



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 26th September 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,

On Monday, we were visited by the Headteacher of Douay Martyrs School. She talked to our Year 6 parents about the transition from primary to secondary school and also about the arrangements for applying for a school place.

On Tuesday, all of our teachers joined staff (from across all of the Catholic Schools in Hillingdon) for a Deanery Mass at St. Swithun Wells' Church. It was lovely to come together as a wider Catholic school community to pray for a successful year ahead.

This week, our KS2 pupils have completed a range of activities as a part of Fairtrade Fortnight (which started on Monday) – please see further details below.

NEW - Wraparound Care for our Nursery pupils

We are now offering Wraparound Care for our Nursery pupils through our School Friend before and after school clubs.

Sessions start at 7.30am in the morning and finish at 5.30pm each evening (5.15pm every Friday).

Nursery pupils who attend the morning session will be taken to our Nursery setting after the breakfast club. Similarly, if you sign your child up for the After School Club they will be collected from Nursery (by School Friend staff) at the end of each day.

You can find out more information and book here:

<https://www.schoolfriendclub.com/our-clubs/st-mary-s-rc-primary-school-hillingdon/>

Fairtrade Fortnight



Fairtrade Fortnight started on Monday – you may have seen our new banner at the front of school. In our KS2 classes (Years 4 to 6), the children have been talking about what Fairtrade means and the difference we can make by choosing Fairtrade products. This morning, the children joined an online School Assembly with Nancy Githaiga, a Fairtrade Tea Farmer from Kenya. Next term, we have planned a Geography topic for our Year 4

pupils exploring fairtrade and cocoa production in the Dominican Republic. We are currently renewing our Fairtrade School Award and our commitments as a fairtrade school. **A big thank you to Mr and Mrs Kirby for all their help with renewing our school accreditation and also for sourcing our new Fairtrade banner.**

You can find out more about fairtrade and how you can get involved using the link below. This website also includes details of events and discounts on fairtrade products including chocolate and ice-cream. The Co-op is just one of the shops offering deals throughout Fairtrade Fortnight:

<https://www.fairtrade.net/uk-en.html>

Grant Award of £1,000.00 – New Library Books

We are delighted to let you know that following the Tesco Stronger Starts vote in our local Tesco stores, between 1st April 2025 and 30th June 2025, our project to purchase new books for our library came in second place and has been chosen by Tesco Customers to receive a grant award of £1,000.00! A big thank you to everybody who voted for our school project.

School Photographs

Our school photographer (from the Tempest company) will visit school, on Monday, to take individual photographs of pupils. We will send home details of how you can purchase these photographs online after she visits. All pupils require their full uniform including a school tie.

Curriculum Information

We have just updated the curriculum overviews on our school website. These overviews tell you the topics that your child will cover each term. You can find a copy of them on our school website using this link:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Overviews&pid=60>

PTA AGM

The PTA AGM will take place on the **29th September, at 8pm, in our Church hall**. The purpose of this Annual General Meeting (AGM) is to provide our school community an annual opportunity to review the PTA's past year's activities including fundraising, finances and to elect a new committee. All parents are invited to attend.

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/>

Year 6 Pupils - Starting secondary school in September 2026

From Monday 1st September, you can apply for a school place if your child is due to start secondary school in September 2026.

Key dates

- **The deadline for on-time applications is Friday 31 October 2025.**
- National offer day is Monday 2 March 2026.

You can find more information on the Hillingdon LA website:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/secondary>

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/>

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>

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/fgZpVLv>

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://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

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.

Diary Dates:

Date	Event
29/09/25	Individual photographs
06/10/25	Libraries Week
20/10/25	Year 6 -Test Week
23/10/25	Winners of House Points Non- Uniform Day
24/10/25	Year 5 School Trip – Hampton Court
27/10/25	Half term
03/11/25	Inset Day
04/11/25	School starts at 8:40am