



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 12th 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,

It's been a busy first full week in school. On Monday, Father Nicholas visited school to lead our start of year mass. It was lovely to come together as a school community to pray for a successful year ahead – thank you to the parents who joined us in this celebration.

Throughout this week, each teacher met with parents to talk about class routines, homework schedules, curriculum information, allocated PE days etc. Our final meeting (for Year 5 parents) will take place this afternoon at 2.45pm. Next week, we will upload these presentations (to our school website) for any parents who couldn't make any of the meetings.

Our Lunch Box Policy – Pupil School Council

As a part of their work towards our Healthy Schools London Award, our Pupil School Council would like to remind everyone of our Lunch Box Policy.

We ask that pupils do not bring in the following items in lunch boxes:

- 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**. All other cakes, biscuits and bars are okay.
- No Crisps.

Thank you for your help with our Healthy School accreditation.

Pupil Premium Funding

If your child has ever been in care, is adopted, or has a parent serving in the armed forces, they may be eligible for additional funding through the Pupil Premium. This funding is used directly to support your child's learning and wellbeing in school. We encourage families to let us know if this applies, as it can make a real difference to the opportunities we can provide. All information shared with us is treated in the strictest confidence.

St. Mary's PTA

Our Parent Teacher Association PTA would like to welcome any new families who have just joined our school community. The PTA is a volunteer organisation that brings together parents, teachers, and other school staff to improve the school environment and enrich the learning experience for children through fundraising and community building. We would like to thank our PTA representatives for taking the time to make up 'welcome bags' for all parents of children in our early years setting. These packs included tea, coffee, biscuits, pens, tissues and information about our PTA's work in school.

Parent Survey – House Point Reward

This academic year, we are planning to promote more teamwork with each class. When joining St. Mary's, each pupil is allocated a House group and the children are awarded House Points for good work, effort and behaviour. The three House groups are St. Francis, St. Thomas and St. Bernadette. Each week, we will announce the House group that has been awarded the most House Points (this information will also be shared with parents through our Weekly Newsletter). As a staff, we have been talking about how we can promote House Points and how we can provide pupils with more of a motivation to want to earn them. We are considering giving the House with the most House Points a reward at the end of each term. We are proposing letting the House with the most House Points wear their own clothes to school on a particular date during the last week of term. We already reward individual pupils (for good work/behaviour) through our weekly Reward Assembly and certificates so this would be an extra incentive to earn points for their House team. Before putting this reward into place, we wanted to gain parent views through a short survey. This survey was emailed home at the start of this week. Thank you to all the parents who have completed it online. If you haven't shared your views there is still time – the survey link will expire on Tuesday.

8.30am Pre-teaching and Booster Groups

Each class runs a before school booster group. If your child has been selected to join one of our groups we ask that pupils are waiting at the front entrance by 8.30am each morning. It is very disruptive for the groups if pupils arrive late as staff instructions then need to be repeated. Any child arriving more than 5 minutes late will not be able to join the group but instead will need to wait until 8.40am to be let into school via the Rockingham Road entrance. Thank you for your understanding.

iPay – School Meal Orders

All pupils from Reception to Year 6 are entitled to a free school hot lunch as long as parents order one from the iPay website:

<https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/>

We ask that parents do not order **gluten free meals** unless their child has an intolerance to gluten. 22 parents ordered the gluten free fish fingers today but we only have 4 pupils on our records as having an intolerance to gluten. These meals are individually packed and unfortunately we only have a limited supply. Thank you for your understanding.



Martino – Silver Medallist

Following on from our previous Newsletter, we are delighted to be able to tell you that Martino (Year 5) won a silver medal, in his category, in the Aerobic Gymnastics British Championship that took place in July. This is an amazing achievement - especially considering that Martino injured his right arm before the competition and the British Gymnastics physio thought he may have a small fracture. The day before the competition, he spent six hours in A&E and he was only clear to participate one hour before the competition. He did amazingly well considering the stress and tiredness – well done for not giving up!

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. You can find more information on the Hillingdon LA website:

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

Local Authority Training for Parents

The Local Authority has just produced a training leaflet for parents. We will attach a copy of this leaflet when we email this Newsletter to you.

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/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.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
Fri 12 th Sept-2:45pm	Meet the teacher -Year 5 parents
15/09/25	Morning Booster group start at 8:30am
22/09/25 at 2.30 pm	Douay Martyrs School talk for parents of Year 6
29/09/25	Individual photographs