



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## School Newsletter

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 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 when collecting, after school, to avoid congestion in our 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 large rucksacks** or other similar bags. Thank you in advance.

### 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 Easter break.

We are looking forward to a busy Summer term ahead. We have planned lots of activities for this term including trips, workshops, themed days, Masses, Sports Days and lots more. Year 6 will sit their end of KS2 tests in just over 2 weeks time. This will then be followed by Yr6 visits, cross-curricular class projects, their 3-day residential trip, Leavers' Production, Mass and Graduation Ceremony.

### Start of Term Mass

Father Nicholas will lead our start of term Mass on Tuesday, at 2.30pm, in our school hall. All family members are most welcome to attend.

### Westminster Diocese - Jubilee Walk in London



We have planned for Year 6 to complete the Westminster Way pilgrimage, on Wednesday 21st May, as a part of this year's Jubilee celebrations. The children will start their walk at English Martyrs Church in Tower Hill and will be welcomed by Fr Don Joseph Alex who will talk to the children about the history of the church and its surrounding area. The class will then walk to the Tower of London and along the Thames

path (stopping at different landmarks along the way) before eating lunch in Victoria Embankment Gardens. Their Jubilee Walk will then continue on to Westminster Cathedral where we have booked a tour of the cathedral building.

This is a shortened Westminster Way route as shown on the Westminster Diocese website. You may wish to walk the full route, as a family, as a part of this year's Jubilee Year:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UmQPrUehWfMslt7hvR0QhYwYyxZJLnH4/view>

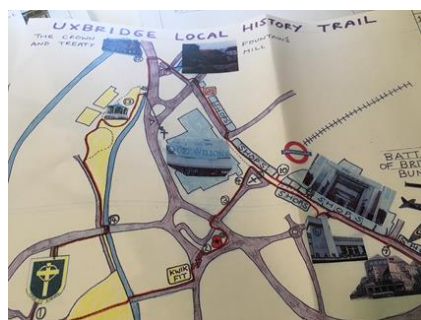
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### Yr4 Swimming – Next Week

Our Year 4 pupils will travel, by coach, to the Hillingdon Leisure Centre, every day next week for swimming lessons. They require their swimming costume/trunks, hat and towel every day,



### Year 3 Local History Trail

Year 3 will complete a History Trail of Uxbridge, on Wednesday, as a part of their new History topic exploring our local area. They will follow the route on a map exploring significant historical buildings, and landmarks, along the way.

**This trail was developed by our Yr6 History Club.**

## **Parents' Evenings**

Our next Parents' Evenings will take place on:

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.**

These meetings will be online using our new Parents' Evening platform. Our office will send home information today inviting you to request a convenient appointment time. These meetings will be a good opportunity for you to discuss the results from our Test Week (that took place just before Easter) as well as targets and planned support for this term.

## **Pope Francis**

We have been remembering Pope Francis in school and had an assembly for all the children. Pope Francis said *"Children are a sign of every person's desire to grow and flourish. You remind us that we are all children, brothers and sisters."* This Jubilee Year, let us all honour Pope Francis' memory by responding to his call to 'Become Pilgrims of Hope'.



*Dear Lord,*

*As we remember and mourn the passing of our beloved Pope Francis, help us to remember his teachings and carry on his good work as we continue to become Pilgrims of Hope.*

*Amen*

## **Battery Collection**

Our school is recycling batteries to protect the planet (and for a chance to win book vouchers for our school).

We need your help - plus your child could win some fantastic eco-inspired prizes too!



### **How can you help?**

1. Hunt out used batteries at home. We are collecting AA, AAA, C, D, 9V and button batteries.
2. Tape over the contacts of lithium (Li) and button batteries (see below).
3. Put them in a tied plastic bag (preferably reused)
4. Take them to our school's collection point at our school office.
5. Enter the prize draw at [jointhepod.org/win](https://jointhepod.org/win)

### **Safety first:**

Not only is storing and recycling batteries safely great for the environment, it can also help reduce risks associated with batteries:

- Batteries can cause serious injury or death if swallowed, please keep batteries out of reach of small children and pets.
- Lithium and button batteries need to be taped so their contacts don't touch, as they could short circuit if they do.

*Use sticky tape over the contacts (top and bottom of batteries). Button batteries can be placed in a line between two sections of sticky tape. Lithium batteries can look like any battery, but they will have lithium (Li) written on them.*

Many thanks for your support and happy battery hunting!

## ?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 – Previous History Mystery object: Aztec double-headed serpent mosaic**

This Aztec mosaic featuring the double-headed serpent motif: often associated with the sky and the underworld.

**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>

### **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>

### **Getting in Contact**

Tel: 01895 232814

Email: [office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk](mailto: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)

### **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.

### **Donations**

We are kindly asking for donations of boxes of tissue for the classrooms. It is that time of year again where pollen is on the rise and we get through a lot. Any donations would be appreciated

### **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>

### **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://hillingtonpcf.com/>

## **Speech Link – Parent Portal**

Speech and language support for parents and carers:

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

### **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>

## 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.stagetalent.co.uk/register](http://www.stagetalent.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.

|   |                    |            |
|---|--------------------|------------|
| <b>House Point<br/>Winners this week:<br/>25<sup>th</sup> April</b> | <b>St. Francis</b> | <b>236</b> |
|---|--------------------|------------|

| Date                  | Event                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 08/05/2025            | VE Day Assembly                     |
| 12/05/2025            | SATS Week                           |
| 19/05/2025            | Walk to School Week                 |
| 19/05/2025            | Class Photos                        |
| 22/05/2025            | Fairtrade Day                       |
| 26/05/2025-30/05/2025 | Half term                           |
| 02/06/2025            | Term starts at 8:40am               |
| 02/06/25-05/06/2025   | Bikeability -Year 6                 |
| 10/06/2025            | Year 1 Assembly                     |
| 11/06/2025            | Year 6 trip- Hyde Park Orienteering |
| 12/06/2025            | Year 2 trip – Tower of London       |