



Work, play, pray - together

St. Mary's RC Primary School



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October 2015 Newsletter

Mrs. Graham - Acting Head Teacher I can't believe we are coming to the end of our first half term already and one of the children told me just yesterday there are only nine more Fridays until Christmas!!!! We have had a very busy and successful half term, hopefully most of you read about our recent Local Authority review on facebook which judges our children's behaviour, safety and well-being as outstanding and overall our school as a good school. We are all really delighted with this outcome and congratulated all of our children on their exemplary behaviour and their very positive attitudes towards their learning.

Attached is a petition that one of our grandparents is organising along with our school council and the local authority, recently a parent whilst walking their child home from school was hit by a car which had clipped the kerb on the A19 slip road. Joes nana has organised this petition to see if we can meet and talk about safety barriers that can be installed to safeguard our families when walking to and from school, it would be great if you could collect signatures and return the form to the school office.

Attendance Figures!

We have really reduced the number of children coming to school late following the implementation of the new start time. Pupils who do arrive to school late after the registers have closed will be recorded as unauthorised.

Can we please remind you if your child is unwell, please contact school on the first day of your child's illness by leaving a short message on the school's answering phone option 1. Any unreported illness will be marked in the register as unauthorised until reported to the school office. These attendance figures are then monitored by the Local Authority who may contact you.

Attendance figures to date w/e 9th October:

Attendance	Unauthorised	<u>Days Lost per Class</u>
Rec - 95%	Rec - 0%	29
Year 1 - 95%	Year 1 - 2%	39
Year 2 - 98%	Year 2 - 1%	13
Year 3 - 97%	Year 3 - 1%	20
Year 4 - 98%	Year 4 - 1%	12
Year 5 - 97%	Year 5 - 2%	26
Year 6 - 95%	Year 6 - 4%	34

There has been **23** school days since the beginning of term. Although though there has been the usual colds and bugs around school for this time of year, as the above table indicates the number of school days lost so far this academic year is of a great concern.

The school council are currently taking ideas and suggestions on how we reward children with the best attendance in school.

Operation Christmas Child

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

Boxes are now being collected in the reception area; if you would like to donate a box or a small item that can make up a box, please send items into the school office. Thank you for your continued support



Welcome Assembly

On Friday, 23rd October, Reception children have invited their parent/carers along to have lunch with them in school.

Due to limited space in the dining hall, there will be 1 invite per child, however, at 1:00pm all family are welcome to join us in this celebration assembly.



Important Dates

- HALF TERM - Monday, 26th - Friday, 30th October
- In-service Day - Friday, 13th November
- Tuesday, 17th and 18th November Parents' Meetings
- Monday, 30th November - St. Andrew's Day themed lunch
- Monday, 7th December - Christmas Concert & Lighting of the Tree @ 5:00pm
- Monday, 14th December - KS1 Nativity @ 1:00pm
- Tuesday, 15th December - School Christmas Lunch
- Wednesday, 16th December - KS1 (Infants) Party 1:00pm-3:00pm
- Thursday, 17th December - KS2 (Juniors) Disco 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Friday, 18th December - Christmas Mass @ 1:00pm
- CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS - Monday, 21st December - Monday, 4th January 2016
- HALF TERM - Monday, 15th February - Friday, 19th February
- Monday, 22nd February - Y5 Bikeability
- Tuesday, 23rd February - Y4 Bikeability
- EASTER HOLIDAY - Thursday, 24th March - Friday, 8th April
- HALF TERM - Monday, 30th May - Friday, 3rd June
- SUMMER HOLIDAY - Thursday, 21st July - Friday, 2nd September

<http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/23468/Find-a-school-and-school-holiday-dates>

Football Team The first 2 matches of the South Tyneside Primary FA took place on 15th October at Temple Park Leisure Centre. Our team coaches were very impressed with the team and whilst they were defeated this time we are hopeful that they get the result they deserve at future matches. This year the team coaches are Mr. Mackley and Bobby.

Harvest Festival

We are collecting tins/packets / toiletries for the KEY Project.

The KEY Project helps young people who find themselves homeless usually due to family breakdown. They distribute parcels as part of emergency support packs to young people who are experiencing hardship. The packs contain enough food for up to 3 days. They will also sometimes include toiletries and other household items depending on a person's needs. In the past St Mary's have been very generous and it would be fantastic if we could help the key project again this year.

Please bring all donations into school as soon as possible.

Guy Fawkes theme day.

As the year 5 children are out this Friday and we have the Reception assembly we have decided that we will have our themed day on Guy Fawkes. Children can come dressed in something red or black or in their Halloween costumes. The children in classes will be looking at different forms of writing such as poetry, stories, riddles etc inspired by the theme of "Bonfire Night. "