



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 14th March 2025

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 at the end of the day on 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 Nursery pupils have been taking part in a speech and language screener this week (Little Link) using stories and games. The results will be analysed, by our Early Years team, and then used to plan appropriate language support in class.

The Children's Integrated Therapy Service (CITS) has produced a series of helpful information sheets and videos designed to develop speech and language. The short video, Talk To Me (link below), talks about key strategies and messages parents can use to help develop their young child's speech and communication skills.

This video explains how to help young children to talk and communicate using different methods such as singing, looking at books, playing together and praising your young child's attempt at communicating:

<https://www.cnwl.nhs.uk/children-integrated-therapy-service/advice-sheets>

Stations of the Cross – Church Visits

The majority of our classes visited our Church, on Wednesday, to reflect on the different Stations of the Cross with Fr. Nicholas and Angela. Thank you to all the parents who gave up their time to accompany us. During Lent, the children will be looking at the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus as a part of their RE lessons.

British Science Week

British Science Week took place this week. This year's theme explores change and adaptation, which is all around us and affects every area of STEM. Our pupils have been exploring how animals and plants change and adapt to their surroundings to survive and also how technology is constantly evolving which can help people in many different aspects of their lives. Each class has taken part in live webinars titled: 'Amazing Adaption', 'STEM Online Storytime' and 'Science Farm Live'. There's still time to enter our Science Week competition – please see further details below.

Test Week

Next week, all pupils will take various age appropriate assessments. The results will be shared with you at our next Parents' Evenings. These meetings will be online and take place on Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th May.

Years 2 and 3 – UCL Handwriting Research Project

Daniel Williams (PhD student; and assistant head teacher at a special school) and Dr Spencer Hayes (developmental psychologist at the Institute of Education at UCL) are working with our current Years 2 and 3 pupils to look at children's development across a four year period. This type of longitudinal project is important as it helps us understand how children develop and learn. The UCL research team are specifically looking at how physical development (motor skills) influences how they write, read and spell. It is believed that children with better motor skills go on to have better school attainment outcomes in literacy. If this is the case, the team will then work with us to co-create teaching methods to enable our children to achieve their attainment goals.

Daniel will visit school, this afternoon, to meet with parents in Years 2 and 3. He will give further details about this research project and there will be the opportunity to answer any questions that you might have.

Time: 2.45pm
Where: School Hall

We hope you can join us!

School Pick-up

School finishes (Reception to Year 6) at 3.15pm each day.

Due to budget cuts, we do not have anybody in our school office (after 2.15pm) on certain days. We ask that parents make use of our School Friend Club if it is likely that they will be late collecting. Any child who has not been collected after 3.30pm will automatically be placed in our after school club and parents will be charged a late fee by the School Friend admin team. Thank you for your understanding.

School Friend Clubs

School Friend Clubs leads both a breakfast club and an after school club for all pupils (from Reception to Year 6).

Parents can book using these details -

schoolfriendclubs

Website: www.schoolfriendclub.com

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

Tel: 07925 033120

?History Mystery?

Try and use clues to determine what you think this artefact is. Use your observations as clues to help you think about the object.



Here are some questions to get you started:

- What was this object used for?
- When was it made?
- What sort of person may have owned it and why?
- Does the decoration mean anything?
- What could help us find out more?

We'll publish the ANSWER in next week's Newsletter.

ANSWER to last week's History Mystery: Shabti

Shabti were buried in tombs with important members of Egyptian society. They were made holding little tools, so they'd look like mini servants and agricultural workers and that's because the people at the time believed that the statues would come to life in the afterworld and do all the work that was needed.

Using historical sources (including objects) is a big part of our History lessons in school. You can find out more about what your child is studying in their History lessons here:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=History&pid=71>

SENDIASS Drop-in

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.

There next drop-in is on: Monday 17th March

Start Time: **9.30AM to 11.30AM**

Price: **Free**

Where: Coteford Children's Centre

Further details: <https://discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/sendias-drop-ins>

British Science Week Poster Competition – Still time to enter

Create a poster which fits in with the theme of 'Change and adapt'. Mrs Rowland will then select the five best creations and submit them for a chance of winning an array of prizes.

Kit List:

Paper (A4 or A3)

Creative materials such as: pens, pencils, scissors, glue, watercolours, paint, crayons, pipe cleaners, felt, thread, wool, foil, clay, string, beads, stamps, foam, pompoms

Instructions:

Encourage children to think about change and adaptation – what it means to them and how it relates to science they've learnt about – to come up with ideas to include in their poster. Here are some points and questions to get you going:

- Get children to think about ways that they might have changed or adapted to new experiences and places as they've grown.
- What about change and adaptation in the world, and beyond? How do plants and animals adapt to a changing environment? Do the stars and planets in space change?
- Technology changes all the time, how is it changing our lives? Is it always for the better?

Make your poster:

Once they've done their thinking, it's time for children to get creative! Posters must be A4 or A3 in size. Once they've been submitted to Mrs Rowland, she can only choose 5 to submit online for judging. Children can use pop-up pictures, pull out tabs or use materials such as pencils, paints, crayons and paper to create their posters.

Deadline:

Posters to be handed back to Mrs Rowland by **Friday 21st March 2025**.

For more information, please visit www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition/

What are the age restrictions on social media?

Age Restriction	Social Media Platforms
13	Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Kik, Ask.fm, Houseparty, Periscope, Tumblr, Reddit, Pinterest
13+	Whatsapp, YouTube, WeChat, Whisper, Yubo <small>(13+ means with parental consent)</small>
16	LinkedIn
18	Tinder, Bumble

The infographic also features an illustration of a girl with her arms raised, a laptop icon, a globe icon, and a sign with the letter 'A'.

Age Restrictions on Social Media

Pupils cover work on online safety every term. We have been reminding our KS2 children (including Year 6) of these age restrictions on social media. The age restriction for Whatsapp is age 13+ and we ask that parents closely monitor their child's online activity.

Getting in Contact

Tel: 01895 232814

Email: 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)

EASTER HOLIDAYS
FUN FEST UXBRIDGE!

fun fest
HOLIDAY CLUB

Upcoming
Holidays

Easter Holidays
07th April to
17th April
Monday - Friday
8am - 6pm

Follow
-US-

Booking Info
We are taking bookings

- <https://fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge>
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Rockingham Close UB8 2UA Uxbridge
- 07399 880319
- uxbridge@funfestholidayclub.co.uk

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.

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>

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>

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.

House Point Winners this week:	St.Thomas	284
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Spring 2025 - Diary Dates

Please visit our school website for Term dates:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=45>

Date	Event
17/03/2025	Test Week
24/03/2025	Year 5 Swimming
02/04/2025	Year 2 Trip Roald Dahl Museum
04/04/2025	End of term. School finishes at 12:15pm
22/04/2025	Term starts at 8:40am