option.

So to start the ball rolling they decided to have a Bring your Teddy to school day for a small donation. All monies raised today will be displayed on a Pudsey Bear Totalizer and will be updated each week, or after each event. Updates will also be available on the website and photos will be on School Dojo of course!



If anybody has any other fundraising ideas or can supply raffle prizes then please contact school.

So let's get spotty! Thank you St. Mary's School Council