



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 23rd February 2024

Morning Drop-off

All pupils (from Reception to Yr6) 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, this sometimes changes due to wet weather and/or extra sports 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 (most often in the corridors) and we do not have the space for large rucksacks or other similar bags.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back – we hope you enjoyed the half term break.

As you are aware, we have been unable to use our one-way system this week after school. This has been due to building work near our staff car park. We anticipate that this work will continue for at least the next two weeks. Thank you for your patience entering and leaving school via the Rockingham Close alleyway

Thank you to all the parents who helped walk our Years 1 and 6 parents to Church this week. Visits like this wouldn't be possible without your help.

On Tuesday, our Year 2 pupils visited Iver Environment Centre to complete a range of workshops. These ranged from looking at where our food comes from (seed to supermarket) to exploring the various habitats at the centre.

Representatives from Cafod visited school, over two days, to deliver Catholic Social Teaching sessions with all pupils.

A trained CAFOD volunteer facilitated each session, helping children develop a deeper understanding of CST principles through storytelling. During the workshop, children heard stories where the main character represented a different CST principle.

Pope Francis has highlighted the importance of Catholic Social Teaching and supported its place in the classroom, stating that Catholic Social Teaching is 'the Gospel's Good News taking a concrete form on a social and cultural level'.

Local Authority Visit

This week we were visited by a representative from the Local Authority (Aaron) who walked around school looking at the provision we have put into place to support children's social, emotional and mental health. He was really impressed with the children's behaviour, the inclusive atmosphere and the interventions that he saw.

Aaron has already led two training sessions for teachers and we have scheduled a further three CPD sessions. Our teaching assistants are currently undertaking a 5-week training course with the mental health charity Place2Be called the Mental Health Champions programme.

This is a link to the Place2Be parents page:

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/>

Mass in Church for Years 2 and 5

Please join us walking to Mass (in the Church) with Years 2 and 5 on Tuesday 27th of February. We will leave school, at 9am, to walk to Church.

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 to succeed. 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 our 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.

Dress-up Day Costumes – CHANGE DATE

On **Thursday 14th March**, children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character (please note this change of date). 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.

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

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

Some libraries are offering an opportunity for Book Week costume swaps.

Further details here:

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/news/library-service-hosting-costume-swap-world-book-day>

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	320
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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.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/>



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>

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>

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.

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
11 th March to 15 th March	Book Week
Monday 11 th March	8:55am to 9:15am or 2:40 to 3pm- Parents invited to read to their children.
Wednesday 13 th March	4pm-4:45pm: Reception to Year 5. Bedtime stories
Thursday 14 th March	Book character dress-up day

