



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 28th February 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,

Welcome back. We hope you enjoyed the half term break with your family.



Over the next couple of weeks, each class will get the opportunity to use Virtual Reality headsets to help bring topics to life that they have been studying in class. These headsets will allow the children to explore the globe as well as ancient historical sites.

This will range from exploring the Amazon jungle in Geography lessons to the Parthenon, and Ancient Greece, in Year 6 History sessions. These headsets were kindly loaned to us as a part of our partnership with the ACS International Schools network.

All pupils, in Years 1 to 6, attended a Water Safety assembly on Wednesday morning led by a representative from the Canal and River Trust. At these assemblies, the children explored the hazards of being near water, how to avoid these hazards and they were taught about what to do in an emergency.



Hillingdon Parent Carers Forum

Thank you to all the parents who attended our third SEN Coffee Morning today led by the Hillingdon Parent Carers Forum (PCF). There was the opportunity for an informal chat with Nicola and Louise (from the PCF) followed by a short presentation looking at the Graduated Approach to SEN support in schools. Here is a link to the latest Hillingdon Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) document that was mentioned at this meeting:

<https://leap.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/11852/Ordinarily-Available-Provision-OAP>

Year 6 STEM Project – Partner school in South Africa

As a part of a British Council STEM Project (sponsored by F1), our school has been partnered with Sedibathuto Primary School in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Before the half term holiday, our Yr6 Eco Council members designed a presentation introducing our school and local area.

The next stage of this project is for our Year 6 pupils to set a school based challenge for our partner school to solve. We will be set a problem by our school in South Africa. This challenge could be any problem, that affects our school, from reducing paper use to encouraging more children to be active. You can find out more here:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/about/press/formula-1%C2%AE-launch-global-education-programme-%E2%80%99learning-sectors%E2%80%99-british-council>

Let's Go Zero – Climate Action Plan



This year, we have signed up to be a part of the Let's Go Zero national campaign uniting teachers, pupils, parents and our school with the aim of reducing our carbon use.

Yesterday, we were visited by a Let's Go Zero Climate Action Advisor who walked around our school, chatted to staff and helped us to develop a Climate Action Plan aimed at reducing our use of carbon.

Year 6 Pupils – National Offer Day

Secondary school offers, for September 2025 admission to Year 7, will be sent out by the London Borough of Hillingdon on Monday 3rd March 2025.

Year 6 pupils get streetwise with Junior Citizens

Our Year 6 pupils will visit Brunel University, on Tuesday, for this year's Junior Citizens event. They will learn about keeping themselves safe by considering topics such as internet safety, travelling on public transport and road safety, thanks to the Junior Citizens programme.

Funded by Hillingdon Council and run in partnership with Transport for London, the London Fire Brigade, the Metropolitan Police, the NHS, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and Hillingdon's Federation of Community Associations, Junior Citizens includes a range of educational and interactive group sessions aimed at 10 and 11 year olds to help them make the transition to secondary school.

Local volunteers, including students from Brunel University and social work students from New Bucks University, help to support the running of the sessions.

Our Year 6 class will learn about:

- road safety (Hillingdon Council)
- cycle safety (Hillingdon Council and London Fire Brigade)
- travelling on the London Underground (Transport For London)
- bus travel (Transport for London Safety and Citizenship team)
- fire safety (London Fire Brigade)
- knife crime (Metropolitan Police)
- drugs and alcohol (NHS Nurses)
- internet safety (New Bucks University)
- stranger danger (volunteers)
- water safety (RNLI)

The children are awarded a Junior Citizens programme certificate at the end of the day that shows they have taken part.

Book Week 2025 – Next Week

We will be celebrating Book Week this year the week beginning 3rd March. We have lots of fun activities planned for that week to encourage children to foster a love of reading. Please find a list of dates below.

Monday 3rd: Assembly and activities in class

Tuesday 4th: Bedtime stories 4pm to 4:45pm, children from Reception through to Year Six are invited back for bedtime stories in their classroom, children can return in their pyjamas with a favourite book (and of course we will be serving milk and cookies).

Thursday 6th: World Book Day

Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Friday 7th: Unfortunately Emma Yarlett (author) has postponed her visit on this day due to a family emergency. We will let you know once she rearranges her visit to school.

Competition Time - Design your own Dragon

Dragon Post tells the story of a young boy, called Alex, who opens his door one day to find a dragon. What if you found a dragon? What would it look like? Where would it live? What would it eat? Does your dragon have any special powers or abilities?

Draw or make your dragon then bring it to school by Tuesday 4th March. We will choose the best designs from each class and you will receive a prize.

Thank you,
Miss Gahan

?History Mystery?

As a part of their History lessons, pupils use a variety of historical sources to give them clues about the past. These sources include letters, diary entries, census data, photographs, paintings and other objects.

Each week we will include a photograph of an artefact that you could look at with your child and try and use clues to determine what it is. It's not about making wild guesses, use the details you have observed as clues to help you think about the object. Here are some questions to get you started:

- Why is the object in this condition?
- What might have happened to it?
- How did it get here?
- What was it 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.

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>

School Friend Clubs

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

schoolfriendclubs Parents can book using these details -

Website: www.schoolfriendclub.com

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

Tel: 07925 033120

British Science Week Poster Competition

Create a poster which fits in with the theme of 'Change and adapt'. Mrs Rowland will then select the five best creations and submit them for a chance of winning an array of prizes.

Kit List:

Paper (A4 or A3)

Creative materials such as: pens, pencils, scissors, glue, watercolours, paint, crayons, pipe cleaners, felt, thread, wool, foil, clay, string, beads, stamps, foam, pompoms

Instructions:

Encourage children to think about change and adaptation – what it means to them and how it relates to science they've learnt about – to come up with ideas to include in their poster. Here are some points and questions to get you going:

- Get children to think about ways that they might have changed or adapted to new experiences and places as they've grown.
- What about change and adaptation in the world, and beyond? How do plants and animals adapt to a changing environment? Do the stars and planets in space change?
- Technology changes all the time, how is it changing our lives? Is it always for the better?

Make your poster:

Once they've done their thinking, it's time for children to get creative! Posters must be A4 or A3 in size. Once they've been submitted to Mrs Rowland, she can only choose 5 to submit online for judging. Children can use pop-up pictures, pull out tabs or use materials such as pencils, paints, crayons and paper to create their posters.

Deadline:

Posters to be handed back to Mrs Rowland by **Friday 21st March 2025**.

For more information, please visit www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition/



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

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)

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.

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://hillingtonpcf.com/>

Speech Link – Parent Portal

Speech and language support for parents and carers:

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

Tiny Happy People

The BBC's Tiny Happy People website is here to help you develop your child's language skills. Explore our simple activities and play ideas and find out about babies and toddlers' amazing early development:

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

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>

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>

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.

House Point Winners this week:	St.Thomas	282
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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>

Date	Event
17/03/2025	Test Week
24/03/2025	Year 5 Swimming
24/03/2025	World Autism Awareness Week
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