



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 9th January 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,

Welcome back. We hope you had a fantastic Christmas break with your family. Thank you to all the family members who attended our Epiphany Mass on Tuesday. The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on 6th January and commemorates the visit of the wise men to worship the baby Jesus. It was really nice to be able to celebrate Mass together, at the start of this new term, as a school community. We have lots of exciting events to look forward to this Spring Term – please refer to the upcoming dates at the bottom of this Newsletter.

Parents' Evening – Next Week

We would like to invite you to attend one of our Parents' Evenings on either: **Tuesday 13th or Thursday 15th January 2026.**

These meetings will be held face-to-face in school. They will provide an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss how your child has been getting on, the results from our recent test week, strengths and targets identified and planned support. There will also be an opportunity for you to look through your child's exercise books. If your child is receiving any Special Educational Needs (SEN) support, there will also be the opportunity to discuss and review their latest Support Plan (parents of children with a My Support Plan will be given a slightly longer time slot to be able to do this effectively).

To make an appointment: Please complete and return the reply slip at the bottom of the letter that was sent home this week, indicating a convenient time for you to attend. Your child's teacher will then return the slip to you highlighting the appointment time you have been given.

In the meantime, any issues or concerns can be dealt with by making an appointment with your child's teacher.

Please note: All Year 4 Parents' Evening meetings will take place in our St. Joseph's room - just along the corridor from our Yr4 classroom.

Year 6 Junior Citizens

Year 6 walked to Brunel University, on Wednesday, to take part in this year's Hillingdon Junior Citizens Event. They took part in a range of workshops exploring 'keeping themselves safe' by considering topics such as internet safety, travelling on public transport and road safety. Funded by Hillingdon Council and run in partnership with Transport for London, 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 Year 6 children to help them make a successful and safe transition to secondary school.

8.30am Groups Start Next Week

Our revised groups start next week. If your child attended a group last term this does not necessarily mean they are included in the revised groups for this Spring Term. The groups are based on end of term assessment data and sometimes the subject content changes from term to term. Your child should only attend a group if they have received a letter inviting them to do so.

School Lunches

Your child will only be provided with a free lunch if you place an order on the iPay website. **Please note:** we are not sent any spare meals each day. Parents need to provide a packed lunch for any child without an order.

<https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/IPI/Account/LogOn>

Class Assembly Dates

We have planned for each class to lead an assembly either this, or next term. All class assemblies will take place in our school Hall on the dates listed below. All family members are most welcome to attend – please save the dates in your diaries:

Date	Class	Time
Tues 3 rd February	Year 4	2.45pm
Tues 10 th March	Year 3	2.45pm
Tues 24 th March	Year 5 (Easter Assembly)	2.30pm
Tues 28 th April	Year 2	2.45pm
Tues 19 th May	Year 1	2.45pm
Tues 14 th July	Year 6 (Leavers' Production)	2pm
Thur 16 th July	Year 6 Graduation Assembly	2.30pm

Limited (Full Time) Nursery Places - available for September

We have a limited number of 30 hours Nursery places available for September (8.30am until 3.30pm).

Our before and after school club provider also takes Nursery pupils enabling **wraparound care between 7.30am and 5.30pm each day** for pupils attending our school Nursery. This club finishes at 5.15pm every Friday. Parents can pick up an application form from our school office.

Please note: These places are limited and offered on a first come, first served basis.

Uxbridge Family Hub - Coffee Morning - TUESDAY

Please come along



We are delighted to announce that the Uxbridge Family Hub will join our Coffee Morning, on **Tuesday**, to give a short talk to parents about the services they offer.

The Family Hub is based at Uxbridge Civic Centre and brings together a number of different services for families including their popular Hub Club.

At their talk, they will provide information about some of these services. There will be guidance relevant for parents from Nursery up to Year 6 including specific information

for parents of pupils with Special Educational Needs.

Parents can come into school from **8.45am** (directly after the morning drop off for tea and coffee). This will be followed by a **talk from the Family Hub at 9am** followed by questions.

We sent home a letter (with a reply slip) this week so we have an idea of how many parents to expect.

Thank you to all the parents who returned their reply slip.

If you haven't had the chance to return the reply slip, and you would like to attend, please feel free to still come along. It would be lovely to see as many parents as possible at this event.

Hope to see you on Tuesday,

Mr Ellis



Starting Reception - September 2026 – DEADLINE next week

Please apply through the Hillingdon Local Authority website (and through our school) by:
15th January 2026 (next week).

Children's Centres

Children's centres offer a range of services to support parent/carers and 0 to 5-year-olds.

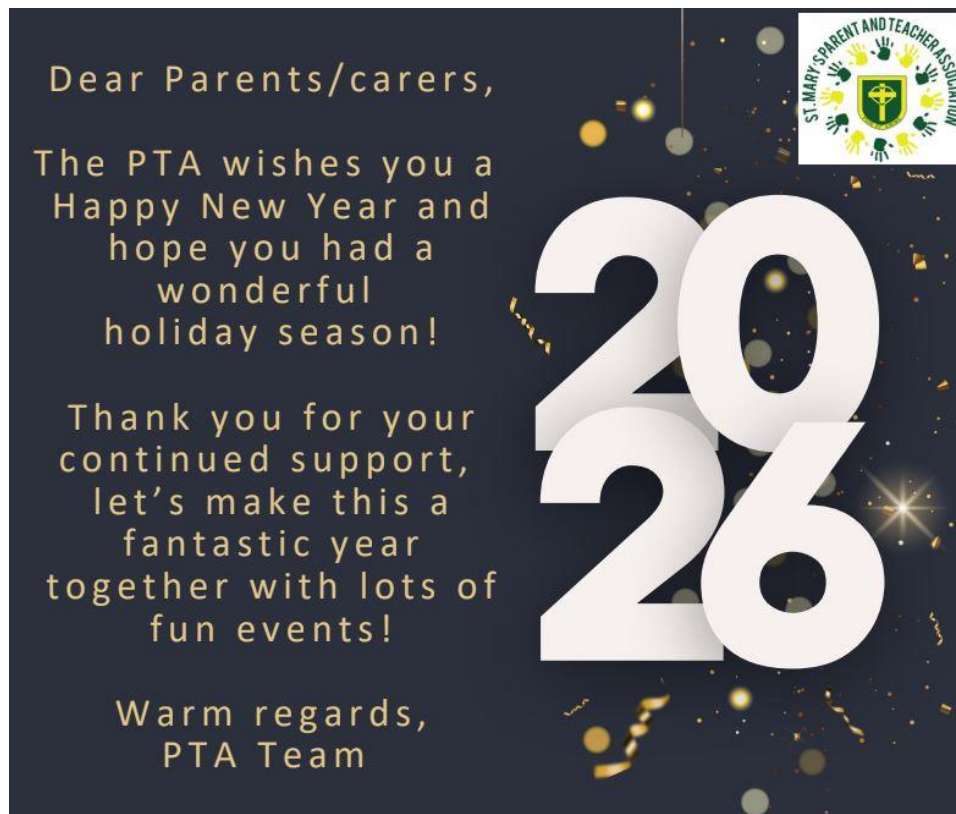
You can view the Hillingdon centres here:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/10473/Contact-details-for-our-family-hubs-and-childrens-centres>

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



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>

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/>

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 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 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>

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>

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.

Diary Dates:

Please check our school website for a complete list of diary dates.

Date	Event
13/01/26	Uxbridge Family Hub Talk & Coffee Morning, Refreshments from 8.50am Talk at 9am
21/01/26	Year 6 Trip
06/02/26	Read with me.-parents invited to join their children to read in their classes.
13/02/26	School finishes for half term
23/02/26	School opens at 8:40am
23/02/26- 27/02/26	Swimming - Year 5
05/03/26	World Book Day- Year 2 Trip- Roald Dahl Museum
09/03/26- 13/03/26	Test Week
10/03/26	Year 6 - Parents Evening
10/03/26	Year 3 Class Assembly
12/03/26	Year 6- Parents Evening
23/03/26	Test week-Year 6
27/03/26	End of term -School finishes at 12:15 for Easter break
13/04/26	School opens at 8:40am
04/05/26	May Bank Holiday
11/05/26- 15/05/26	SATS week
18/05/26	Class photographs
25/05/26-29/05/26	Half Term
01/06/26	School opens at 8:40am.