

## ATTENDANCE

(%) 5th September to 27th April 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
95.3	94.8	93.6	95.4	96.8	97.7	96.7	95.8
↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑

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)

## First Holy Communion

19 children from Year 4 and Year 5 will be making their First Holy Communion on either Saturday 13th May or Saturday 20th May, both masses will be at 10.00am. Please remember our children, and those from other schools, in your prayers as they make their final preparations over the next few weeks. A list of the children and their specific date will be on display in church and Year 4 classroom. Please feel free to join them at either mass to support them in this stage of their journey in faith.

## Sainsburys Vouchers

Please check your pockets, bags, cars, purses and wallets for any Sainsburys Vouchers. All vouchers must be returned to school on Tuesday 2nd May 2017.

## Year 6 SATs (8th—11th May 2017)

Monday 8 May 2017	English reading
Tuesday 9 May 2017	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 2: spelling
Wednesday 10 May 2017	Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic Mathematics Paper 2: reasoning
Thursday 11 May 2017	Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning

# ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter date: Friday 28th April 2017

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

### Events

**Monday 1st May 2017**  
BANK HOLIDAY—SCHOOL  
CLOSED

**Tuesday 2nd May 2017**  
Back to School

**Friday 5th May 2017**  
NO ASSEMBLY

**Friday 5th May 2017**  
Y5 Greenfield Experience

**Monday 8th—Thursday 11th  
May 2017**  
Y6 SATs week

**Thursday 11th May 2017**  
Y2, 3, 4 Mass

**Friday 12th May 2017**  
Y5 Assembly

**Friday 19th May 2017**  
Y2 Assembly

**Tuesday 23rd May 2017**  
Primary Athletics (Shildon)

**Thursday 25th May 2017**  
Rec and Y6 Mass

**Friday 26th May 2017**  
Race for Life  
Feast Day Mass and Picnic

**Friday 26th May 2017**  
Break up for Half Term

**Monday 6th June 2017**  
Back to School

**Monday 5th June 2017**  
Y5/Y6 Golf Taster

**Tuesday 6th June 2017**  
Sept 2017—New Starters  
Induction (children and parents)

**Thursday 8th June 2017**  
Y5 & Y1 Mass

**Friday 9th June 2017**  
Y1 Assembly

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back to the summer term, I hope you all had a great Easter Break. It is hard to believe that we are two thirds of the way through the year!

This term is looking so busy already. Please make sure you look at the Events list regularly and the side of the newsletter as there are class visits, the School Feast Day & Fun Run, SATs for Y6 and Y2 and the Phonics Screening for Y1. The Y6 will be performing their Leavers Play and enjoying transition days to their new Secondary schools. Over the second half of the term we will be hosting our New 2017 Reception children to help them get used to the school before starting in September. So busy, busy, busy. As ever our children will handle all of these events positively and with increased resilience.

As the weather is changing (fingers crossed – I was not impressed with having to search for De-icer on April 25<sup>th</sup>!) children will hopefully be playing outside more after school. This is fantastic, however as a staff can we ask that you still read with your child every day for 20 minutes, the older children and those who are fluent can read independently. A child who reads for twenty minutes daily increases their chances of success in school and ultimately life enormously. Their vocabulary can improve by thousands of words so improving their written work. We had a huge push on reading in the Autumn Term and which had a massive impact, however over the Spring Term and certainly the Easter holiday it seems to have dwindled somewhat. We would very much appreciate your input at home with this.

Over the past year we have not been able to host many social events as the membership of the PTA has dropped so low it was impossible to find enough helpers and volunteers to organise or run events. Given this it has been decided to dissolve the PTA and reform as a Friends of St Mary's and will hold a meeting just after half term to look at organising events for next year and increasing our membership. The parents and carers and family members have always been so helpful here I am sure we can make a success of the 'Friends' and use the monies raised through events to provide equipment and experiences to enhance our curriculum.

Thank you for your support and we hope to see as many as possible on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May for the Feast Day Mass, Picnic and Fun Run.

Mrs. A. Sowden, Head Teacher

Durham County Council Recommended School Holiday and Term Dates 2017/18

	AUGUST 2017	SEPTEMBER 2017	OCTOBER 2017	NOVEMBER 2017	DECEMBER 2017	JANUARY 2018
Monday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Thursday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Friday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Saturday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Sunday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28

	FEBRUARY 2018	MARCH 2018	APRIL 2018	May 2018	JUNE 2018	JULY 2018
Monday	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Tuesday	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Wednesday	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Thursday	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Friday	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Saturday	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Sunday	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29

Bank Holiday  
School Holiday  
PD Days




Children not in

The last day of the 2016/17 Academic Year is Friday 21 July 2017. The number of term days shown in this calendar is 193. 3 days within the above school terms are to be used for teacher training activities. These dates are to be determined at individual school/academy level. Please contact the relevant school/academy for further details.

**RECEPTION NEWS** Reception have settled in really well this week after a lovely Easter break. The children are enjoying our new Space themed classroom and are having fun learning about our Solar System. Could we ask that if you have anything cylinder shaped e.g. squash bottles, kitchen roll tubes, cling film rolls etc. that would be destined for the recycling bin, please could we have them in school as we have lots of children wanting to make rockets and space ships at the moment.

**YEAR 1 NEWS** We have begun our topic on 'Toys' this week. We have thought about our favourite toy and how we play with it. We have some fantastic toys! Next week we are going to begin thinking about toys in the past.



**YEAR 2 NEWS** Our topic this term is 'I do like to be beside the seaside' and we will be planning a trip to the seaside some time in June. Our emphasis will be on the historical facts and also scientific aspects of sea life and the shoreline.



**YEAR 3 NEWS** We have decided to just have one homework grid this term to make life easier and encourage the children to enjoy their learning. The summer term is always an exciting one for homework!

This half term we are reading Danny the Champion of the World. We are focusing on exploring famous people, linking it to work on Biographies. I will be asking the children to think about famous people who are an inspiration to them reflect on what has made them famous. The children have already been thinking about these people in school this week; ask them to share some of these with you. So far we have children interested in Vincent Van Gough, Mary Anning, and Einstein to name a few. I will update you of our progress in the coming weeks.

In Science he children will be exploring Light and Shadows with Mrs Clausen too. Exciting!

We will be visiting Newton Aycliffe library again this Friday afternoon

**YEAR 4 NEWS** This half term we will be learning all about the digestive system in Science and finding out where all our food goes. Don't be surprised if the children come home demonstrating their new technique of a HAKA Dance this half term. We are learning about different cultural dance but focusing on "The Haka".

We will also be finding out about different cities, towns and villages and they have adapted over the years. As part of our topic we will be attending Beamish Museum on the 28th June 2017 consent letters to follow.

Please can all library books be returned by Wednesday 3rd May.

**YEAR 5 NEWS** This half term, in our literacy lessons we will be looking at the story poem The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes. This will inspire us to write detailed character and setting descriptions as well as diary entries from different character perspectives. We have already started to produce some fantastic artwork based around this topic and look forward to using charcoal and pen and ink drawings in the coming weeks. We have started to look at angles, can identify the different types of angles in 2D shapes. We will be finding out different ways to name the same angle and how to measure them using a protractor.

**YEAR 6 NEWS** Well Year 6 are working hard revising for their SATs but are still enjoying an extra playtime on an afternoon. Keep them in your prayers but I know that they are all superstars. Once SATs are out of the way we still have writing to work on and our new literacy topic of fairy tales will link with out Leavers Play. Watch this space for some exciting news.