



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 11th September 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.

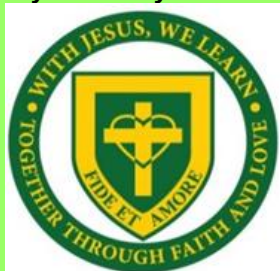
Pupil Bags in School

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,

We would like to wish a warm welcome to all the parents/carers, and children, who joined our school community this academic year. We are very much looking forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming Meet the Teacher Presentations and Macmillan Coffee Morning on 25th September (please see further details below). Our Senior Management Team are available to answer any questions that you make have during our morning drop off. We have an open door policy, after school, whereby you can speak to your child's classteacher. Please contact our school office if you would like to arrange a longer meeting with your child's classteacher.

It has been a busy first full week in school. On Wednesday, all staff received their annual Asthma, Anaphylaxis & Allergy Awareness Training from our school nurse. Please keep us updated of any changes to your child's medical needs. Due to recent changes to school allergen legislation, parents and carers are kindly asked not to bring birthday cakes, sweets, chocolate bars or party bags to school to share with their child's class mates.

School Website

You will find lots of useful information on our school website - including term dates, curriculum information and copies of important school policies:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/>

Meet the Teacher Presentations

Over the next two weeks, each teacher will share a short presentation talking about class routines, PE days, homework schedules etc.

These teacher presentations will take place, **from 2.45pm until about 3.15pm**, in our school Hall. There is no need to reserve a place – please just wait by the front entrance for a member of staff to open the door. The dates of these meetings are listed below:

Date of Meeting	Meeting for:
Monday 21st September	Year 6
Tuesday 22 nd September	Years 1 and 2
Wednesday 23 rd September	Year 5
Thursday 24th September (earlier time of 2.30pm)	Early Years
Friday 25 th September	Years 3 and 4

Please note: Early Years Parents meeting will take place at 2:30pm

Start of Term Mass – in School

Father Nicholas will visit school on Friday 18th September to lead our start of year Mass. All parents/carers are invited to attend at 2pm.

School Lunches

Our school lunches are prepared and delivered, to our premises, by the Orchard Catering company.

If you have any questions regarding orders, menus etc. please contact the Orchard company directly using these details:

office@theorchardcontractcatering.co.uk

Tel: 01895 917 777

All pupils are currently entitled to free school meals: please make use of this free entitlement by ordering your child a meal. Your child will only receive a free school lunch if you order one using the Orchard catering portal.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We would like to invite all parents to our coffee morning on Friday 25th September. If you are new to our school community, we would love to meet you and this would be an excellent opportunity to meet other family members. We will open up our front entrance to school (off of Rockingham Close) at 8.50am – just after the morning drop off. We hope to see you then.

8.30am Groups – Start Next Week

Our morning booster and pre-teaching groups start on Monday. Please only attend this group if your child has received a letter. We ask that pupils are ready at the front entrance, by 8.30am, each morning to be let into school. Please try to be on time as it can be disruptive if pupils arrive late for their group. If a child arrives late after 8.35am they will need to wait until the main gate opens on Rockingham Road. Thank you in advance.

Jackets and Rain Coats

We try to get pupils outside for a break as much as possible. Pupils will still have their breaks outside if it is spitting with rain. In the event of rain, or if rain is forecast, please ensure your child has a jacket or rain coat for their break. Thank you.

Welcome Back from St Mary's PTA!

A warm welcome back to all our **St Mary's families!** We hope you've had a wonderful summer and are ready for an **exciting new term.**

We look forward to another year of fun, fundraising and fantastic events for our children.

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 for a chance to win a £250 donation prize!**

<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/>

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make this another brilliant year for our children.

Here's to a fantastic new term!
St Mary's PTA team
(Danielle, Bea, Karen & Sobana)

Homework and Reading Record Books

The majority of classes set their homework (including Maths, English, spellings and xTables) every Thursday. Most pupils will be asked to hand their homework in every Tuesday morning. Each class carries out spelling tests every Wednesday. We ask that pupils read at home daily (at least 5 pages a night) and that parents sign their Reading Record book once they hear their child read.

Contacting School

We have an open door policy, after school, whereby parents can ask teachers any questions they have (please wait until all pupils have been dismissed). If you prefer, you can arrange a meeting, with your child's class teacher, by contacting our school office:

office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk

Our school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo), Mr Ellis, can also be contacted using this email address.



Breakfast & After School Club

We offer a breakfast and after school club, on our school premises, led by an outside company called Schoolfriendclubs.

A typical session will consist of:

- Breakfast (morning session) or healthy snack and refreshments
- A quiet space for reading and relaxing
- Arts and crafts
- Construction and Lego
- Sports activities
- Board games
- Computer-based games and educational programs

Sessions take place at the following times:

	Breakfast Club	After-School Club
Monday to Thursday	7.30am to start of school day	3.15 - 5.30pm
Friday	7.30am to start of school day	3.15 - 5.15pm

School Friend Clubs

- Website: www.schoolfriendclub.com
- Booking portal: <https://schoolfriendclub.magicbooking.co.uk>
- Contact number: 0333 355 7374

Staff allocation for this academic year

Class/Role	Teacher Name	Support Staff
Headteacher	Mrs Hough	
Nursery	Mrs Bowen	Miss Power
Reception	Mrs Chandarana (Assistant Head, Early years Lead)	Mrs Still Mrs O'Connor
Year 1	Miss Gahan (KS1 Lead)	Mrs Inkpen
Year 2	Mrs Rowland	Mrs Charlton
Year 3	Mrs Parry	Mrs Horswood
Year 4	Miss Haji	Mrs Sullivan
Year 5	Mr Stringer	Miss Bradford
Year 6	Mr Morris (KS2 Lead)	Mrs George
Teacher PPA Cover	Mrs Kumar (1 day a week) Mrs Goodheart (3 days) Mrs Park (2 days)	
Special Needs	Mr Ellis (SENDCo and Assistant Headteacher)	Miss Wall, Mrs Bourne, Mrs Spindler and Ms Wilcox

If you would like to arrange a meeting, with your child's class teacher, please contact our school office: office@stmarysuxbridge.org.uk

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 opens on **Tuesday 1 September**. From this date, you will be able to submit your application online.

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>

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary – New Governor Request

St Bernadette Catholic Primary School are looking to recruit new governors to join their governing board. Please see the information below:

'We have vacancies for new foundation governors to join our cheerful, dedicated, and supportive team. We are looking for people who are willing to learn, engage, and participate fully in the work of the board. You do not need to have any specific experience in governance as full training and support will be given, but we are looking for people that have the time to commit to the role. Being a governor is a hugely rewarding role with an opportunity to learn new skills as well as use your own skills in a new environment. We are a friendly bunch, from a range of backgrounds, with a common interest in strategically working with our trust and school leaders to make our fantastic school the very best place for our children to learn and to thrive. We work through a mix of in-person and virtual meetings and are always happy to try and flex to accommodate work and life commitments. We really value people who bring unique perspectives and new ideas to the team. Could this be you?

We do understand the pressures that everyone is under and the challenge of adding being a governor to your already busy lives, but if you would like to learn more about being a school governor, please get in touch with either of our co-chair of governors for an informal chat to answer any questions you may have':

Deb Long at dlong@stbernadetteschool.co.uk or

Jo Marsh at jmarsh@stbernadetteschool.co.uk

Please do take a look at the [St Bernadette Catholic Primary School website](#) and there is more information about being a foundation governor [here](#).



AEROBICS BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to our bronze medalist, Lora in Y5!!! Well done Lora for working so hard and congratulations on your achievement.

Lora participated in the modality of trios at the Aerobics British Championships, which took place last July in Telford. The team Heathrow trio presented a wonderful and catchy routine, which won a well deserved bronze medal.

This is the second time a St Mary's pupil gets a British Championships podium, following Martino's last year. Best of luck to both gymnasts who will be participating at the British Gymnastics National Aerobics Cup in Stoke-on-Trent in October!!!

Our Lunch Box Policy

We ask that parents do not send the following items into school in lunch boxes:

- Nuts or items containing nuts (due to allergies).
- No fizzy drinks or squash/juice. We are a 'water only' school.
- No chocolate bars or sweets.
- *No cakes, biscuits or cereal bars containing or coated in chocolate.
- No Crisps.

***Pupils are allowed to bring in cakes/biscuits on any day as long as these items don't contain chocolate.**

All of our school lunches (provided by the Orchard) need to meet the strict school food standards. We only serve water as a drink at lunch times.



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/>

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:

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

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/>

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 Mrs Hough, the Designated Safeguarding lead, if you have any concerns about a child. You can also call Hillingdon Stronger Families Hub on [01895 556006](tel:01895 556006). If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.

It is all our responsibility to safeguard children

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.

Wellbeing: Little Things, Big Difference

September - Belonging and Welcome

As we begin a new school year, we are reminded that every child is known, loved, and called to be part of our school family.

Wellbeing tip for families: Speak positively about school routines and friendships so children feel reassured and ready to belong.

Pupil challenge: Learn something new about someone in your class or family.

Reflection question: What helps you feel welcome and included?

Psalm 139:14 - "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Education Sunday- Sunday 13th September

Education Sunday is an annual opportunity for the Church to pray for everyone involved in education and to celebrate the vital mission of schools, colleges and universities. This is an opportunity for schools to strengthen the relationship between school and parish and consider - How can we help our parish community to understand and celebrate the mission of our school?

Please read a letter written by Rt Rev Marcus Stock, Bishop of Leeds and Chair of the CES, to all those within Catholic education to mark the occasion, [click here](#) to read.

Diary Dates:

Upcoming Diary Dates	
Date	Event
18/09/26	Yr 2 Odds Farm trip
28/09/26	Individual School photos
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