

## ATTENDANCE

(%) 5th September to 17th November 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
97.1	95.8	92.9	96.4	98.0	98.2	95.5	96.3
↑	↓	↓	=	↓	↓	↓	↓

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

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open For Teaching Purposes
<b>Autumn 2016</b>		Monday 5th September 2016
Autumn half-term 2016	Thursday 20th October 2016	Monday 31st October 2016
<b>Christmas 2016</b>	Friday 16th December 2016	Tuesday 3rd January 2017
Spring half-term 2017	Friday 17th February 2017	Monday 27th February 2017
<b>Easter 2017</b>	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
<b>Summer 2016</b>	<b>Friday 21st July 2017</b>	

#### 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)

### Tesco Farm to Fork

Last Thursday Year 3 were very lucky to visit TESCO for the Farm to Fork Healthy Eating Trail. It was amazing to see all the fun activities that had been planned for us. The children learnt how much hidden sugar was in some cereals and drinks. Then they got the chance to make their own muesli.



Their Geography skills were also tested when they had to explore a world map, guessing the different parts of the world certain foods came from.

They even got the opportunity to explore the bakery and fresh fish department. At the end of the afternoon the children all got a free box of raisins and a pencil sharpener. The class will be planning a newspaper report telling our local community how great these free Tesco Farm to Fork visits are.



### Year of Mercy

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



# ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: Friday 18th November 2016

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

### Events

**Monday 21st November 2016**  
 Y2 Multi-Skills at Greenfield

**Wednesday 23rd Nov 2016**  
 School closed for  
 Reception, Y5 and Y6  
 Y1 closed from 1pm

**Thursday 24th November 2016**  
 School closed for  
 Reception, Y5 and Y6

**Thursday 24th November 2016**  
 Y2 Great Fire of London  
 Workshop

**Thursday 24th November 2016**  
 Babysitting Evening

**Monday 28th November 2016**  
 Y1 visit to Hardwick Park

**Tuesday 29th November 2016**  
 Y2 visit to Gala Theatre, Durham  
 (late return)

**Friday 2nd December 2016**  
 Y1 Assembly

**Friday 9th December 2016**  
 Liturgy Group Assembly

**Friday 9th December 2016**  
 Reception Class Nativity  
 (2-3pm)

**Tuesday 13th December 2016**  
 KS1 Nativity

**Wednesday 14th Dec 2016**  
 KS1 Nativity

**Thursday 15th December 2016**  
 Christmas Party Day

**Friday 16th December 2016**  
 Carol Service in Church

**Friday 16th December 2016**  
 School closes for Holidays

**Tuesday 3rd January 2016**  
 BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Parents & Carers

What a busy few weeks. We were really lucky last week to host not one but two teachers from Russia; Miss Inessa and Miss Olga, both teachers from the Kostroma region of Russia (about 250 miles north of Moscow). They had a wonderful time working with all the classes. Thank you children, staff and parents for making them feel so welcomed. Y5 children did a fantastic job being hosts.

Our visitors were fortunate enough to end their visit watching or rather listening to two fantastic events we had on Friday last week. The day started with a very moving and poignant assembly on Remembrance led by Y4 with members of the Armed Forces. The veterans were so taken by the assembly they have asked to return next year. Well done Y4 oh and great solo singing from Lily, Grace and Harvey. The afternoon saw our first Musical – Singing Festival held at Woodham Academy, organised by Mrs Clausen. Last year she arranged a smaller version in our school hall and it was so well attended we had to ask Woodham if they could 'lend' us their hall and as usual they were very accommodating. The afternoon was a huge success and those who were able to join us, were treated to an array of songs ranging from a 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow to Living on a Prayer. A massive thanks to Mrs Clausen for arranging this. She has a musical evening organised next term for children who play instruments to showcase their talents. I am really looking forward to this.

This week it is Friendship Week in school. We are concentrating on what it takes to be a friend and providing strategies for 'making up' when you fall out with your friends. We wanted to put a more positive focus to national Anti-bullying week. As a staff we believe it should be something the children are aware of all year round and not just for a week. Making real and genuine friendships will provide for better mental health both now and as our children get older.

I would like to congratulate 107 of our pupils on their attendance last half term, as they had 100% attendance. This is great, unfortunately it is 13 less than this time last year. Our school attendance for the first half term was 96.7% slightly down on last year. A special well done to Miss Will's and Miss Miles' classes, who both have 98.6% attendance for the first half of the autumn term. Last year we had a real push on attendance and it paid off as for the first time in a number of years we reached our target both on attendance and reducing lateness. On Monday this week 25 children were not in their line when the bell went to start school and this has been creeping up over the past three weeks so as a school we have decided to start to use our Dojo System for punctuality. It was one of the negatives we thought we had retired but we have dusted him off and children will now receive a negative for lateness. We know this is a temporary blip but we need to stop it reverting to the numbers we had being late at the beginning of last year. Thank you for your support with this.

*Annette Souden*

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

## RECEPTION NEWS

Reception have been really busy this week, we have made great progress in Phonics and are starting the blend our sounds in order for us to read simple words. We have been learning how to add and takeaway and we are beginning to understand 'add' and 'equals' and the symbols that represent them. Well done Reception.

## YEAR 1 NEWS

This week we have started to practice our songs for the Christmas performance, so don't be shocked if they start bursting into song at home! In science we have been looking at and learning about which animals hibernate and how they get ready for Winter. In our topic, we've learnt about Captain Scot of the Antarctic and his expedition to the South Pole. The children are producing lots of fantastic pictures and models for their homework, so thank you for all the hard work being put in at home.



## YEAR 2 NEWS

In Maths Year 2 have been learning about Mass. The children have been estimating and weighing different objects and finding the heaviest and lightest of them. It has been very exciting working with Year 1 learning the songs for the Christmas play. In science, the children have been talking about uses of everyday materials and how people, like firemen, need to wear different materials for different purposes.

## YEAR 3 NEWS

Another busy couple of weeks, they say time flies when you are having fun! We have started our Road Safety training; the children have enjoyed going outside of school learning the Green Cross Code and exploring road safety in a fun way. We finish these sessions next Tuesday and we will have a short assessment, testing how well they have listened over the past few weeks.



## YEAR 4 NEWS

Wow what an amazing remembrance assembly we had, thank you for attending. Children have worked hard to think about Remembrance.

This week we have enjoyed using our science skills for making chocolate crispy cakes for Children in Need. We have found out that chocolate never has a melting point. (Did you know that?)

Please can children remember to read 20 minutes each night and an adult to sign twice a week. Also new spellings are given out on a Monday to practise for their spelling test on Friday.

## YEAR 5 NEWS

Well what fun it has been in school recently. We were able to practice the Russian vocabulary that we had learnt with our lovely visitors Olga and Iness who were both extremely impressed. By the end of the week we were even able to write words in Russian too. This week in numeracy we have continued with the Russian theme and looked at the Cyrillic number system and Russian peasant multiplication - a fun way to multiply numbers using our halves and doubles. We have also tried to find ways to improve our friendship skills and even wrote a recipe for being a perfect friend. Well done Year 5, another fabulous couple of weeks.

## YEAR 6 NEWS

Last week saw Y6 out and about. Firstly a trip to Hitachi. We are delighted to be working with Hitachi to produce a range of work which they will hopefully display at a local station. Our theme is the Railway old and new. This week the knowledge acquired during our trip is being used to create newspaper reports.

The children also spent the day taking part in a safety carousel learning how to stay safe near water, what to do if there is a fire in the home, road and internet safety, as well as first aid. This is all part of transition preparation so they are safe once they start going out on their own.

Maths has been challenging this last few weeks but it was lovely to hear the comments on Tuesday, "I like fractions now." Another said, "They are not as bad as I thought. I didn't think I could do them." The children have embraced the motto in class, I can't do it... YET!



STARS OF THE WEEK— 18th November 2016



	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Stars of the Week	Darcey		Rachael				

	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Speaker	Ella	Martha	Mya	Jaeden			Paige
Listener	Bella	Alyss	Genevieve	Heidi			Isaac
Writer		Harry C	Abigail	Sarah	Megan		Lewis
Handwriter	Will	Evie-Beth	Neve	Tyler			
Reader	Ellie	Nathan	Tia	Zach	Harvey		
Maths	Lucas	Cena-Cole	Oliver T	Kendall-Mai			William
Scientist	Samuel B	Evan	Rachael	Harry H			Ebony
Artist	Rosie	Charlotte	Sophie	Lee			
Sports	Trinity	Harry A	Oliver M	Hope			Isabelle H-L

### Parking in residential areas

We have again had a complaint from another local resident regarding the behaviour and attitude of some of our parents who park in the residential streets near to the school. We have been advised that the residents are now going to speak to the police about the parking problems and the abuse received. Please be mindful and respectful when you park. Tesco car park is free to use and close to school for drop off and pick up.

### Non-prescribed treatments

If your child needs non-prescribed lip balm or nasal inhalers (eg Vicks or Albas) or other items, these must be brought to the office and children should see Mrs Hall when they require them. If these items fall out of pockets/bags and the smaller children get them it could be hazardous. These can then be collected at the end of the day by you or your child.

### We are going PAPERLESS

From Monday 21st November 2016 we are going paperless. All letters and newsletters will be sent out via our new school communication app, SchoolPing. We may, at times, need to send a letter home for consent for visits/activities, etc, but we expect that this will eventually be done electronically through the App. Those that have given your email address already will have received an email yesterday inviting you to set up the app on your smartphone or tablet. If you are unable to access through these devices you can access it through the website and details will be included in the email.

For those that have not provided an email address, your username and password will be sent home in an envelope.

If you have no way to access this App or the website, please let Mrs Hall know as soon as possible.

If you have any queries, please speak to Mrs Hall in the office.

