

## ATTENDANCE

(%) 5th September to 13th January 2017 (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
96.1	95.2	93.9	95.4	97.2	98.0	96.2	96.0
↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓

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)

# ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: Friday 13th January 2017

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

### Events

- Monday 16th January 2017**  
SATs Meeting Y6 (3.30pm)
- Monday 16th January 2017**  
SATs Meeting Y2 (3.30pm)
- Friday 20th January 2017**  
Y5 Assembly
- Wednesday 25th January 2017**  
Y1 Multi-Skills Festival
- Thursday 26th January 2017**  
Y2, 3 & 4 Mass
- Friday 27th January 2017**  
Y2 Assembly
- Friday 3rd February 2017**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED—PD DAY**
- Monday 6th February 2017**  
Children Back to School
- Monday 6th February 2017**  
Number Day for NSPCC
- Thursday 9th February 2017**  
Rec & Y6 Mass
- Friday 10th February 2017**  
Spoken Word—Poetry at Woodham Academy
- 13th to 16th February 2017**  
Parents Evening—All classes
- Friday 17th February 2017**  
Y1 Assembly
- Friday 17th February 2017**  
**BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM**
- Monday 27th February 2017**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL**
- Thursday 2nd March 2017**  
World Book Day
- Friday 3rd March 2017**  
Reception Assembly
- Wednesday 8th March 2017**  
Y4 trip to Segedunum
- Thursday 9th March 2017**  
Y2, 3 & 4 Mass

Dear Parents & Carers

It seems odd to be talking about school closures with the temperatures we have been experiencing for the past month but just as a heads up in case this snow continues: in the case of severe weather, we will endeavour to open as long as there are 4 Teachers and 4 Teaching Assistants in school. If, however, the conditions are deemed too dangerous to travel, we will inform parents as quickly as possible by PING and the School Dojo system. You will be able to check school closures on the Durham County Council website and the local radio stations: BBC Newcastle, BBC Tees, Star, Capital and Metro.

We have had a fantastic start to the New Year with the children watching the pantomime Beauty and the Beast performed by M& M Productions. The feedback both in comments and the volume of the shouting told us that yet again the company had produced a fantastic show. Even our Y6 enjoyed it!

Year 3 started off our class liturgies this morning. They did really well considering the microphone stopped working despite numerous attempts to fix it over the past few weeks. I don't think they are designed to be passed between 30 children on a weekly basis. However Mr El-Hakim has been so helpful in providing and installing some microphones for us after the liturgy. I am looking forward to next week. At my age it's getting more and more difficult to hear! They did a sterling job coping with the hiccup. Well done with their raffle. They had collected/sourced some wonderful prizes. Unfortunately today was the same day we trialled a change in the order of liturgy. We may have to try it one more time before we decide to go back to our trialled and tested way. So please bear with us next week.

Hopefully those families that have signed up to Ping are finding it much easier to access information and you feel more informed as letters etc are making it home! One facility it has is the booking of parents evening appointments. Please look out for information we will be sending out on how this works. For families not accessing Ping you will need to contact the office to book a time.

*Annette Scafe*

Mrs. A. Sowden, Head Teacher

**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
Love your Lunch!

St Mary's RC Primary School  
 Tuesday 14th February

**Menu**

Love Heart Pizza  
 Fish Fingers and Chips  
 Peas/Beans

**Dessert**  
 Jam Hearts

**Disability Gymnastics Workshop**  
 Sunday 15th January  
 9.30-11am

Athena Sports Academy, Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre

Would your child like to take part in our gymnastics workshop, where they can work together as disability teams or mixed teams with non-disabled friends?

Hosted by British Gymnastics fully qualified disability coaches in a fun, safe and welcoming environment, this workshop would be a great way to introduce your child to the sport, enjoy being creative and work with others. Involves floor work, tumbling and vaulting!

Open to all Athena gymnasts and also non-members  
 Suitable for ages 7+

For any further information or to book a FREE place, please contact us via the following methods:

☎ Tel: 0788 201277    ✉ @athenasportsacademy    🌐 athenasportsacademy.co.uk    📺 facebook.com/athenasportsacademy

## RECEPTION NEWS

Reception have settled in so well after the Christmas holidays, I can't believe how grown up they are getting and how fast the time is going.

We have been learning about height and length this week and the children have really impressed us with their use of mathematical language. We have started Dough Disco to help develop our fine motor skills, if you would like to practice at home, the playlist is on Youtube "Dough Disco Playlist" and I'm sure the children will remember the moves. We are running low on junk modelling things e.g. cereal boxes, plastic bottles, egg cartons, yoghurt pots etc. if you have any at home, please feel free to recycle at school.

## YEAR 1 NEWS

Year 1 have had a fantastic first 2 weeks back at school. We have begun our new topic on 'Amazing Animals' and have been finding out all about wild animals in Africa. We have created some collage animals and have been reading some stories with African animals in them, such as 'Giraffes Can't Dance' and 'The Enormous Crocodile'.

## YEAR 2 NEWS

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas break. Who can believe we have been back at school for two weeks already?

A new half term brings new topics, including exploring special books in R.E., researching Australia in our Topic work and learning all about animals and humans in Science. Year two are also learning how to play Mini Tennis coached by a specialist teacher from Sedgfield Sports Partnership. Who knows, you may see some of the Year 2 sports stars playing in Wimbledon one day!

## YEAR 3 NEWS

I cannot believe we are already into our second week! Some of us have already started the new homework grids, Mrs Brown is really excited to see our work this half term. Our Stone Age village is still here in our class. Perhaps this term we get models of things to do with London in our class! We are enjoying our Maths work and having fun learning our times tables. Our Topic this half term is exploring the U.K. We Have enjoyed using an atlas, finding places on a map and using the points of a compass to find places in the U.K. The children have been working hard to learn their assembly parts off by heart; as a treat we are going to visit the new library this afternoon.

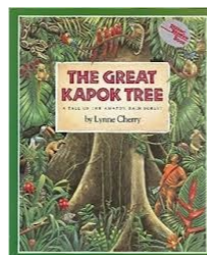
## YEAR 4 NEWS

Year 4 have been writing some fantastic biographies about Enid Blyton's life they have had a great passion for her novels and researching about her life. Children have had a fantastic attitude towards their work since they have come back. I am very impressed. This half term our topic is the Roman's and we will be going on a trip to Segedenum once details are confirmed letters will be provided.

Please can children be reminded 20 minutes of reading a night.

## YEAR 5 NEWS

In Year 5 we have started looking at rainforests around the world and finding out the difference between temperate and tropical rainforests. We have written a biography about Sir David Attenborough, the famous natural history presenter and environmentalist, who has spent his life bringing the natural world into our homes through the power of TV and literature. We have also started to read our class story The Great Kapok Tree and have begun to discuss the thought provoking messages and dilemmas that the author, Lynne Cherry, asks of us, the reader.



## YEAR 6 NEWS

The start of the new Y6 topic - Explorers - fits with the change in the weather. This week the children have been comparing the weather in Darlington with that of the Antarctic. A discussion was held about what we mean by wind- chill factor. The class will be looking at the continent of Antarctica, which is in fact a desert! Part of our work will look at those who have explored this hostile terrain and this will include St. Mary's involvement in 2012/13 when the school presented a mascot to Sir Ranulph Fiennes to be taken on The Coldest Journey. Mary Mouse was herself an Antarctic explorer and pad the children in the class do remember her.

Turning to The Arts, our poem is chosen for the Poetry Recital next month and you will have see evidence of our PE. Dance. Currently the Charleston.

There will be a talk for parents of Y6 children about the KS2 SATS on Monday at 3:30.



STARS OF THE WEEK— 13th January 2017



	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
<b>Stars of the Week</b>	Joules	Maya	Mya	All Year 3	Samuel B	Jeremiah	Joshua
	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
<b>Speaker</b>	Lewis	Eleanor	Joel	Isaac	Macy	Rhys	Liam
<b>Listener</b>	Krystian	Evan	Neve	Olivia L	Ashton	Thomas	Ryan
<b>Writer</b>	-	Harry C	Tallulah	Olivia T	Drew	Lois	-
<b>Handwriter</b>	Joules	Charlotte	Oliver C	Tyler	Maja	Jeremiah	Isaac
<b>Reader</b>	Bella	Alyss	Christopher	Logan	Joseph	Brendan	Morgan
<b>Maths</b>	Benjamin	Liam	Daniel	Zach	Samuel B	Connor	Isabelle H
<b>Scientist</b>	Will	Casey	Sophie	Faye	Ava	Ben Laura	William
<b>Artist</b>	-	Micah	Genevieve	Ava	Grace	Alfie	Jack Ruby
<b>Sports</b>	Samuel I	Riley	Oliver T	Lili	Owen	Jason	Lewis

## Toddler Group

If you have a baby or a toddler or know someone who is new to the area or never visited our Toddler Group before, please come along and join in the fun.



**Toddler group is held every Wednesday morning from 9am to 10.40am.**



Each week the group run craft activities, singing, story telling and lots of other activities. Come along, have a chat and a coffee.

## We are PAPERLESS

School Ping is all up and running. Letters, newsletters, messages and other information is now being sent via the Ping. 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.



Thank you to everyone who has signed up via the App or the website, we hope you are finding it easy to access and use. If you have any problems please speak to Mrs Hall who can try to sort them out for you.

## Hats, Scarves and Gloves

With Winter well and truly with us, please can parents remember to provide children with a hat, scarf and gloves. Where possible, can names be put in these items and remind children to put them in pockets or bags after play time. We do have a few spare pairs but not enough for everyone.

