St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026

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,
The children have settled in really well in their new classes including our new starters in Nursery and Reception. We hope to see many of you at our start of term Mass this afternoon. This will take place, at 2pm, in our school Hall.
We are also very much looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Meet the Teacher Presentations and Macmillan Coffee Morning (please see further details below). In the meantime, if you have any questions, please come and speak to one of us - either before or after school. Alternatively you can contact our school office using these details:
Tel: 01895 232814
office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk

Year 2 Odd's Farm Visit - Today

Our Year 2 pupils visited Odd's Farm today to find out more about farming and the animals that can be found on a farm.
This trip was postponed, from the Summer term, due to the very hot weather.

Meet the Teacher Presentations – NEXT WEEK

Each teacher will share a short presentation talking about class routines, PE days, homework schedules etc. These teacher presentations will take place, **from 2.45pm until about 3.15pm**, in our school Hall. There is no need to reserve a place – please just wait by the front entrance for a member of staff to open the door. The dates of these meetings are listed below:

Date of Meeting	Meeting for:
Monday 21st September	Year 6
Tuesday 22nd September	Years 1 and 2
Wednesday 23rd September	Year 5
Thursday 24th September **(earlier time of 2.30pm)**	Early Years
Wednesday 30th September	Years 3 and 4

Please note: Early Years Parents meeting will take place at 2:30pm

Years 3 and 4 Meet the Teacher Presentation – CHANGE of DATE

Unfortunately, we have had to move the Years 3 and 4 meeting to Wednesday 30th September. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.
This meeting will still start, at 2.45pm, in our school hall.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Next Week



We would like to invite all parents to our coffee morning on Friday 25th September. If you are new to our school community, we would love to meet you and this would be an excellent opportunity to meet other family members. We will open up our front entrance to school (off of Rockingham Close) at 8.50am – just after the morning drop off. Please look out for further details sent home. We hope to see you next week.

Message from: Children's Commissioner for England

As children and young people return to school for the new academic year, I am writing to ask for your support in making sure that your child has the opportunity to take part in my national survey, The Big Future.
The survey can be completed here: https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture.

I have already heard from hundreds of thousands of children and young people across England, and the majority of schools have now taken part.
It is crucial that your child has the chance to add their voice too, so that their experiences, views and aspirations are represented when I present the findings of the survey to Government.
I would be very grateful if you could support your child to fill out the survey at the start of term.

Every child's voice matters, and I want to make sure that children and young people in every school and college, in every community, have the opportunity to shape the picture of childhood that I will share with Government.

Thank you for your support in helping to make sure your child's voice is heard as we begin the new school year.

Yours sincerely,
Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England

Fun Fest – October Holiday Club

Unfortunately, due to essential building work, we are unable to host another Fun Fest club over the October half term holiday. Please see further details below:



Primary school applications

If you have a child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, you must apply for your child to start primary school in September 2027 by Thursday **15 January 2027**.

Application must also be submitted, by the deadline date ,to the local authourity and to the school . Schhol application forms can be collected from the school office or on the school website.

Application can be sent ,via email to admissions@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk. **The deadline for on-time applications was Friday 15 January 2027.** Further information, including our school admissions brochure, key dates and how to apply, will be available on this page:https://pre.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions/starting-primary-school

Year 6 Pupils - Starting secondary school in September 2027

September 2027 admissions

If your child was born between **1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016**, they will be due to start secondary school in September 2027.

The application process for starting secondary school in September 2027 is now open and parents are able to submit their application online.

Further information, including our school admissions brochure, key dates and how to apply, will be available on this page:

https://pre.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions/starting-secondary-school

Our Lunch Box Policy

We ask that parents do not send the following items into school in lunch boxes:

- Nuts or items containing nuts e.g. Nutella.
- No fizzy drinks or squash/juice. We are a '**water only**' school.
- No chocolate bars or sweets.
- *No cakes, biscuits or cereal bars **containing or coated in chocolate.**
- No Crisps.

***Pupils are allowed to bring in cakes/biscuits on any day as long as these items don't contain chocolate.**

All of our school lunches (provided by the Orchard) need to meet the strict school food standards. We only serve water as a drink at lunch times.



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/

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

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

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

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

We offer 1:1 music lessons, within school hours, through the Stage Talent music company.
Book a Free one-to-one taster Music Lesson today.
These lessons are for pupils aged 4+ wishing to learn piano, guitar, ukulele or violin in our school.
Register by text: 07782503260
Please include:
Your child's name, age, music instrument
Or
register at: www.stagetalent.co.uk/register



Ways to Support Our School

Easyfundraising – Shop through easyfundraising with over 8,000 retailers, including Sainsbury's, M&S, Argos and Just Eat, and raise money for St Mary's at no extra cost. Sign up today!
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk

School Lottery – Enter for your chance to win while raising funds for St Mary's. Every ticket helps!
https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/

Stikins – Order personalised name labels through our school fundraising link, and St Mary's receives a contribution too. Please use fundraising number (20871) and click YES at checkout!
https://www.stikins.co.uk/

Parent Kind webinars:

Parentkind offers free online webinars on supporting children with school, emotions, secondary school choices and more.

* Online via Zoom

* Registration required

You register online, select your child's school by postcode, choose the webinar, and complete a few questions. You do not need a PTA login or account.

Please follow the link for Autumn webinars:

https://www.parentkind.org.uk/your-pta-expert/parent-webinars

Warm wishes,
PTA team

Diary Dates:

Upcoming Diary Dates	
Date	**Event**
28/09/26	Individual School photos
19/10/26	Yr 6 Hyde Park Orienteering
19/10/26	Yr 5 Swimming
26/10/26-30/10/26	Half Term
02/11/26	Inset Day
03/11/26	School commences at 8:40am
18/12/26	School finishes at 12:15pm
04/01/27	Inset Day
05/01/27	School commences at 8:40am
15/02/27-19/02/27	Half Term
22/02/27	School commences at 8:40am
25/03/27	School finishes at 12:15pm
26/03/27-09/04/27	Easter Break
12/04/27	School commences at 8:40am
03/05/27	Early May Bank Holiday
31/05/27-04/06/27	Half Term
07/06/27	School commences at 8:40am
20/07/27	School finishes at 12:15pm for Summer holidays