



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## School Newsletter

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### 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.

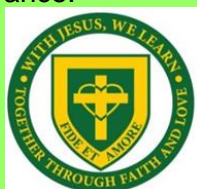
### P.E. Lessons

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 every 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 Early Years pupils performed their production for parents yesterday. There was an amazing turn out of family members and our youngest pupils performed their parts brilliantly.

Thank you to all the parents who came along to our Parents' Prayer Group on Tuesday. Angela leads these groups in school, every term, and it's a fantastic opportunity to take some quiet reflection time out of your busy day.

On Wednesday, our Years 3 and 4 pupils attended a live online singing workshop led by the Royal Opera and Ballet company. The children took part in a live singing session, with songs from The Magic Flute production, streamed live from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

Next week also promises to be a busy one with further productions and performances – please see further details below.



### Father Christmas Visits & 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Jumper Day

Father Christmas will visit all classrooms on Tuesday. Pupils may wear their Christmas jumper to school on this day (no donation needed). All children should wear their jumper over the top/alongside their school uniform. Please see further information (provided by our PTA) below.

### Carol Concert

This year's Carol Concert will take place, on Tuesday evening, from 4pm in our Church. Our Year 3 pupils will lead the carols but this is a whole school event and we would love to see as many family members as possible. Year 3 pupils will walk to Church in the afternoon and stay in Church ready for their concert.

### End of Term Mass

This will take place, in school, on Wednesday at 9.15am. All family members are most welcome to attend.

### KS1 Christmas Production

Our KS1 production, for all parents of pupils in Years 1 and 2, will take place on Wednesday. The performance will start, at 2.15pm, in our school Hall.

### Year 4 Carols for Parents

Our Year 4 pupils have been busy practising carols in class. They will perform these for parents on Thursday from 2.30pm (in our school Hall). Year 4 pupils may bring a Christmas jumper to school on this day to wear when they are performing. The carols will be followed by tea, coffee and other refreshments for our Year 4 parents.

### End of Term

This term ends, next Friday, at earlier time of 12.15pm. There are no school lunches on this day. We have organised a whole school 'movie morning' for pupils. All pupils should be collected at 12.15pm.

## **Save the Children**

Thank you to everybody who donated as a part of this year's Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We are pleased to announce that we raised an amazing £420.05.

## **8.30am Morning Groups**

All groups finish next Friday.

Your child may be invited to attend a revised group - starting the second week back after Christmas.

## ***TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER - AT SCHOOL – Father Christmas Visits***

The Elves are busy getting ready for our visit from Father Christmas, on Tuesday 17th December. This year he'll make a special visit to each classroom for some festive fun, he'll read a story and give out a little treat too. An Elf will also take class photo to capture this special moment, which will then be shared with you digitally.

There is no need to book a space for this fantastic experience as every child will be included. All we ask is for a donation of just £4 per child. Payment can be made via the link below or QR code <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q17GNKHK>

## ***TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER - CAROL CONCERT & CHURCH HALL***

We are delighted to share that following the Year 3 Carol Concert, a small event will be held in our Church hall selling teas, coffees, hot chocolates and cakes. (cash only please as card payments are not working currently).

## ***FOODBANK***

Following a conversation with Fr Nicholas and Angela it would be lovely to support our Church foodbank during this festive period, there will a collection table in the Church Hall on the 17th if you wish to leave some Festive treats, these are to be included in the Christmas boxes shared within our Church community (no alcohol please).

## ***PTA News***

As announced previously, the current team have stood down, the PTA requires new volunteers to continue for 2025.

As part of the AGM that took place on the 24th October a full team was unable to be elected.

For the PTA to continue we require a:

- Chair (a volunteer has come forward but requires a team to continue the PTA)
- Secretary
- Treasurer

**If you wish to volunteer for any of the roles with the PTA, please email:**

[stmaryspta-uxbridge@outlook.com](mailto:stmaryspta-uxbridge@outlook.com)

- **No previous experience required, but bags of enthusiasm and ability to organise will certainly help!**
- **Current team members will still be available to lend a hand and advise.**

A meeting (via Microsoft Teams) will take place in January for roles to be reconfirmed (Chair) and (hopefully) a new team will be elected.

The outgoing team are supporting the Christmas activities so all Children in our school enjoy a special day on the 17th.

If you have any questions, please contact your class representative or email:

[stmaryspta-uxbridge@outlook.com](mailto:stmaryspta-uxbridge@outlook.com)

Finally, we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and thank you for your support this year.

## **Parents' Evening Meetings – in January 2025**

These meetings will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January – please keep these dates in your diary.

A letter will be sent home, on the first day back after the Christmas break, inviting you to choose a convenient time for you to meet your child's class teacher.

## **Starting Reception School 2025**

If you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, you must apply for your child to start Reception in September 2025.

You must apply by: 15<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – further information on to the links below:

[www.hillingdon.gov/schooladmissions](http://www.hillingdon.gov/schooladmissions) or email [admissions@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@hillingdon.gov.uk).

You also need to fill the Supplementary forms for our school that can be obtained from the school website or the school office.

***For the Nursery Children, the CCP school forms, for Nursery 2025, can be signed on the following dates: -***

***Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 3pm – 5:30pm***

***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025- 11:30am \_ 12:30pm***

## **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>



## **Age Restrictions on Social Media**

Pupils cover work on online safety every term. We have been reminding our KS2 children of these age restrictions on social media.

## **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)

## **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.

## **School Friend Clubs -our onsite breakfast and after school club provider:**

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

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

Tel: 07925 033120

## **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>

### **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>

### **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. Francis</b>	<b>392</b>
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### UPCOMING EVENTS - Autumn Term Dates 2024

Date	Event
17/12/24	Carol Concert in the Church for the whole school at 4pm. Year 3 will lead the carol concert.
17/12/24	A Special visit from Father Christmas to each class. Children can wear their Christmas jumper.
18/12/24	Christmas Lunch
18/12/24	KS1 Christmas Production (2:15pm)
19/12/24	Year 4 Carol singing (2:30pm)
20/12/24	End of term. Finish at 12:15pm (no school lunches)
06/01/25	School opens - start of Spring Term 2025
14/01/25,16/01/25	Parents Evening

Please visit our school website for Term dates: <https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=45>