



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 2nd May 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.

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,

Thank you to all the family members who came along to our Mass on Tuesday afternoon. This was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the start of this term as a school community.

Well done to our Year 4 pupils who completed their intensive daily swimming lessons throughout this week. They will complete their next stage of swimming lessons in Year 5. The government expectation is that all pupils will, by the end of primary school, will be able to swim 25 metres unaided using a range of strokes effectively.

Our Year 3 pupils completed a History Trail of Uxbridge, this week, as a part of their new History topic exploring our local area. They followed a route on a map exploring significant historical buildings, and landmarks, along the way. Monday is an early bank holiday – we hope you enjoy the extended weekend!



VE Day 80

On Thursday, we mark the historic 80th anniversary of VE Day, with the families of our great nation coming together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe.

VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today, but also a reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since. We have planned a number of school events to mark this special anniversary. On Thursday, we have booked a series of VE day assemblies and workshops to be led by the Freshwater Theatre company. Next Friday (9th May) we will be holding a special VE Day picnic in our KS2 playground. We will decorate the playground with bunting, the children can listen to music from the 1940s and they can play various games. Pupils can bring in two snacks, from home, to enjoy at this picnic. **These two snacks can include a single small packet of crisps, a cake, a cookie or biscuits (no nuts please).**

Red, White and Blue Non-Uniform Day

To help celebrate VE Day, pupils may wear non-uniform (red, white and blue coloured clothes) to school on Fri 9th May – VE Picnic Day.

No football tops please.

Sun Hats, Sun Cream and Water Bottles

We have been lucky enough to see some hot, sunny weather this week. If this warm weather continues, please remind your child to bring a sun hat and a water bottle to school next week. Water bottles can be refilled at break times. Please apply sun cream to your child before they come into school. Thank you.

Online Parents' Evenings – Next Week

Our Parents' Evenings will take place next week on:

Tuesday 6th and Thursday 8th May.

We will be trialling our new online Parents' Evening platform – you should have received information enabling you to request a convenient meeting time. These meetings will provide an opportunity for you to discuss the results from our Test Week (that took place just before Easter) as well as targets and planned support for this term.

Thank You – Mrs Mobsby

We would like to say a really big thank you to Mrs Mobsby for all the support she has given our school over the last three years - working with individual pupils and spending her break and lunchtimes planting with the children. She has completely transformed our Key Stage 2 quiet area into a more relaxing area full of lots of colourful plants (see photos below). Many of our pupils have said how much they have enjoyed gardening, during their break times, and we are so grateful for her ongoing support (Mrs Mobsby even came into school over the Easter Break to water the plants). Thank you again!



TCS London Marathon

Fifteen of our KS2 pupils completed the TCS London Marathon on Saturday consisting of one mile, or 2.6K, in the heart of the capital.

This was a unique opportunity for the children to cross the iconic TCS London Marathon Finish Line and receive the coveted Mini Marathon medal.

The children started at the Horse Guards Parade and finished at The Mall. Thank you to Mr Stringer and Mr Morris for organising this event and for giving up their weekend to accompany the children.



Battery Collection

Our school is recycling batteries to protect the planet (and for a chance to win book vouchers for our school).

We need your help - plus your child could win some fantastic eco-inspired prizes too!



How can you help?

1. Hunt out used batteries at home. We are collecting AA, AAA, C, D, 9V and button batteries.
2. Tape over the contacts of lithium (Li) and button batteries (see below).
3. Put them in a tied plastic bag (preferably reused)
4. Take them to our school's collection point at our school office.
5. Enter the prize draw at jointhepod.org/win

Safety first:

Not only is storing and recycling batteries safely great for the environment, it can also help reduce risks associated with batteries:

- Batteries can cause serious injury or death if swallowed, please keep batteries out of reach of small children and pets.
- Lithium and button batteries need to be taped so their contacts don't touch, as they could short circuit if they do.

Use sticky tape over the contacts (top and bottom of batteries). Button batteries can be placed in a line between two sections of sticky tape. Lithium batteries can look like any battery, but they will have lithium (Li) written on them.

Many thanks for your support and happy battery hunting!

?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 – Previous History Mystery object: Bison Licking Insect Bite is a prehistoric carving from the Paleolithic period, found in France.

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>



To find out more, please click on this link and fill in the form!

<https://forms.gle/YmnrxuYkbrXjZARt5>

(If you have trouble accessing, please contact your class representative and we will give you a hard copy)

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)

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.

Donations

We are kindly asking for donations of boxes of tissue for the classrooms. It is that time of year again where pollen is on the rise and we get through a lot. Any donations would be 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://hillingtonpcf.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.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.

House Point Winners this week: 25th April	St. Francis	317
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Date	Event
08/05/2025	VE Day Assembly
12/05/2025	SATS Week
19/05/2025	Walk to School Week
19/05/2025	Class Photos
22/05/2025	Fairtrade Day
26/05/2025-30/05/2025	Half term
02/06/2025	Term starts at 8:40am
02/06/25-05/06/2025	Bikeability -Year 6
10/06/2025	Year 1 Assembly
11/06/2025	Year 6 trip- Hyde Park Orienteering
12/06/2025	Year 2 trip – Tower of London