



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## School Newsletter

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

### Morning Drop-off

All pupils (from Reception to Yr6) arrive from 8.40am via our Rockingham Road entrance.

**This gate is locked at 8.45am each morning.**

### Collection Times

All classes (Reception to Year 6) finish school at 3.15pm.

Afternoon Nursery finishes at 3.30pm.

**Please use our 1-way system, after school, to avoid congestion in our narrow Rockingham Close alleyway.**

### Pupil Bags in School

We ask that pupils only bring in book bags (and draw string P.E bags for their P.E uniform). Each child only has a single peg for these bags (in most cases in the main corridor) and we **do not have the space for rucksacks** or other bags. Thank you.

### PE Kits

Each class has two set days for PE each week. Pupils may wear their PE kits and trainers to school on the days they have PE.

**Pupils should not wear their trainers to school on any other day – thank you.**



Dear Parent/Carer,

Our Year 6 pupils were lucky enough to have the opportunity to visit the William's F1 racing team's headquarters on Wednesday. They took part in F1, science and engineering themed workshops and had a tour of their HQ including their museum of racing cars including championship winning cars. A highlight of this visit was the Esports sessions where they got the chance to have a go on the racing simulators used by the William's

drivers. All the children received William's F1 gifts including water bottles and bags and prizes for the different activities. They had a fantastic day!

### Year 4 Class Assembly

Year 4's class assembly will take place on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, at 2.45pm**, in our school hall. All family members are most welcome to attend. You can see a list of all class assembly dates at the end of this Newsletter.

### Hillingdon Secondary School - Offer Day (current Yr6 pupils)

Is your child in Year 6 and starting Secondary school in September?

The deadline for on-time applications was in October. Parents who applied online will be offered a secondary school place on **Monday 2nd March 2026** (National Offer Day).

### Hillingdon Reception Class – National Offer Day

For Hillingdon Reception class applications for September 2026, National Offer Day is on Thursday 16th April 2026, when parents will receive an email to log into their eAdmissions account to see their Reception school offer.

### School Lunch Orders

The Mayor of London's additional funding covers the main costs for free school meals for primary pupils but this funding does not fully cover all associated costs and there is a shortfall for every meal ordered that we pay for out of our school budget. We ask that parents only order a school lunch if they intend for their child to eat it. A few parents have ordered a school lunch for their child this week but their child has eaten a packed lunch every day. Thank you for your help in protecting our school budget so we can use the funds to better support all of our children.

### Next Wednesday – Yr5 Workshop

On Wednesday afternoon, our Year 5 pupils will take part in a workshop 'Celebrating Black Mathematicians with Big Ideas'. They will be introduced to amazing mathematicians, past and present, and explore their field of maths with a special mathematical guest Katherine Johnson. 'Human Computer' Katherine Johnson worked for NASA and was critical to the success of crewed space flight – her story featured in the film "Hidden Figures". During this special event, they will discover more about the maths which made Katherine Johnson world-famous.

### **House Team – House Point winners this week:**

St Bernadettes	
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### Tiny Happy People

The BBC's Tiny Happy People website has been designed to help parents develop their child's language skills. You can explore their simple activities and play ideas here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

### Limited (Full Time) Nursery Places - available for September

We have a limited number of 30 hours Nursery places available for September (8.30am until 3.30pm).

Our before and after school club provider also takes Nursery pupils enabling **wraparound care between 7.30am and 5.30pm each day** for pupils attending our school Nursery. This club finishes at 5.15pm every Friday. Parents can pick up an application form from our school office.

**Please note:** These places are limited and offered on a first come, first served basis.

### Fun Fest Holiday Club

Our popular Fun Fest holiday club is once again returning to St. Mary's for the February half term break. This club will take place, every day of the holiday, between 8am and 6pm.

Fun Fest are currently taking bookings:

<https://fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge/>

The poster is for the 'FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS FUN FEST UXBRIDGE!'. It features the 'fun fest HOLIDAY CLUB' logo and a photo of a girl coloring. The text provides details for the 'February Half-Term' from the 16th to the 20th of February, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm. It includes a QR code to 'Follow -US-' and a 'Booking Info' section with the website <https://fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge>, the address 'St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Rookingham Close UB8 2UA Uxbridge', the phone number '07399 880319', and the email 'uxbridge@funfestholidayclub.co.uk'. A 'Bookings Open!' banner is also present over the photo.

### Children's Centres

Children's centres offer a range of services to support parent/carers and 0 to 5-year-olds.

You can view the Hillingdon centres here:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/10473/Contact-details-for-our-family-hubs-and-childrens-centres>

### School Lunches

Your child will only be provided with a free lunch if you place an order on the iPay website. **Please note:** we are not sent any spare meals each day. Parents need to provide a packed lunch for any child without an order.

<https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/IPI/Account/LogOn>

## **Place2Be – Parenting Smart**

The Parenting Smart website is open to all parents and includes practical tips to support children's wellbeing and behaviour:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/index>

## **WhatsApp and Social Media**



Pupils learn about online safety every term and we have been reminding our KS2 children of these age restrictions on social media. To use WhatsApp in the UK, you need to be at least 13 years old.

Due to these age restrictions, **we strongly recommend** that parents do not allow any child (attending our school) to use WhatsApp or any other social media platforms rated 13+ due to the risks involved. You may find this NSPCC website useful – it looks at how to set up parental controls on your child's phone:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

## **Useful SEN Websites and Information**

**Hillingdon SENDIASS website:** Hillingdon SENDIASS is a free, confidential and impartial support service for parents and carers, children and young people up to 25 years where the child or young person has or may have special educational needs. Their website includes useful information and links to a range of support groups available:

<https://www.hillingdonsendiass.co.uk/>

### **Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support (HACs)**

A charity providing support for children with a diagnosis of autism and their families:

<https://www.hacs.org.uk/>

### **Hillingdon Local Offer**

The Hillingdon local offer provides information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents/carers. It allows families to see what they can expect from a range of local agencies and how to access them.

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/4654/SEND-local-offer>

### **Hillingdon Talks, Moves, Plays**

Hillingdon Talks, Moves, Plays: Children's Integrated Therapy Service (CITS) is a team of Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, technicians and administrators, who deliver a community service for children and young people aged 0 to 19.

CITS operates an open referral system, which means anyone can refer a child or young person to any of the therapy services. We recommend parents, carers and professionals contact the advice line on 01895 488 200 to speak with a therapist for advice and to decide whether a referral is needed. You can find further information and parent advice on their website: <https://www.cnwl.nhs.uk/children-integrated-therapy-service>

### **Stronger Families Hub**

The Stronger Families Hub operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide families in Hillingdon with information, advice and support.

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/stronger-families-hub>

### **Hillingdon Parent Carer Forum (PCF)**

A team of volunteer parents/carers whose aim is to improve services and processes for Hillingdon SEND children. They exist to harvest the voice of parents/carers in Hillingdon, to help shape the services accessed by SEND children, by way of engagement with parents and co-production with the Local Authority. If you wish to receive information emails, please sign up to their database. They have different levels of volunteering options: <https://hillingdonpcf.com/>

### **Speech Link – Parent Portal**

Speech and language support for parents and carers:

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

### **Kooth**

Kooth.com, NHS-commissioned and BACP accredited, offers free, safe and anonymous online mental health support and counselling for 11-25 year olds across north central London:

<https://www.kooth.com/>

### **Safeguarding**

If you are worried about a child's safety please do not hesitate to contact the school straight away. You can always speak to Miss Shevlin, the Designated Safeguarding lead, if you have any concerns about a child. You can also call Hillingdon Stronger Families Hub on [01895 556006](tel:01895556006). If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.

**It is all of our responsibility to safeguard children.**

### **Instrumental Lessons**

Instrumental lessons

Book a Free one-to-one Music Lesson

For children aged 4+ wishing to learn piano, guitar, ukulele and violin at our school.

Register by text to: 07782503260 and include:

Child's Name, Age, Music Instrument

Or

register at: [www.stage talent.co.uk/register](http://www.stage talent.co.uk/register)



### **Attendance**

We are sure that like us, you as parents and carers, realise the importance of attendance and punctuality. At St. Mary's, we continue to work hard to try to raise attendance levels and to reduce instances of lateness. There is much evidence to show that good attendance plays a vital role in helping your child to achieve their potential. We also know that poor attendance can lead to other problems for children. **How can you help your child attend school regularly?:**

- Talk to your child about school. Make sure your child understands why school is important.
- Get everything ready for school the night before.
- Arrange appointments before or after school or during the school holidays.
- Take holidays during school holidays and not during term time.
- Set your alarm and your child's alarm clock- see who can beat the clock!
- Only grant days at home for genuine illness (you will know)!
- If your child is slightly under the weather, still send them into school- children often start feeling better as the day goes on and they get busy, and if the school is worried, we will call you.

## **Class Assembly Dates**

We have planned for each class to lead an assembly either this, or next term. All class assemblies will take place in our school Hall on the dates listed below. All family members are most welcome to attend – please save the dates in your diaries:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Time</b>
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 4	2.45pm
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3	2.45pm
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 (Easter Assembly)	<b>2.30pm</b>
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 2	2.45pm
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1	2.45pm
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 (Leavers' Production)	<b>2pm</b>
Thur 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Graduation Assembly	<b>2.30pm</b>

## **Diary Dates:**

**Please check our school website for a complete list of diary dates.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
06/02/26	Read with me.-parents invited to join their children to read in their classes.
13/02/26	School finishes for half term
23/02/26	School opens at 8:40am
23/02/26- 27/02/26	Swimming - Year 4
03/03/26	Year 6 Test Week
05/03/26	World Book Day- Year 2 Trip- Roald Dahl Museum
09/03/26- 13/03/26	Test Week
10/03/26	Year 6 - Parents Evening
10/03/26	Year 3 Class Assembly
12/03/26	Year 6- Parents Evening
23/03/26	Test week-Year 6
27/03/26	End of term -School finishes at 12:15 for Easter break
13/04/26	School opens at 8:40am
21/04/26	Parents Evening online
23/04/26	Parents Evening online
04/05/26	May Bank Holiday
11/05/26- 15/05/26	SATS week
18/05/26	Class photographs
25/05/26-29/05/26	Half Term
01/06/26	School opens at 8:40am.
08/06/26- 12/06/26	Swimming-Year 5
15/06/26-17/06/26	Year 6 Residential trip
18/06/26	Sports Day -EYS
18/06/26	Year 2- Windsor Castle Trip
30/06/26	Sports Day-KS1
02/07/26	Sports Day-KS2
03/07/26	Year 3 Chiltern Open Air Trip
10/07/26	Year 5 School Trip
14/07/26	Year 6 – Leavers Production 2:00pm
16/07/26	Year 6- Graduation
17/07/26	Last day of term. School finishes at 12:15.