



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 24th October 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.

Please use our 1-way system, after school, to avoid congestion in our narrow Rockingham Close alleyway.

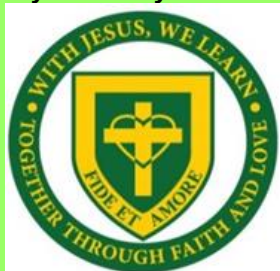
Pupil Bags in School

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,

Thank you to everybody who purchased cakes, yesterday, at our PTA's 'Spooktacular' cake sale after school. All funds raised will go towards purchasing new school resources. Our main PTA project, for this academic year, will be to part fund new computers for our ICT Suite - benefiting all of our pupils.

Well done, once again, to St. Francis House Group for winning the most House Points this half term. It was a very close competition, with only 26 points separating first and second place (and only 8 points separating 2nd and 3rd place). **St. Francis were awarded with an extra non-uniform day yesterday.**

Year 5 Hampton Court Palace



Our Year 5 pupils travelled to Hampton Court Palace, this morning, by coach. This trip was planned to consolidate the work they have been doing in their History lessons exploring:

What was life like in Tudor England?

The children will explore the palace (once the home of Henry VIII) to find out more about Tudor life.

They will also use replica artefacts and historical sources to find out how our knowledge and understanding of the past is constructed.

Parent Conference Feedback Form

Hillingdon Council are planning a SEND and Education parent event, in early 2026, and want to make sure it meets your needs. The event will include short, themed sessions on topics such as SEND support, EHCPs, social care, and preparing for adulthood, plus opportunities to ask questions and connect with services. Please complete this short survey (using the link below) to tell us what would work best for you.

Thank you, Sharon Gill (SEND Advisory Service Team Manager):

<https://forms.office.com/e/Fs0nXRLZ1h>



Eco Council - Walk to School Initiative

Our Eco Council (led by Year 6 leads Peter and Mario) carried out a survey, on Friday, to find out how many pupils either walked, cycled or scooted to school on this day. Here are their results:

Year Group	% pupils who walked, cycled or scooted
1	72%
2	74%
3	75%
4	66%
5	60%
6	58%

Our Eco Council will lead an assembly, after the half term break, actively promoting sustainable travel. We are holding a Walk to School Day on Tuesday 25th November completing a range of activities to encourage pupils to walk, bike and roll to school. We are also planning to repeat our 'walk to school' survey on this day to help monitor change. We will provide further information after the October holiday.

FREE INSIDE: WHAT'S ON WAREHOUSES

REASONS TO LOVE LAMB
REASONS TO LOVE
REASONS TO LOVE

West London

primary

times

www.primarytimes.co.uk

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK lyric

19 Nov - 07 Dec
lyric.co.uk

£10

DAYS OUT • EDUCATION • COMPETITIONS • FAMILY FUN

<https://www.primarytimes.co.uk/>

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Overviews&pid=60>

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/money/october-half-term-free-cheap-36099563>

A large collection of diverse children's books, including titles like 'The Cave of the Woods', 'Frank the Pizza', 'The Tour at School', 'Squid Squad', 'My Rice is Best!', 'One in a Million', 'Wild Yack', 'George's Magic Dragon', 'Beat the Boss', and 'The Ant Party', displayed on a green surface.

After the October holiday, lots of our classes will be planning and practising their Christmas productions and other events. Please see the list of dates, in the table, at the bottom of this Newsletter.

End of Half Term

We break up, today, for the October half term break at the usual time. Due to our teacher INSET day, on Monday 3rd November, **all pupils will return to school on Tuesday 4th November 2026**. We hope you have a safe and restful break with your family. All 8.30am groups will resume on the first Tuesday back.

PTA Christmas Card Orders

The last day to order the children's Christmas cards and gifts is the 29th October. All funds raised will go towards our school. Further details below. Thank you.



St Mary's PTA Christmas Online Gift Shop is open!



Beat the Christmas rush
Order fabulous Christmas cards & gifts
without breaking the bank



Give something special this Christmas
Unique bespoke gifts with your
children's cute design



Grandparents, aunts, uncles & loved
ones will treasure your child's
beautiful gifts



Shop closes Wednesday 29.10.25

All the proceeds will go to new computers for St Mary's Primary School

To get your cards and gifts check your order forms or contact the PTA:
stmaryspta-Uxbridge@outlook.com



Trainers and Boots

Reminder: Pupils should only wear trainers to school on the days they have PE lessons. All pupils must wear black shoes, or enclosed sandals. Pupils must not wear boots, trainers or open-toe sandals. Shoes should be flat heeled. You can view our full uniform policy/guidance on our school website:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform+Guidance&pid=48>

500 Word Competition

This half term we will be asking children in Years 2 to 6 to take part in the BBC 500 Words Competition. Please find details below:



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zctk7v4>

500 Words is open for entries! Make sure you submit your stories before 9pm on Friday 7 November.

There are two age categories: 5-7 and 8-11 year-olds. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - as has always been the case for 500 Words: it's all about our writers' brilliant creativity! There are prizes to be won - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners will also win 500 books for their school library. 50 finalists will be invited to a star-studded grand final at Windsor Castle in February 2026, which will once again be hosted by Her Majesty Queen Camilla. If that's not enough, each winner will also see their story be read aloud by a superstar celebrity on TV, which will be

shown as part of a special 500 Words programme with The One Show in early March. Our official panel of celebrity judges: Sir Lenny Henry, Malorie Blackman, Francesca Simon, Charlie Higson and Frank Cottrell-Boyce will return to crown our next winners.

Starting Reception September 2026

Please apply through the Local Hillingdon Authority and through the School by 15th January 2026.

Priest References

Signing will take place as follows:-

Reception:- Monday 1/12/25 and Tuesday 2/12/25 between 4pm and 6pm.

Nursery:- Monday 15/12/25 between 3:30pm and 6pm.

Year 6 Pupils - Starting secondary school in September 2026

Parents can apply for a school place if your child is due to start secondary school in September 2026.

Key dates:

- **The deadline for applications is Friday 31 October 2025.**
- National offer day is Monday 2 March 2026.

You can find more information on the Hillingdon LA website:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/secondary>

iPay – School Meal Orders

All pupils from Reception to Year 6 are entitled to a free school hot lunch. To ensure your child receives a school lunch, parents need to order one through the iPay website:

<https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/>

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>

Fun Fest – October Holiday Club

Our October half term holiday club (led by Fun Fest) is taking place next week in school.

You can find out more information here:

<https://fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge/>

The poster is pink and features the 'Fun Fest' logo at the top left. It lists several benefits of the holiday club, including being Ofsted registered, affordable prices, qualified staff, full working days, and a convenient location. It also includes a photo of children playing and a circular graphic with the text 'We give children the freedom to choose and the power to play'. The school details for Fun Fest Uxbridge at St Mary's Catholic Primary School are provided, along with a website link for more information.

Fun Fest Choose Fun

Holiday Club
for children aged 3-12 years

- Ofsted registered
- affordable prices
- qualified and experienced staff
- full working days
- every school holiday
- all in one convenient location

Fun Fest Uxbridge
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL
ROCKINGHAM CLOSE
UXBRIDGE,
MIDDLESEX
UB8 2UA
07309 280319

*We give children
the freedom to choose
and the power to play*

To see our latest timetables and to book your children's chosen activities go to:
www.fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge

Ofsted Registered

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



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/>

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>

Getting in Contact

Tel: 01895 232814

Email: office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk

All enquiries should be referred to our school office

Amazon Wish List – School Supplies

Please help support our school by donating school supplies from our Amazon Wish List <https://amzn.eu/fqZpVLv>

Any purchase would be greatly appreciated.

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://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

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:

Date	Event
27/10/25	Half term holiday starts
29/10/25	PTA: Last day to order children's Christmas cards & gifts
03/11/25	Inset Day
04/11/25	School starts at 8:40am – pupils return
21/11/25	PTA:- Christmas Fair 3:15pm to 5:15pm
24/11/25 – 28/11/25	Year 5 - Swimming
28/11/25	PTA:- Santa's Grotto photos
01/12/25	Test week- Years 1 to 5
09/12/25	Early Years Christmas Production
11/12/25	Year 4- Carol Service in school
16/12/25	KS1- Christmas Production
19/12/25	Last day of term. School finishes at 12:15pm.

Please check the school website for all future dates.