



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## School Newsletter

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 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.

### P.E. Lessons

Although each class is timetabled for PE lessons, this often changes due to wet weather and/or extra sports coach sessions.

All pupils (Years 1 to 6) should bring their P.E kits into school **every Monday** and then take them home at the end of the day on Friday. Thank you.

### 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 large rucksacks** or other similar bags. Thank you in advance.



Dear Parent/Carer,

Our Year 5 pupils have travelled to the Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex, every day, this week to take part in swimming lessons. Today, they will complete a swimming assessment to check that they can swim the government's expected 25m standard.

Thank you to all the family members who attended our Parents' Prayer Group, in school, on Tuesday led by Angela from our Church. We hold this group regularly in school and it is an excellent opportunity to switch off from your daily routine joining others in prayer.

### Year 4's Class Assembly

Year 4 will present their class assembly for parents on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April (next week) at 2.30pm. This assembly will reflect on the Easter story and its importance for Christians. We will open up our main entrance, shortly before 2.30pm, for all family members to make their way to our school hall.

### Year 2 Trip

Our Year 2 pupils will visit the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre on Wednesday. The Museum is based in the village of Great Missenden, where Roald Dahl lived and wrote for 36 years. Once the children enter through the Wonka gates, they will be able to explore three packed galleries featuring lots of things to do. Their visit will include hands-on activities and crafts and the opportunity to explore original material from the Roald Dahl archive.

### Cross Country Competition - Thursday

This year's Hillingdon Cross Country Competition is scheduled for Thursday 3rd April at Vyners School Playing field (by Swakeley's roundabout). If your child has been selected to take part in this competition, you will need to take them to Hillingdon House Farm Sports Ground immediately after school on the day of the competition. Parking for the event is at Hillingdon Leisure Centre, and you then need to walk to Hillingdon House Farm Sports Ground. Your child must wear our school PE kit with suitable trainers. Please provide your child with a water bottle.

### Last Day of term

We finish at the end of next week on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at the earlier time of 12.15pm. We are not having lunch, in school, on this day. We hope you have a good Easter break with your family.

Due to Easter Monday, we return to school on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

### Before School – 8.30am Booster Groups

Some classes have changed their groups for the first day back after Easter (Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> April) based on our recent test results.

If your child is a part of the Summer Term groups, they will have received a new letter with further details.

### Parents' Evenings

Our next online Parents' Evenings will take place (after the Easter break) on: **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May**. These meetings will be a good opportunity to discuss the results from our recent Test Week as well as planned support.

## **PE Kits**

Each class has two set days for PE. Next term, pupils may wear their PE kits and trainers to school on the days they have PE. Your child's class teacher will remind you of these days (and any additional Sports Coach sessions) on Google Classroom.

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

## **Lunch Box Policy Consultation**

We are in the process of reviewing our Lunch Box Policy, for September, considering the latest school Food Standards documents which apply across the school day:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standards-for-school-food-in-england>

### **We currently have the following Lunch Box Policy in place-**

#### **Never allowed in Lunch Boxes**

- Fizzy drinks
- Confectionary including sweets and chocolate
- Chips or burgers
- Nuts (including Nutella chocolate spread)

#### **Allowed on Friday only – 'Treat Day'**

- One packet of crisps
- Sweet biscuits
- Cakes

Following feedback from parents (and our pupil School Council) we are considering allowing pupils to bring in cakes and biscuits to school every day, in lunch boxes, as long as these items do not contain chocolate including chocolate chips. We have received previous feedback, from parents, that this would be fairer as children who have hot meals have a choice of cakes or biscuits every day. **This would mean an end to our Friday 'Treat Day'.**

**Crisps would then not be allowed on any day (as stated in the Food Standards).**

**Pupils would still not be allowed to bring in fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate on any day.**

We sent home a short Parent Survey on Tuesday to get some feedback. We will publish the results of this survey and use the outcomes to inform a revised Lunch Box Policy. The Parent Survey will close next Friday.

## **Water Only Policy**

**From September, we will be a 'water only school'.**

We will be encouraging all pupils to use their refillable water bottles at lunch times and throughout the school day to help keep them hydrated.



## **World Autism Awareness Day**

World Autism Awareness Day falls on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. It is an important day dedicated to spreading awareness about ASD (autism spectrum disorder) and helping people understand what autism is. This helps create an inclusive and more supportive learning environment in school and beyond. On World Autism Awareness Day, the United Nations encourages and invites its member states to establish initiatives to raise public awareness of autism on all levels of society.

April is also World Autism Acceptance Month. You can find out more (and get involved in fundraising here):

<https://waam.autism.org.uk/>

## **School Friend Clubs**

School Friend Clubs leads both a breakfast club and an after school club for all pupils (from Reception to Year 6).

Parents can book using these details -

**schoolfriendclubs**

Website: [www.schoolfriendclub.com](http://www.schoolfriendclub.com)

Booking portal: <https://schoolfriendclub.magicbooking.co.uk>

Tel: 07925 033120

## **?History Mystery?**

Try and use clues to determine what you think this artefact is. Use your observations as clues to help you think about the object.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- What was this object used for?
- When was it made?
- What sort of person may have owned it and why?
- Does the decoration mean anything?
- What could help us find out more?

**We'll publish the ANSWER in next week's Newsletter.**



## **ANSWER to last week's History Mystery: Anglo-Saxon shoulder-clasps**

Shoulder-clasps were used to hold together heavy fabric or a padded garment. Indicating great wealth, they may also have been symbols of military or royal status.

**Using historical sources (including objects) is a big part of our History lessons in school. You can find out more about what your child is studying in their History lessons here:**

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=History&pid=71>

## **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>

## What are the age restrictions on social media?



13	13+	16	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facebook</li> <li>Twitter</li> <li>Instagram</li> <li>Snapchat</li> <li>TikTok</li> <li>Kik</li> <li>Ask.fm</li> <li>Houseparty</li> <li>Periscope</li> <li>Tumblr</li> <li>Reddit</li> <li>Pinterest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whatsapp</li> <li>YouTube</li> <li>WeChat</li> <li>Whisper</li> <li>Yubo</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LinkedIn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tinder</li> <li>Bumble</li> </ul>

(13+ means with parental consent)



## Age Restrictions on Social Media

Pupils cover work on online safety every term. We have been reminding our KS2 children (including Year 6) of these age restrictions on social media. The age restriction for Whatsapp is age 13+ and we ask that parents closely monitor their child's online activity.

### Getting in Contact

Tel: 01895 232814

Email: [office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk](mailto:office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk)

All enquiries should be referred to our school office

For Special Educational Needs: Mr Ellis (using the contact details above)

Chair of Governors: Mrs Maureen Thorpe (using the contact details above)

### Fun Fest Easter Holiday Club

## EASTER HOLIDAYS

FUN FEST UXBRIDGE!



**Upcoming Holidays**

**Easter Holidays**  
07th April to  
17th April  
Monday - Friday  
8am - 6pm

*Follow -US-*






Our **EASTER** Holiday Bookings Are Now **OPEN!!**

**Booking Info**

We are taking bookings

<https://fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge>  
 St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
 Rockingham Close UB8 2UA Uxbridge  
 07399 880319  
[uxbridge.funfestholidayclub.co.uk](http://uxbridge.funfestholidayclub.co.uk)

## **Amazon Wish List – School Supplies**

Please help support our school by donating school supplies from our Amazon Wish List <https://amzn.eu/fgZpVLv>

Any purchase would be greatly appreciated.

## **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>

## **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**

## **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 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>

## **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/>

## **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>

## **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>

## **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.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.

<b>House Point Winners this week:</b>	<b>St.Thomas</b>	<b>414</b>
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<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
01/04/2025	Year 4 Easter Class Assembly for Parents at 2.30pm
02/04/2025	Year 2 Trip Roald Dahl Museum
04/04/2025	End of term. School finishes at 12:15pm
22/04/2025	Term starts at 8:40am

### **Spring 2025 - Diary Dates**

Please visit our school website for Term dates:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=45>