



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 2nd February 2024

Morning Drop-off

All pupils (from Reception to Year 6) come into school from 8.40 a.m. 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.

Please use our 1-way system to avoid congestion in our narrow alleyway into school.

Parents should access the school through the Rockingham Close entrance and then walk through the KS1 playground to leave through the green gate on Rockingham Road.

P.E. Lessons

Although each class is timetabled for set days for PE lessons, this often changes due to wet weather and extra sports coaching 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 for your help.

National Storytelling Week

This week is National Storytelling Week.

National Storytelling Week takes place every year and is a celebration of the power of sharing stories.

Sharing and making up stories with your child is a great way to help them relax, develop empathy, and learn about the world. It also boosts their vital literacy skills.

Dream up new worlds inspired by the everyday objects around you. Maybe a favourite teddy has unbelievable adventures whilst you sleep, or a pair of old shoes gives you magical powers when you wear them! The possibilities are endless.

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/themes/celebrate-storytelling-week-at-home/>

Storytelling videos for home:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/storyteller-videos/>

Year 5 Swimming

Year 5 pupils will have their swimming lessons, every day, throughout next week. The children need their swimming costume, and a towel, every day.

Children's Mental Health Week

Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week is taking place from Monday. It exists to equip, empower, and give a voice to children and young people across the UK.

This year's theme is "My Voice Matters."

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. We will have a mental health assembly, on Monday, followed up by PSHE activities in each class.

Express Yourself – Non-Uniform Day - Thursday

As a part of Mental Health Week, we will be holding a special non-uniform day on Thursday 8th February.

Pupils have been invited to 'Express Themselves' by dressing in non-uniform that makes them unique.

Whether that is a skateboarder, a dancer, a footballer, wearing their favourite colour, or simply wearing their favourite clothes.

Racial Justice



Last weekend was Racial Justice Sunday and is very important we talk to our children about Racial justice. Talking to the children about racial justice and equality for all is not just something we do once a year but something we talk about across the school year. Below is a link to a talk provided by the Diocese to share with our families. The talk is by Bishop Paul on Racial Justice.

<https://youtu.be/jJSe3YE3S10?si=FFk7QnSZ4aFk5jmy>

It is important at St. Mary's that our children grow up to promote racial justice and equality for all.

**Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.
*Amen.***

Pope Francis encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti*



Parents Prayer Group

Dear parents, please join us for our parent's prayer group with Angela next Tuesday at 2.45pm. It would be lovely to have you come and join the prayer group. Everybody is welcome to come and join the prayer group. It is a chance for parents to have some quiet time in their busy week.

Wellbeing Leads

Amirah and Anastazia are the school Wellbeing Lead. They take small groups of children and think of positive things with the children. Amirah and Anastazia also regularly change our Wellbeing posters. They want to help and support children with their wellbeing. Please look out for the posters in school.

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>

Book Week

This year we will be celebrating Book Week in school, the week beginning Monday 11th March. This year's theme is growth mindset and all classes in the school will be reading a book linked to this theme, in order to help develop their resilience and determination.

Parents are invited to read to their child(ren) in class on Monday 11th March from 8:55am to 9:15 or 2:40pm to 3pm.

On Wednesday 13th March children are invited back to school for the ever popular bedtime stories. Children from **Reception to Year 5** can return to school in their pyjamas at 4pm to 4.45pm. In class they will enjoy stories, milk and cookies.

Year 6 Please note: Only the Year 6 librarians should attend this session to help with our younger classes.

On Friday 15th March children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character. There will be a whole school assembly on this day to share costumes and one child from each class will receive a prize for the best costume. Please see the links attached for ideas for homemade costumes.

Happy reading,

Miss Gahan

<https://childrenslibrarylady.com/save-money-book-character-costume/>

<https://www.busythings.co.uk/blog/easy-world-book-day-costume-ideas/>

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 – Updated contact details

Website: www.schoolfriendclub.com

New booking portal: <https://schoolfriendclub.magicbooking.co.uk>

Tel: 0333 355 7374

House Point Winners this week:	ST THOMAS	433
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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

Children's Integrated Therapy Service (CITS)

Information from the NHS team of Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, technicians and administrators, who deliver a community service for children and young people.

<https://www.cnl.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/>



Hillingdon Special Education Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) offers free, impartial, and confidential information, advice, and support. We aim to empower and enable parents/carers to be able to take an active role in decisions made about their child/young person regarding their education. Our drop-in sessions are for parents/carers to ask questions and share experiences.

Drop-in sessions for January and February

- 31st January 1 – 3pm
McMillan Children's Centre, Judge Heath Lane, Hayes UB3 2PD
- 7th February 9 – 11am
Cherry Lane Childrens Centre, West Drayton, Middx UB7 9DL

- 19th February 12.30 – 1.30pm
Nestles Early Years, Nestles Avenue, Hayes, UB3 4QA
- 26th February 1 – 3pm Hayes End Family Hub, College Way Hayes UB3 3BB

Please use the link below to register with the setting before attending, you will be asked to sign in. You do not need to print, please just register electronically. Do not worry about the age of your child when registering for these drop ins, all parent/carers of children and young people 0-25 welcome.

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/7409/Hillingdons-childrens-centres-Registration-form>

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.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Date	Event
Mon 5 th Feb	Start of Yr5 Swimming week

Mon 5 th Feb	Start of Children's Mental Health Week
Tue 6 th Feb	Parent's Prayer Group at 2.45pm – everybody is welcome
Tue 6 th Feb	Safer Internet Day