



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 17th 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, **Today is DLD Day**



Developmental Language Disorder is a hidden, but common, disability that affects 1 in 14 people causing difficulties understanding and using language for no known reason. The 2025 DLD day theme is 'You can't see DLD'. All of our teachers attended training, on Tuesday evening, looking at language difficulties associated with DLD and also practical classroom strategies to support pupils.

You can find out more about DLD here:

<https://radld.org/dld-awareness-day/>

Parents' Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who attended our Meet the Teacher meetings last month. This was a good opportunity, for our teachers, to discuss their pupil expectations, class routines, homework, curriculum information etc. Following on from these meetings, our next face to face Parents' Consultations will take place on:

Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th January

Our teachers will have the assessment results (from our December tests) by these dates and will be able to analyse them and discuss strengths, targets and planned support. There will also be the opportunity for parents to look through their child's exercise books across different subjects.

We have also planned an online Parents' Evenings for these dates:

Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd April

Our Annual Pupil Progress Reports (and end of year assessment results) will be sent home, in July, and parents will have the opportunity to arrange a meeting to discuss any aspects of these reports or results.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to your child's classteacher before these dates: please contact our school office to arrange a

convenient time: office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk

Tel: 01895 232814

PTA – 'Spooktacular' Cake Sale



Our PTA will sell cakes, after school, on Thursday 23rd October (next week). This sale will take place, from 3pm, at the table outside our main entrance into school. Please bring some loose change if you would like to purchase any cakes. Any donations of cakes, cookies and cupcakes would be much appreciated – a 'spooky' theme is welcome!

Extra Non-Uniform Day: House Team Winner

Pupils have been awarded House Points, throughout this half term, for good work and behaviour.

Next week, **on Thursday 23rd October**, there will be an extra non-uniform day for the House Team who were awarded the most House Points throughout this half term.

If your child is in the following House Team, they may wear their own clothes to school on Thursday.

Winning House: St. Francis with 1,019 points

Your child will have been told if they are in the winning house.

House Points

This is a list of the number of Housepoints, awarded to each House Team, this half term – it was very close:

St. Thomas: 993 points

St. Francis: 1,019 points

St. Bernadette: 885

500 Word Competition

This half term we will be asking children in Years 2 to 6 to take part in the BBC 500 Words Competition. Please find details below.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zctk7v4>

500 Words is open for entries! Make sure you submit your stories before 9pm on Friday 7 November.

There are two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - as has always been the case for 500 Words: it's all about our writers' brilliant creativity! There are prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners will also win 500 books for their school library. 50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final at Windsor Castle in February 2026, which will once again be hosted by Her Majesty Queen Camilla. If that's not enough, each winner will also see their story be read aloud by a superstar celebrity on TV, which will be shown as part of a special 500 Words programme with The One Show in

early March. Our official panel of celebrity judges: Sir Lenny Henry, Malorie Blackman, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson and Frank Cottrell-Boyce will return to crown our next winners.

Year 6 Tests

Our Year 6 pupils will informally practise some past Yr6 SATs papers next week. This is just to get the children used to the test format for when the children sit their end of KS2 tests in May.

This year, the Yr6 tests will take place from: Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026.

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools about health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone our school office on the first day and to provide a typed email or written note when your child returns to school.

Children with diarrhoea, or vomiting, should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

You can find out more on the NHS website here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

End of Half Term

We break up next Friday (24th October) for the October half term break. We finish school, on this day, at the usual time. Due to our teacher INSET day on Monday 3rd November, all pupils will return to school on Tuesday 4th November 2026.

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 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/>



fun fest **Choose Fun**

HOLIDAY CLUB

- 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

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://hillingtonpcf.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.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.

Diary Dates:

Date	Event
20/10/25	Year 6 -Test Week
23/10/25	Winners of House Points Non- Uniform Day
23/10/25	PTA Spooktacular Halloween Cake Sale - Please donate cakes, cookies, cupcakes. Halloween theme is welcome!
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
24/11/25	Year 6 -Test Week
24/11/25 – 28/11/25	Year 5 - Swimming
01/12/25	Test week- Years 1 to 5
09/12/25	Early Years Christmas Production
11/12/25	Year 4- Carol Service in school
16/12/25	KS1- Christmas Production
19/12/25	Last day of term. School finishes at 12:15pm.

Please check the school website for all future dates.