



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 7th 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,

We hope you had a good October break.

On Monday, all of our teachers had a full day of training in school. In the morning, we were visited by a representative from the LA Inclusion Team who talked about a range of classroom adaptations that can be made to support all pupils. Staff will be trying out some of these adaptations over the next few weeks. This term, we will be introducing a new spelling scheme and staff received training (in the afternoon) looking at how this will be implemented across the school. You may notice some differences to the spelling lists that will be sent home this term.



We also had our weekly staff meeting, on Tuesday evening, which looked at coding using Lego STEM Spike kits which were recently purchased thanks to generous funding from our PTA. We are sure the children will have great fun

using these as a part of their computing lessons.

We have been talking to the children about firework safety this week. If you are watching fireworks, this weekend, we hope you enjoy them safely!

Remembrance Day



Remembrance Day is on Tuesday (11th November).

Remembrance Day marks the day the First World War ended on the 11th day, of the 11th Month, 1918. At 11am, on Tuesday, we will hold a minute of silence to remember people who have lost their lives. Your child may like

to wear a poppy to school next week. Remembrance Day is a time to reflect, show respect and honour people who have been involved in war and conflict since WW1 and remember those we have lost. Some of our classes will be finding out more about Remembrance as a part of their History lessons next week.

You may like to share this animation film 'Poppies' with your child:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/poppies>

Year 3 Freshwater Theatre



Next Thursday, our Year 3 class will take part in a Prehistory workshop - led by representatives from the Freshwater Theatre Company. Accompanied by their Freshwater Time Traveller, they will travel back in time to meet Britain's earliest residents.

Using activities such as role-play and tableaux, the class will discover what life was like in Stone Age

Britain, experiencing life as hunter gatherers and early farmers. Then, moving through time to the Iron Age, they will visit an iron forge, meet druids and receive an important message from the Chieftain.

Christmas Events

Classes will be busy practising their productions, carol concerts etc. during this half term. Please see the diary dates, below, for specific details/times. These dates also include our PTA Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto day in school. It promises to be a busy half term!

Best Start in Life Video



We are pleased to share the communications toolkit, for the Best Start in Life campaign, which aims to increase awareness of the importance of early years in a child's development and the role of early years education:

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

The government's Best Start in Life website brings together trusted advice, support and guidance for parents. You can find out more on YouTube here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wow0col2_Ns

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://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:

Date	Event
21/11/25	PTA:- Christmas Fair 3:15pm to 5:15pm
24/11/25 – 28/11/25	Year 5 - Swimming
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.