St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Fortnightly School Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026

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,

It has been a busy two weeks in school including sporting events, trips, visits and workshops. Please see below for some of the things we have been doing in school and also for details of events we have planned for the remainder of this term:

Years 3 to 6 Panathlon Event.

Well done to our KS2 Team for representing our school at this year's Hillingdon event, last week, at Oakwood Secondary School.

We are delighted to announce that our team came in 2nd place overall.

This year's event included a circuit of inclusive sports skills stations where each school team collected points. Specific activities included: Table Cricket, New Age Kurling, Boccia, Bat-and-ball game, Precision Bean Bag & Flight Path, Skittles and Basketball. Congratulations to all the pupils who took part! Second place is an amazing achievement!!

Year 6 Hyde Park Orienteering Trip

Our Year 6 pupils will travel to Hyde Park, on Monday, to take part in an orienteering day. The children will find out how to read a map, use a compass, and identify map keys before completing an orienteering challenge across the park. This trip was postponed from last year due to the extreme summer heat.

Year 5 Swimming Lessons

Our Year 5 pupils are taking part in swimming lessons, every day, throughout next week. Swimming is a compulsory, important part of the government's KS2 curriculum. The expectation is that all pupils (by the end of KS2) can-

- **Distance:** Swim competently, confidently, and proficiently over a distance of at least **25 metres** unaided.
- **Strokes:** Use a **range of strokes effectively** (such as front crawl, backstroke, and breaststroke).
- **Self-Rescue:** Perform **safe self-rescue** in different water-based situations (e.g., treading water, back flotation, and gripping pool sides or floating objects).

Chaplaincy Team - Formation Day

Our school Chaplaincy Team took part in a Formation Day at St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School on Friday 2nd October. The day started with prayer and reflection activities. The children were then supported in understanding their chaplaincy team role and in their planning for the year ahead. They have come away with an action plan linking their understanding to scripture and Catholic social teaching. We are very grateful to St. Bernadette's for including our school in this event.

Half Term Holiday

We break up for the October holiday, next week, on Friday 23rd October (usual time).

Monday 2nd November is a staff INSET day – our teachers will be taking part in an Educational Psychologist workshop looking at effective adaptions in Writing lessons.

All pupils return to school on **Tuesday 3rd November** and all 8.30am groups resume on this day.

SEN Coffee Morning and Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) Talk

Date: Tuesday 20th October
Time: 8.50am
Guest Speaker: The PCF will give a presentation looking at Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) in school - further details are provided below.

We are holding our next SEN Coffee morning on: Tuesday 20th October, from 8.50am, in our school Hall. Please 'buzz in' at our main entrance after dropping your child off at school (from 8.50am). We are delighted to announce that we will be joined by representatives from the Parent Carers' Forum who will give a short presentation about Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP).
Ordinarily Available Provision (OAP) is the core, everyday support and inclusive teaching that mainstream schools and nurseries must provide for all children—including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)—using their standard, existing budgets and resources.
The Hillingdon Council has produced a document detailing some of this support and inclusive teaching.
As it is a very long document (57 pages), we have asked The Parent Carers' Forum to go through the support that schools are expected to provide.
You can view the Hillingdon Council's OAP document here:
https://pre.hillingdon.gov.uk/downloads/file/786/hillingdon-ordinarily-available-provision

If you would like to attend (and you haven't already let Mr Ellis know), please email our school office to let us know how many seats you require by Monday 19th October (thank you). This will give us an indication of the quantity of refreshments to provide.
office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk
We hope you are able to make use of this excellent opportunity.

School Uniform Policy

We have been reminding all pupils of our School Uniform Policy over the last few weeks including the following:

- White shirt MUST be worn with the **yellow/bottle green school tie.**
- All pupils must wear **black shoes** that do not have coloured laces or decorations (not boots or open-toe sandals).
- Pupils should only wear **small, plain coloured hair bands, bows, beads and hair clips** that are in keeping with the school uniform colours (green, black or grey).
- Below shoulder length hair should be tied up for safety reasons.
- In colder weather, girls are able to wear grey trousers or dark grey tights to school **(no leg warmers or wide leg/ bootcut trousers please).**
- Pupils should only wear their PE kit (and trainers) to school on days they have PE.

You can view our full School Uniform Policy on our website including photographs of what this looks like in practice:
https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Uniform+Guidance&pid=48

PTA October Reminders for next week!

Dear parents/carers,
You are warmly invited to join us for our **PTA Annual General Meeting**.

Date: **Thursday, 22nd October 26 at 8pm** in the church hall (Our Lady of Lourdes & St Michael)

What to Expect

- Enjoy cheese, wine, and meet other parents in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- Discover more about our upcoming Christmas events.
- Learn about PTA financials
- Share your ideas and suggestions with us.
- Get involved and help support our wonderful school.

We're particularly keen to hear from anyone interested in shared roles, including Co-Treasurers, Co-Secretaries, and Co-Chairs, or any other help is appreciated.

Halloween Bake Sale
Don't forget our **Spooktacular Halloween Bake Sale Friday, 23rd October 26** from 3.15pm onwards (EY entrance)—come along for some spooky treats while supporting the school!

Online Christmas Shop: our online Christmas shop is **closing, Saturday, 24th October 26 by midnight**. Try to place all orders **by Wednesday 21st October 26** to help with any enquiries. You can order mugs, tea towels, cards and much more. If you have misplaced your order templates, please contact us.

Many thanks and see you all next week,
PTA team.
stmaryspta-uxbridge@outlook.com

Please help support our school by donating school supplies from our Amazon Wish List https://amzn.eu/fgZpVLv

Any purchase would be greatly appreciated

A Proud Moment for Our Year 6

We would like to extend a warm and heartfelt congratulations to our Year 6 pupils as they officially step into their new roles and responsibilities for the school year ahead!
This year, the process of securing these roles was an exceptional achievement. Every member of Year 6 applied for a position and took part in an interview with Mrs Hough and Mrs Taberer- we were incredibly impressed with the maturity, confidence and poise the children displayed throughout the entire interview process.
To mark this special milestone, every pupil has been awarded a commemorative green and yellow tie, which serves as a proud symbol of their roles and leadership within our school. All children have also received a certificate and badge in recognition of their hard work, dedication and commitment to their role.
As a new member of our school community, I was blown away by the positive outlook shared by the children during this process. Hearing them speak so fondly of their school was incredibly moving, with children sharing lovely reflections such as:
"Everyone respects each other and the lessons are fun!"
"I love the teachers and the way we learn."
"The teachers are fair and encouraging."

"Everyone is kind. I wouldn't change anything about the school."
Seeing our Year 6 pupils step up into these roles demonstrates British values in action. Through mutual respect, individual liberty and democracy, they are learning what it means to be responsible citizens. As our oldest role models, they are going to help us as leaders to shape the future of our school, ensuring it remains a kind, inclusive and thriving place for everyone.
We know our parents and carers will join us in celebrating their fantastic achievement, and we are so looking forward to hearing about their successes as they embark on their final year at St Mary's.

Mrs Hough

Our Year 6 pupils have been allocated the following important school roles:
Head Boy: George
Head Girl: Hannah
Deputy Head Boy: Alex
Deputy Head Girl: Elisabeth

Wellbeing Monitors: Venice; Evania
Admin/Office/Hall Monitors: Luca; Ida; River
Chaplaincy: Ezra; Tyler: Risha; Alexandra: Clementine
Sports Leads: Ellen Jane; Cillian; Sienna; Glacious
Eco Monitor: Daryna; James
Librarians: Rosie; Martino; Momoka; Sarah; Nahor
Computer Lead: Kevin; Janelle
House Point Capitains: Andria – St Francis; Niah – St Bernadettes; Daniel – St Thomas

School Lunch Orders
Please continue to order your child's FREE school lunch through the Orchard Contract Catering website:
https://www.theorchardcontractcatering.co.uk/#

October Half Term – Holiday Club
Unfortunately, due to essential building work, we are unable to host another Fun Fest club over the October half term holiday. We are lucky enough to be getting new KS1 and KS2 toilets and hand washing facilities as well as a new outdoor support room for various interventions.

Year 6 Pupils - Starting secondary school in September 2027
September 2027 admissions
If your child was born between **1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016**, they will be due to start secondary school in September 2027.
The application process for starting secondary school in September 2027 is now open and parents are able to submit their application online by 31st October.
Further information, including our school admissions brochure, key dates and how to apply, will be available on this page:
https://pre.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions/starting-secondary-school

School Tours – Prospective Parents
We are now offering school tours every Tuesday moring at 9.30am.
This is for new prospective parents only.
Please contact our school office if you are considering applying for your child to have a place in either our Nursery or Reception class.
Each tour will be limited to a maximum of four different families offered on a first come first served basis.

You can book a place, on a specific tour, by emailing our school office: office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk

Primary school applications

If you have a child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, you must apply for your child to start primary school in September 2027 by Thursday **15 January 2027**.
Application must also be submitted, by the deadline date ,to the local authourity and to the school . Schhol application forms can be collected from the school office or on the school website.
Application can be sent ,via email to admissions@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk. **The deadline for on-time applications was Friday 15 January 2027.** Further information, including our school admissions brochure, key dates and how to apply, will be available on this page:https://pre.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions/starting-primary-school

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

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

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

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

We offer 1:1 music lessons, within school hours, through the Stage Talent music company.
Book a Free one-to-one taster Music Lesson today.
These lessons are for pupils aged 4+ wishing to learn piano, guitar, ukulele or violin in our school.
Register by text: 07782503260
Please include:
Your child's name, age, music instrument
Or
register at: www.stagetalent.co.uk/register

Ways to Support Our School

Easyfundraising – Shop through easyfundraising with over 8,000 retailers, including Sainsbury's, M&S, Argos and Just Eat, and raise money for St Mary's at no extra cost. Sign up today!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk

School Lottery – Enter for your chance to win while raising funds for St Mary's. Every ticket helps!

https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/

Stikins – Order personalised name labels through our school fundraising link, and St Mary's receives a contribution too. Please use fundraising number (20871) and click YES at checkout!

https://www.stikins.co.uk/

Parent Kind webinars:

Parentkind offers free online webinars on supporting children with school, emotions, secondary school choices and more.

* Online via Zoom

* Registration required

You register online, select your child's school by postcode, choose the webinar, and complete a few questions.

Please follow the link for Autumn webinars:

https://www.parentkind.org.uk/your-pta-expert/parent-webinars

Diary Dates:

Upcoming Diary Dates	
Date	**Event**
19/10/26	Yr 6 Hyde Park Orienteering
19/10/26	Yr 5 Swimming
26/10/26-30/10/26	Half Term
02/11/26	Inset Day
03/11/26	School commences at 8:40am
18/12/26	School finishes at 12:15pm
04/01/27	Inset Day
05/01/27	School commences at 8:40am
15/02/27-19/02/27	Half Term
22/02/27	School commences at 8:40am
25/03/27	School finishes at 12:15pm
26/03/27-09/04/27	Easter Break
12/04/27	School commences at 8:40am
03/05/27	Early May Bank Holiday
31/05/27-04/06/27	Half Term
07/06/27	School commences at 8:40am
20/07/27	School finishes at 12:15pm for Summer holidays