



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 4th 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.

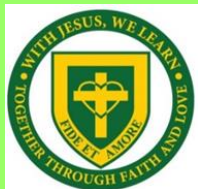
Collection Times

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.



Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a busy final week of term before our Easter break.

Our Year 4 pupils presented their class assembly for pupils at the start of this week and then again for parents on Tuesday. The children recited their lines and performed their parts brilliantly reflecting on the Easter story and its importance for Christians. The singing was amazing! Thank you to Miss Haji for all her hard work planning this assembly and to Mrs Horswood and Mrs Sullivan for all their help organising costumes, props etc.

On Wednesday, our Year 2 pupils visited the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre in the village of Great Missenden, where Roald Dahl lived and wrote for 36 years. They explored the three galleries and took part in lots of fun and informative hands-on activities and crafts.

Yesterday, pupil representatives from each KS2 class took part in the Hillingdon Cross Country Competition at Vyners School Playing field. The boys and girls teams achieved excellent results overall (2nd place girls and 5th place boys). Pupils also took home lots of individual medals – a particular well done to Betty (Yr5) for winning gold. Thank you to all the family members who came along to cheer their child on.

Last Day of term - TODAY

School finishes, this afternoon, at the earlier time of 12.15pm. The children are not eating lunch in school today. We hope you have a good Easter break with your family. Due to Easter Monday, we return to school on Tuesday 22nd April.

New Menus

We have just agreed our new 4-week Menus for after the Easter holiday.

Our caterers (Accent) have informed us that parents will be able to see the new Menus and order from today.

Following feedback from pupils, we have removed some of the less popular choices from the menu and instead we are offering some new seasonal dishes for the children to try.

These Menus have been carefully checked for their nutritional value against the School Food Standards. Although cakes/cookies are available up to 4 days a week, they are low in sugar and often contain hidden vegetables i.e. grated beetroot/carrot and often up to 50% fruit. All of our meals meet the School Food Standards shown in this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools>

Allergen Free Meals

We ask that parents only order an allergen free meal, on iPay, if their child has specific allergies. We have had an increase in parents ordering these meals and gluten free options (especially the gluten free fish fingers). Unfortunately we can't restrict these items on iPay but cooking, storing them in our hot storage and serving lots of specific allergen meals does create issues for our catering staff and our hub kitchen at Botwell House School.

Before School – 8.30am Booster Groups

Some classes have changed their groups for the first day back after Easter (Tues 22nd April) based on our recent test results.

If your child is a part of the Summer Term groups, they will have received a letter with further details. Pupils should only attend if they have received a new letter for the Summer Term.

Cross Country Borough Competition

"Last night, St. Mary's entered a Boys and Girls cross country team into the Borough Competition. There were over 100 children participating in each event and both our teams made us all very proud. The Girls team did particularly well, finishing Second overall, out of 12 schools! Betty Boo, in Year 5, also won the whole competition, finishing in first place! Congratulations girls, you ran brilliantly."



Oxford Owl E-Books

Although class teachers have collected all school Reading books we would still like to encourage pupils to read over the Easter break where possible. Oxford Owl offers a free eBooks collection, developed for children aged 3–11 years old.

All of the eBooks are tablet-friendly. Just register or log in to start reading:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

Parents' Evenings

Our next online Parents' Evenings will take place (after the Easter break) on:

Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th May. These meetings will be a good opportunity to discuss the results from our recent Test Week as well as planned support.

PE Kits

Each class has two set days for PE. Next term, pupils may wear their PE kits and trainers to school on the days they have PE. Your child's class teacher will remind you of these days (and any additional Sports Coach sessions) on Google Classroom.

Pupils should not wear their trainers to school on any other day – thank you.

Lunch Box Policy Consultation

Thank you to all the parents who completed our online Lunch Box survey.

67% of parents were in favour of the changes proposed.

33% of parents voted to keep the policy the same.

There were lots of helpful suggestions about what parents would like to see in a revised Lunch Box and Food Policy. We will carefully consider these comments when formulating a new policy before it is agreed by our Governing Body.

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: Lewis chess piece

Part of a chess set, perhaps made by 12th century Norwegian craftsmen and discovered on a remote beach on the Isle of Lewis in 1831.

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

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)

Fun Fest - Easter Holiday Club

An external provider, Fun Fest holiday club, has once again rented our school Hall and will be running an Easter club over the upcoming break. This club is not operated by our school staff and is open to pupils from across our local area. You can find further details, including booking information, here:

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



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.

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://hillingdonpcf.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.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.

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| House Point Winners this week: | St. Bernadette's | 411 |
|---|-------------------------|------------|

Upcoming Diary Dates:

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------|---|
| 04/04/2025 | End of term. School finishes at 12:15pm |
| 22/04/2025 | Term starts at 8:40am |
| 08/05/2025 | VE Day Assembly |
| 12/05/2025 | SATS Week |
| 19/05/2025 | Walk to School Week |
| 19/05/2025 | Class Photos |
| 20/05/2025 | Year 3 Assembly |
| 22/05/2025 | Fairtrade Day |
| 26/05/2025-30/05/2025 | Half term |