

ATTENDANCE

(%) 5th September to 9th February 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	94.7	93.2	95.2	97.	98.1	96.4	95.8
↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	=	↓

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)

Children Arriving Late to School

As a reminder for parents, children should arrive at school by 8.50am for the bell and be in the yard ready to come into school at 8.55am. If this is not possible, children should be brought to the main office and report late. There have been a few occasions when children are sent to the main office on their own when they are late. Please can we ask that parents bring the children to the main office and report to Mrs Hall to ensure they have been seen and recorded as present. It is important that your child arrives at school on time, the children start lessons promptly at 9am. Arrive after this time and they are missing out on vital education time.

Class Trips

We have a number of class trip coming up in March, Y3 are going to the theatre, Y4 are going to Segedunum and Y5 are going to the Botanic Gardens. Our Reception Class are also going to Darlington College next week to look at construction. Speak to Mrs Hall if you need a letter.

Valentine's Disco

Tickets are still available for the Valentine's Disco on Thursday 16th February. The price of tickets is £2.50 (which includes a drink and a hot dog).



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: Friday 10th February 2017

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

Events

Wednesday 15th February 2017
Rec trip to Darlington College

Wednesday 15th February 2017
Holy Communion Meeting
Church Meeting Room(6pm)

13th to 15th February 2017
Parents Evening—All classes

16th February 2017
Valentine's Disco

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

Friday 10th March 2017
Y4 Assembly

Wednesday 15th March 2017
Y5 trip to the Botanic Gardens

Friday 17th March 2017
Liturgical Assembly

Wednesday 22nd March 2017
Y3 trip to Northern Stage to see
The Twits

Thursday 23rd March 2017
Rec & Y6 Mass

Friday 24th March 2017
Y5 Science Assembly

Thursday 30th March 2017
Lenten Market

Friday 31st March 2017
Y6 Assembly

Dear Parents & Carers

Boy time is flying this year.

It's that time of the year when we have a lot of illness and terrible weather. Over the past two weeks we have had a large number absent with chicken pox. This seems to be an illness that visits the school every two years in a big way! Hopefully the last cases will be reported this week and everyone should be fit and healthy and back full of the joys of spring after half term.

Following last year's very positive Poetry Festival we held our second, today. It has been great to hear the classes getting ready for their performances. It has also been fascinating listening to their choice of class poem. Many of the older classes were given options and chose their own preferences. Thank you for all those parents who were able to attend. I am sure you will agree the afternoon was entertaining.

This increased responsibility for their own learning and choice making is part of the curriculum we are delivering here at St Mary's with increasing success. Modern technology is making it harder for us to provide the pupils with opportunities to be more independent and responsible. Years ago we did not have mobile phones, websites, Class Dojos and School Ping so we had to learn to remember messages, letters and newsletters ourselves. In some incidents we learned the hard way the consequences of leaving letters behind or lunch money in our bags, but it only took once or twice to develop responsibility. Here at St Mary's we are trying hard to help our pupils develop these skills in a very changing world. With this in mind we will continue to send spellings and readings etc home on a Friday in most cases and on a Monday these will then be uploaded onto the Class Dojo or pinged home. This means those pupils who take the work home on Friday will get a week to do the work, but it will provide a safety net for those not taking letters home to still be able to complete the work. We would appreciate it if you could continue to support the development of these important life skills by allowing the pupils to be more responsible for their own learning.

The pupils in Y6 are becoming more and more aware of the need to get themselves organised and a number are finding it very difficult! The feedback they received from ex pupils who came to give them a talk about life in secondary school has hammered home the need to be organised and responsible for themselves.

Thank you from the staff for your continued support.

Mrs. A. Sowden, Head Teacher

RECEPTION NEWS Reception have been trying really hard in Maths this week, we have even learnt the difference between a rectangle and an oblong and how rotation works! We are really looking forward to going to Darlington College on Wednesday to see Construction in action, please remember to hand your permission slips and money in otherwise your child will not be able to attend. Thank you.

YEAR 1 NEWS In year One, we have enjoyed learning and reciting our funny Zebra poem. When Eleanor's Grandma came into our class last week to talk about Africa and some of the animals that live there, she didn't mention Zebra's wearing tu tus or nappies on their heads!

YEAR 2 NEWS Year Two have enjoyed learning their poem, Wayne the Stegosaurus, for the Whole School Poetry Competition today. Everyone did really well.

YEAR 3 NEWS We have been having fun practising our poem called 'The Fox and the Grapes' by Celia Warren. It has been great watching the children create their own actions too.

The children are really enjoying learning about the work of Vincent Van Gough in their artwork with Mrs Clausen. They have loved making different colours using a colour wheel and tried to copy some of Vincent Van Gough's pictures.

The children love Gareth, the Sport's coach who comes into school every Wednesday. Their ball skills and team work is definitely improving!

Homework has been going well. Here are a few comments from the children. "I am enjoying the Art tasks." "It is great practising my 3x and 4x tables." "I am enjoying finding out about the lifecycle of a plant."

YEAR 4 NEWS Wow what a fantastic two weeks. We have had an amazing experience working with two of our parents creating Roman Mosaic tiles. Also children have had the opportunity to work with our Chinese visitor on Wednesday, all had an amazing afternoon.



YEAR 5 NEWS Well if Mrs Sowden or Mrs Hargreaves need any help with the school data they can pop along to Year 5 to assist them, as we've been looking at lots of different ways that data can be displayed. Miss Miles has had a master class in creating line graphs and stacked bar charts with Excel - thank you very much for teaching me a new skill Alfie! We have also been practising our poem Rain Forests for the Poetry Performance and it sounds amazing. We have continued to be inspired by the rainforest and have produced some excellent examples of extended writing for our display. Well done Year 5.

YEAR 6 NEWS The children have worked hard this last week to produce their own Arthurian Legends in book form. The children's work is on display and so in their own way they are now authors with a book to their name. This work was part of the grammar for writing educational research project. The children worked well together to perform their poem. The girls had the challenge of a section that changed rhythm. Their reaction the first time they got it right was such that the poem nearly had an extra line as they were so pleased with themselves.

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.



School Ping



The feedback we have received from parents about School Ping is very positive. There are still a few areas that we are hoping to improve and also some areas that the software company are hoping to incorporate in the future.

It is encouraging to see the number parents that have booked their appointments through School Ping, with very few calls for assistance. We hope it has been easy for parents to follow. If you have not been able to book an appointment, please call Mrs Hall in the office. The booking system is only open for parents until Monday.

Parent Support Advisor

Hi my name is Mrs Lizzie Kengyelics and I am the new Parent Support Advisor (perhaps you know what my title is it appears to change!!!). I am delighted to join the St Mary's School staff and look forward to supporting both you and your children as we journey through the school year.



If you have any queries, questions or concerns please feel free to contact me on my email address below
e.kengyelics300@durhamlearning.net
Alternatively if you wanted to arrange a time to meet I am happy to arrange times outside of school hours.

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.

