



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 21st November 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,

Our pupil Eco Warriors group met, this week, to plan our upcoming **Walk to School Day on Monday 8th December**. Next week, they will be leading a whole school assembly to encourage all pupils to either walk, cycle or scoot to school on 8th December.

On Wednesday, all of our teaching assistants took part in Dyslexia training led by Laura - a specialist teacher and assessor from Dyslexia Understood. This training looked at practical classroom strategies that can be used to support pupils with specific literacy needs.

Yesterday, our school nursing team returned to school to give the nasal flu vaccination to pupils (from Reception through to Year 6) who were previously missed.

Thank you to Father Nicholas for leading our Mass, in school, this morning. It was lovely to come together, as a school community, to celebrate the end of this Jubilee Year. The Catholic Church's Jubilee Year 2025 concludes on January 6th, 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany. This is when the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica will be closed, marking the official end of the Jubilee celebrations. Thank you also to the family members who attended this Mass and those parents who came along to our prayer group on Tuesday afternoon.

We are very much looking forward to this evening's Christmas Fair.

This will take place, in our hall, directly after school until **5.15pm**.

Our PTA have planned lots of stalls including luxury item & sweet cup tombolas, a nearly new toy stall, arts & crafts, Christmas games, cakes and other refreshments. Thank you for all the generous donations over the last two weeks. Our Christmas Fair promises to be a fantastic evening – we hope to see you there!

Year 5 Swimming

Year 5 swimming lessons will take place, at the Hillingdon Leisure Centre, every day throughout next week. All pupils require their swimming shorts/one piece costume, towel and a swimming hat every day next week.

Year 4 and Year 6 Class Mass

Our Years 4 and 6 classes will attend the 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 26th November. If you are able to help accompany the children to and from Church - please let your child's class teacher know. We plan to leave school (from the main entrance) just after 9am. Thank you.

Santa's Grotto – Christmas Clothes



We are looking forward to Santa's visit, to school, on **Friday 28th November**. There will be a chance for individual pupils (and siblings) to meet Santa and to get their photograph taken. **All pupils may wear Christmas jumpers or Christmas dresses/clothes to school on this day for their photograph.**

Christmas Events

Over the next few weeks, pupils will be busy practising their Christmas productions and carol concerts. These events are taking place as follows:

Tues 9 th Dec	Early Years Christmas Production at 2:15pm (school hall)
Thur 11 th Dec	Year 4 Carol Service in school at 2:30pm
Tues 16 th Dec	KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Christmas Production at 2:15pm
Tues 16 th Dec	Carol Service in Church (Year 3 leading the carols/singing) at 4pm

Late Pick-ups

Any child who is picked up more than 15 minutes late will automatically be taken to our after school club provision - led by our School Friend Clubs provider.

There is a fee for these sessions (as listed on the School Friend Clubs website):

<https://www.schoolfriendclub.com/our-clubs/st-mary-s-rc-primary-school-hillingdon/>

Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, we don't have any office staff in our school office at these times:

- After 2.30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays
- After 3.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays

Thank you for your understanding.

A huge thank you - Christmas Festivities continue

The PTA team would like to send a **big, jolly Christmas thank-you** to each and every one of you for helping make our **Christmas Fayre truly enchanting!**

We thank everyone who brought in donations and to those who took the donations home to kindly label them for the tombola's, to our wonderful bakers, and to all who came along to spread sparkle and cheer—**thank you for filling the day with festive spirit.**

The season fun keeps rolling! Preparations for **Santa's Grotto (28/11/25)** are underway. Further information would follow soon.

Another exciting treat we have lined up is our **Silent Auction**—where you can place bids for Disney on Ice tickets! (Further information to follow).

You should have received your **Christmas raffle tickets** in your book bags, please let us know if you would like more!

Warm wishes and many thanks,
PTA team

Vomiting and Diarrhoea

According to government (and NHS) guidelines, pupils with [diarrhoea or vomiting](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/) should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Starting Reception September 2026

Please apply through the Hillingdon Local Authority website (and through our school) by 15th January 2026.

Priest References

Priest reference 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.

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>

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
21/11/25	PTA: Christmas Fair 3:15pm to 5:15pm
24/11/25 – 28/11/25	Year 5 Swimming
26/11/25	Year 4 and Year 6 attend Mass in the church leaving school at 9am
28/11/25	PTA: Santa's Grotto photos
01/12/25	Test week- Years 1 to 6
09/12/25	Early Years Christmas Production- 2:15pm
11/12/25	Year 4- Carol Service in school- 2:30pm
16/12/25	KS1- Christmas Production- 2:15pm
16/12/25	Year 3- Carol Service in Church at 4pm.
19/12/25	Last day of term. School finishes at 12:15pm.

Please check the school website for all future dates.