



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 27th February 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 lovely half term break with your family. Our Year 4 pupils have attended swimming lessons, every day, this week at the Hillingdon Leisure Centre. Swimming is an important skill, is a part of the compulsory PE curriculum and helps save lives every year. We have heard some really positive feedback from the children who attended their lessons this week.

All of our pupils (Reception to Year 6) went to Church on Thursday to reflect on the different Stations of the Cross as a part of Lent. A big thank you to Father Nicholas, and Angela, for leading these visits. Father Nicholas also visited school today to hear pupil Confessions in preparation for Easter.

Secondary School – National Offer Day

In Hillingdon, National Offer Day for secondary school places is on Monday. Offers are sent via email for online applicants.

Book Week – Next Week

This year's Book Week begins on Monday. We have planned lots of exciting activities for the children to enjoy as detailed below:

Tuesday 3rd March:

Read With Me (Parents are invited to join their child in class to read to them) at either 9 to 9:20am or at 2:40 to 3pm. We will open up the front entrance shortly before each session start time.

Bedtime Stories 4 to 4:45pm: Reception to Year 6 - Children are invited back to school in their pyjamas to enjoy milk and cookies and of course a bedtime story.

Thursday 5th March (World Book Day):

Year 1 have an online workshop linked to The Snail and the Whale book. Year 2 have a trip to the the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre.

Friday 6th March: Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Our KS2 (Years 3 to 6 pupils) have an online Charlotte's Web themed workshop.

Thursday 19th March: Author visit

We are delighted to inform you that Caryl Hart, children's author, will be visiting our school on Thursday.

Caryl will be running workshops throughout the day and will have a book sale after school at 3:15pm. The book sale will take place in the Year 1 classroom which can be accessed from the Junior playground and exited through the main entrance leading to Rockingham Close.

House Team – House Point Winners

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Year 3 Assembly

Year 3 will perform our next class assembly on Tuesday 10th March at 2.45pm. All family members are most welcome to attend.

You can view a full list of class assembly dates at the bottom of this Newsletter.

Year 5 Cover

Mr Stringer started his 2 week paternity leave today. Ms Lea covered his class today and has also been booked for next week. Ms Lea is an experienced Key Stage 2 teacher and former Assistant Head.

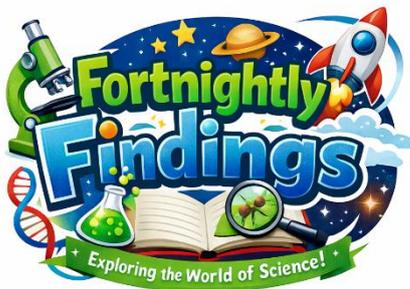
iPay – School Lunch – Menu Changes

Our school lunch providers (Accent) have been monitoring lunch orders, school/parent feedback, and wastage at the end of our lunch service and as a result have made a couple of menu changes on iPay. Accent have updated the online ordering system, on iPay, and it went live this week. If you placed a lunch order for your child in advance, it may be worth you logging back into iPay to check that you are happy with the menu changes. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Safe Experiments to Try at Home – Fortnightly Findings

Every two weeks we will publish a safe experiment that you may like to carry out with your child at home – further details below:

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Fortnightly Findings shares simple, safe experiments families can try at home to spark curiosity, build practical skills and reinforce the scientific method. The aim is to encourage questioning, hands-on investigation and discussion between children and adults, supporting the primary curriculum by developing vocabulary, observing and recording results, and fostering resilience when things don't go to plan.

If you try an experiment and would like to share your child's discovery, **please email photos** to our school email address. We may feature selected images in future newsletters to celebrate learning across the school.

This week's experiment:

Bicarb and Vinegar Volcano

Mix together bicarbonate of soda and vinegar in a container and watch as they react and create a fizzy eruption. Why not go the extra mile and add a few drops of red or orange food colouring to make it look like lava, or green to make it look like slime?

Thank You – New Kit – Football Team

A big thank you to Mr Donaghy for securing our new football kits for our school Football Team – they look fantastic! We would also like to thank our sponsors: Pod-Trak Ltd.

Our school football team have had a good season this year and have played really well as a part of a team. They played St. Catherine's Catholic Primary School on Wednesday.



School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safety

The Hillingdon Local Authority (LA) are continuing to receive an increased number of complaints regarding traffic issues at school pick up and drop off times in the morning.

The common factors are: poor driver behaviour, lack of consideration for other road users and pedestrians and/or illegal, irresponsible parking including parking in the zig zag lines in front of our school entrance into school in the morning. We have sent home an email providing further information from the Local Authority Team.

Year 6 Test Week

Our Year 6 pupils will be completing some mock SATs tests next week. This will give us an opportunity to analyse these tests and plan upcoming targets and support.

Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA)

The Hillingdon Educational Psychology Service has developed a new project aimed at strengthening the support available to parents and carers of children who are experiencing Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA). As part of this work, they are running a series of small, informal **focus groups** to gain insight into the experiences and needs of families in Hillingdon.

Parent feedback will be invaluable in helping them to shape future support groups and ensure they are accessible, useful, and responsive to local need.

Parents/carers are only required to attend one session. They have tried to accommodate a mixture of in person and online for **next week – further details below.**

Focus Group Options:

- **In person:** *Wednesday 4th March, 10:30–11:30am* (approx.) – *Uxbridge Family Hub*
- **Online:** *Wednesday 4th March, 12:45–1:45pm* (approx.)
- **In person:** *Thursday 5th March, 12:30–1:30pm* (approx.) – *Uxbridge Family Hub*

USE your VOICE

Supporting your child's school attendance

Help shape parent support in Hillingdon

Parent/carer group discussion

With Danielle, Tanya & Jack from the Hillingdon Educational Psychology Service would like to:

- Hear what has or has not helped
- Share your views on what might be helpful in the future

First come first serve Scan the QR code to register for a face to face or online session here:



For further information, please contact educationalpsychologyservice@hillington.gov.uk

HILLINGDON LONDON

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>

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/>

Safeguarding

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 of our responsibility to safeguard children.

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



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.

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 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

Diary Dates:

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

Date	Event
03/03/26	Year 6 Test Week
03/03/26	Read with me-Parents invited -9-9:20am: 2:40-3pm
03/03/26	Bedtime stories 4-4:45pm -Reception to Year 6
05/03/26	World Book Day- Year 2 Trip- Roald Dahl Museum
06/03/26	Children to dress as favourite book character
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
21/04/26	Parents Evening online
23/04/26	Parents Evening online
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.
08/06/26- 12/06/26	Swimming-Year 5
15/06/26-17/06/26	Year 6 Residential trip
18/06/26	Sports Day -EYS
18/06/26	Year 2- Windsor Castle Trip
30/06/26	Sports Day-KS1
02/07/26	Sports Day-KS2
03/07/26	Year 3 Chiltern Open Air Trip
10/07/26	Year 5 School Trip
14/07/26	Year 6 – Leavers Production 2:00pm
16/07/26	Year 6- Graduation
17/07/26	Last day of term. School finishes at 12:15.