



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 19th December 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,

This week has been a busy end to this term.

On Monday, our Year 4 pupils got into the role of Victorian children and spent the day taking part in a Victorian schoolroom experience. This consolidated and extended the work they have been doing in their History lessons.

On Tuesday, our Key Stage 1 pupils performed their Christmas Production for their family members. The children acted, read their lines and performed their songs and dance routines brilliantly. During the evening on the same day, our Year 3 pupils led the singing at our Church Carol Concert - performing key scenes from the Nativity story. It was lovely to see so many family members and parishioners in attendance. The Year 3 singing was fantastic and well done to Krystal (Year 6) for her beautiful solo performance.

Thank you to all the family members who helped walk our pupils to and from our end of term Mass on Wednesday morning. Visits like this wouldn't be possible without the fantastic support we receive from our parents. When we returned to school we had our Christmas lunch in the school Hall. The children came to school wearing their Christmas jumpers, we decorated the Hall, played festive songs and the children were given a cracker alongside their themed lunch.

Yesterday, the House Group who have earned the most House Points (this half term) were rewarded with an extra non-uniform day.

Well done St. Thomas House Team!

Term Ends Today

This term ends, TODAY, at 12.15pm. There are no school lunches today. We hope you have a fantastic Christmas break with your family.

Start of Spring Term 2026

All pupils return to school on Monday 5th January. We change our 8.30am groups on a termly basis and the revised groups will start the second week back after Christmas. Your child should only attend a group if they receive a letter inviting them to do so.

Calling all budding young poets



Why not enter this fantastic poetry competition?

It is open to children in Years 3 to 6. Please click on the link below to find out more details including a video introduction from the Book Trust's Writer in Residence Matt Goodfellow:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/about-us/news-updates/writer-in-residence-matt-goodfellow-announces-his-poetry-competition/>.

Holiday Reading

Although we collected in all Reading books this week, pupils can still access ebooks through the Oxford Owl website:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

There are also lots of events happening in local libraries:

<https://discover.hillingdon.gov.uk/events?q=&pref1=all&pref2=388&s=date&p=1>

School Lunches

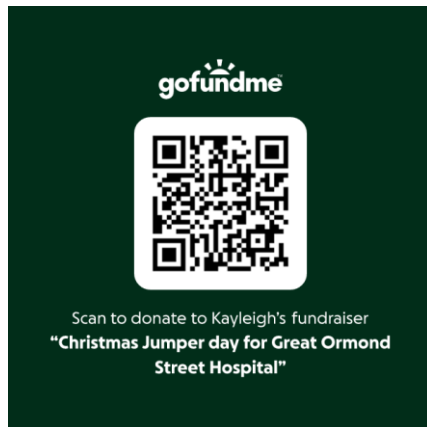
Our lunch menu has been updated and meals are now available to order, for next term, on the iPay website. Your child will only be provided with a free lunch if you order a lunch for them in advance. **Please note:** we are not sent any spare meals each day. Parents need to provide a packed lunch for any child without an order.

<https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/IPI/Account/LogOn>

Great Ormond Street Hospital



Thank you for all the donations, to Great Ormond Street Hospital, as a part of our Christmas Jumper Day. We are delighted to announce that we raised £951. Great Ormond Street are currently supporting some of our pupils and are very grateful for the donations.



Limited (Full Time) Nursery Places - available for September

We have a limited number of 30 hours Nursery places available for September (8.30am until 3.30pm). Our before and after school club provider now takes Nursery

pupils enabling **wraparound care between 7.30am and 5.30pm each day** (the club finishes at 5.15pm every Friday). Please pick up an application form from our school office.

Please note: These places are limited and offered on a first come, first served basis.

Uxbridge Family Hub - Talk and Coffee Morning at St. Mary's

Tuesday 13th January 2026



We are delighted to announce that representatives from the Uxbridge Family Hub will visit us, on **Tuesday 13th January**, to give a short talk to parents about the services they offer.

The Family Hub is based at Uxbridge Civic Centre and brings together a number of different services for families of children including their popular Hub Club. The Hub Club is a weekly after school Stay and Play session for families with children aged 4-7 years (Reception to Year 2) to enjoy fun activities together. Every Thursday (term time only) from 3.30pm to 4.30pm families with children aged 4-7 years can come and join in with activities such

as arts and crafts, stories, games and more. Aside from The Hub Club, Hillingdon Family Hubs and Children's Centres offer a wide range of services and sessions for children/families to attend. Although they specialise in the 0 - 5 age range, they also signpost to appropriate services for older children.

At their talk, they will provide information about some of these services. There will be guidance relevant for parents from Nursery up to Year 6 including specific information for parents of pupils with Special Educational Needs. The Family Hub will put out display boards in the Hall for parents to look at, after the talk, and there will be the opportunity to ask questions. Parents can come into school from 8.45am (directly after the morning drop off for tea and coffee). This will be followed by a **short talk from the Family Hub at 9am**. We will send out further details in the New Year but please save the date in your diary.

Epiphany Mass

Please join us for our Epiphany Mass. This will take place, at 2.30pm, in our school Hall on Tuesday 6th January. We hope to see you then.

Thank you to our PTA

Thank you to our PTA for preparing and serving drinks (Hot Chocolate and Mulled Wine) and cakes after our Carol Service at our Church on Tuesday evening. Our PTA have been really busy this term organising our Festive Fair, Santa's Grotto, raffle and refreshments before our productions and concerts. We are really grateful for all their support.



Thank you so much

Ho ho ho! Santa here with a heart full of Christmas cheer! A big, jolly thank-you to all the amazing children for your smiles, excitement, and wonderful festive spirit.

Thank you all for the warmest welcome. My time in the grotto was so special that I couldn't resist returning, just in case there were some children I hadn't had the chance to meet yet. You all make Christmas truly magical. Santa is very proud of you all. Keep trying your best and being kind every day.

A warm thank-you as well to the dedicated staff and brilliant volunteers who help keep that magic shining bright.

Merry Christmas to you all!

Love from Santa 🧑🏻‍🎅

Thank You & Merry Christmas (from our PTA Team)

Many thanks to all our parents for your continued support throughout the year. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity, enthusiasm, and involvement. Whether through volunteering your time, or supporting our fundraising efforts, your contribution has helped make this year such a great success for our children and our school community.

As the festive season approaches, the PTA would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your holidays be filled with joy, peace, and special moments together. We look forward to working with you again in the coming year and continuing to make wonderful memories for our children.

Warm wishes

PTA team

Catholic Children's Society

Thank you for all of the donations made at our recent productions. We are delighted to announce that we raised £259.06 for the Catholic Children's Society.

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.

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>

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.

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/>

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:

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

Date	Event
05/01/26	First day of the Spring Term
06/01/26	Epiphany Mass at 2.30pm in the school hall
07/01/26	Year 6 Trip- Junior Citizenship
13/01/26	Uxbridge Family Hub Talk & Coffee Morning, Refreshments from 8.50am Talk at 9am
21/01/26	Year 6 Trip
06/02/26	Read with me.-parents invited to join their children to read in their classes.
13/02/26	School finishes for half term
23/02/26	School opens at 8:40am
23/02/26- 27/02/26	Swimming - Year 5
05/03/26	World Book Day- Year 2 Trip- Roald Dahl Museum
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
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.

