



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

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.

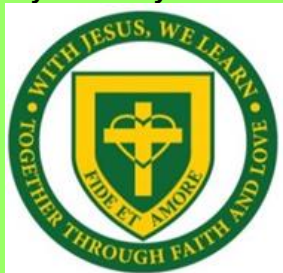
Pupil Bags in School

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 school photographer (Tempest) visited school on Monday to take our individual pupil and sibling photographs. We will send home details of how you can view and order your child's photograph online (once we receive these details). Tempest will return, in May, to take our class photographs.

On Tuesday, we invited a representative from our LA Education team to carry out a 'Reading Champions Review' in school. She talked to staff, observed our before school Phonics/Reading interventions, watched English lessons and heard pupils read. We received some excellent feedback including the following comments – taken from our report:

'Reading is a high priority. Leaders' actions are impacting on securing best possible outcomes for all pupils in reading, as evidenced in national assessments, in school assessment, both formative and summative. Pupils' needs are identified swiftly and support in place to ensure these pupils' gaps in phonics knowledge and skills are closed. Impact of CPD offered to teaching assistants is evident as they support pupils' well when listening to them read. They encourage pupils to apply their phonics knowledge and skills to decode unfamiliar words and question pupils effectively to support comprehension. Teachers ask questions consistently and confidently during 1:1 reading with pupils.'

National Poetry Day

Yesterday was National Poetry Day. It is an important aspect of the national curriculum for children to hear, discuss and perform poetry.

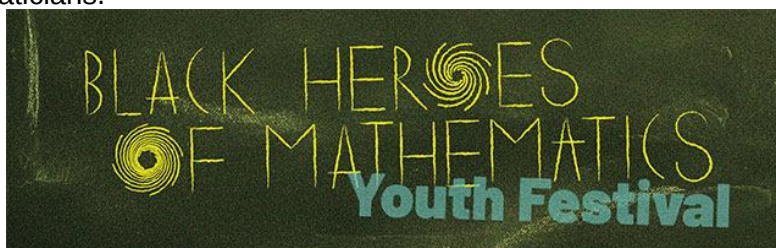
To celebrate Poetry Day, all pupils read, shared and performed various poems in class.

Our teachers shared videos of children's poets performing their poems and also clips of poet interviews - providing an insight into their inspirations and their tips for writing poetry. You might want to share some more of the video clips with your child at home:

<https://clpe.org.uk/poetry/videos>

Black History Month

October is Black History month. Black History Month is a dedicated time to honour and celebrate the history, achievements, and contributions of Black people to society. This week: pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 joined an online workshop looking at 'Black Heroes of Mathematics.' They explored some really challenging mathematical ideas and learnt more about important black mathematicians.



Year 5 Plastic Free Assembly



This morning, our Year 5 pupils attended an assembly looking at how we can reduce our use of plastic. Our Eco Council have been encouraging all pupils to bring in a refillable water bottle into school.

Reminder: These bottles should be transparent and only contain water (they can be refilled at breaks and lunchtime). Please do not send in glass (or metal) water bottles.

Book Bags

All pupils should have a school book bag to carry their Reading book, Reading Record, homework and any letters sent home. **Pupils should not bring rucksacks to school.** The children only have a single peg (for their book bag and PE drawstring bag) in our narrow corridor.

Visits and Visitors

We recognise that children's learning is enhanced by different experiences and we have planned visits and visitors, every term, linked with the units of work covered by each class. We have planned these trips for this academic year:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Visits+%26amp%3B+Visitors&pid=61&action=saved&login=true>

If you would like to see how these trips link with the topics your child will study – please visit the Curriculum page on our school website:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Overviews&pid=60>

Our School Uniform Suppliers:

PMG Schoolwear

<https://pmgschoolwear.co.uk>

Tel: 01895 8009 321

Show Room: Unit 4, Swan Wharf Business Centre, Waterloo Road, Uxbridge, UB8 2RA.

Myclothing

www.myclothing.com

Tel: 0800 069 9949

Year 6 Pupils - Starting secondary school in September 2026

Parents can apply for a school place if your child is due to start secondary school in September 2026.

Key dates

- **The deadline for on-time applications is Friday 31 October 2025.**
- National offer day is Monday 2 March 2026.

You can find more information on the Hillingdon LA website:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/secondary>

iPay – School Meal Orders

All pupils from Reception to Year 6 are entitled to a free school hot lunch. To ensure your child receives a school lunch, parents need to order one through the iPay website:

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

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>

Fun Fest – October Holiday Club

Fun Fest are now taking online bookings for their upcoming October half term holiday club.

You can find out more information and book online here:

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



Choose Fun

- Ofsted registered
- affordable prices
- qualified and experienced staff
- full working days
- every school holiday
- all in one convenient location

Holiday Club

for children aged
3-12 years



FUN FEST UXBRIDGE
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
ROCKINGHAM CLOSE
UXBRIDGE,
MIDDLESEX
UB8 2UA
07399 880319

*We give children
the freedom to choose
and the power to play*

To see our latest timetables and to book your children's chosen activities go to:

Ofsted Registered **[www.fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge](https://fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge)**

Safeguarding Our Children

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 our responsibility to safeguard children



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/>

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>

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>

Getting in Contact

Tel: 01895 232814

Email: office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk

All enquiries should be referred to our school office

Amazon Wish List – School Supplies

Please help support our school by donating school supplies from our Amazon Wish

List <https://amzn.eu/fqZpVLv>

Any purchase would be greatly appreciated.

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/>

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.stagetalent.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.

Diary Dates:

Date	Event
06/10/25	Libraries Week
20/10/25	Year 6 -Test Week
23/10/25	Winners of House Points Non- Uniform Day
24/10/25	Year 5 School Trip – Hampton Court
27/10/25	Half term
03/11/25	Inset Day
04/11/25	School starts at 8:40am