



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 14th February 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.

P.E. Lessons

Although each class is timetabled for PE lessons, this often changes due to wet weather and/or extra sports coach sessions.

All pupils (Years 1 to 6) should bring their P.E kits into school **every Monday** and then take them home at the end of the day on Friday. Thank you.

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.



Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to all the family members who purchased cakes from our Year 6 bake sale yesterday. The class raised an amazing **£183.55** – thank you to our pupil Eco Council for organising this event. Following their class talk a few weeks ago, our Year pupils have decided that they will send all of the funds raised to the charity - Water Aid.



On Wednesday, our Year 2 pupils took part in Pedestrian Training led by the Hillingdon Local Authority Travel Team. The children walked around our local area with a focus on developing basic pedestrian skills. They were taught the Green Cross Code and how to cross roads safely. The team also talked about travelling in cars and the importance of always wearing a seat belt. It would be helpful if Year 2 parents could reinforce these travel safety messages at home and when travelling. We are hoping that this will be a regular event each year.

Our Year 6 pupils have been completing practise SATs papers this week. This gave them the opportunity to get used to the layout of the tests and to enable us to identify pupils who may need further support in particular areas.

School Lunches

All pupils are entitled to a free school lunch but only if parents order through the iPay website.



There were a lot of pupils without an order, or packed lunch, this week (11 pupils on Monday). Unfortunately we are not sent any extra school lunches which means we are unable to provide meals to pupils without an order. Parents will be phoned if their

child doesn't have an order and they will be asked to bring in a packed lunch.

You can log-in or create an iPay account here:

<https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/IPI/Account/LogOn>

SEN Coffee Morning – First Week Back

Hillingdon PCF are returning for another coffee morning for parents/carers of SEN children attending our school during the first week back after the February break.

Where: School Hall

Date: Friday 28th February 2025

Time: 9am start (tea and coffee will be served from 8.50am).



Please buzz into our office using the intercom at our main parent entrance.

Come along for an informal chat with Nicola and Louise (from the PCF), who will also have some goody bags to hand out.

There will also be a short presentation looking at the Graduated Approach to SEN support in schools. This will look at Ordinarily Available Provision for all pupils (OAP), more targeted support and EHCPs for pupils with more complex needs.

Please note: This Coffee Morning is only for parents of pupils with SEN.

Half Term Holiday

We break up TODAY (**usual time**) for the half term break.

All pupils return to school on Monday 24th February – all groups/interventions will resume on this day. We hope you have a safe and restful break.

Book Week 2025

We will be celebrating Book Week this year the week beginning 3rd March. We have lots of fun activities planned for that week to encourage children to foster a love of reading. Please find a list of dates below.

Monday 3rd: Assembly and activities in class

Tuesday 4th: Bedtime stories 4pm to 4:45pm, children from Reception through to Year Six are invited back for bedtime stories in their classroom, children can return in their pyjamas with a favourite book (and of course we will be serving milk and cookies).

Thursday 6th: World Book Day

Children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

Friday 7th: We are delighted to welcome Emma Yarlett (author of Nibbles, Dragon Post and Orion in the Dark) to our school, she will be leading workshops and an assembly. We are asking for a contribution of £2 per child, paid via school money.

Competition Time - Design your own Dragon

Dragon Post tells the story of a young boy, called Alex, who opens his door one day to find a dragon. What if you found a dragon? What would it look like? Where would it live? What would it eat? Does your dragon have any special powers or abilities?

Draw or make your dragon then bring it to school by Tuesday 4th March. Emma Yarlett will choose the best designs from each class and you will receive a prize.

Thank you,
Miss Gahan



Fun Fest: Half Term Holiday Club

This year's February Half Term holiday club runs next week from Monday 17th to Friday 21st February.

Please refer to the Fun Fest website for further details:

<https://fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge/>

School Friend Clubs

School Friend Clubs leads both a breakfast club and an after school club for all pupils (from Reception up).

schoolfriendclubs

Parents can book using these details -

Website: www.schoolfriendclub.com

Booking portal: <https://schoolfriendclub.magicbooking.co.uk>

Tel: 07925 033120

British Science Week Poster Competition

Create a poster which fits in with the theme of 'Change and adapt'. Mrs Rowland will then select the five best creations and submit them for a chance of winning an array of prizes.

Kit List:

Paper (A4 or A3)

Creative materials such as: pens, pencils, scissors, glue, watercolours, paint, crayons, pipe cleaners, felt, thread, wool, foil, clay, string, beads, stamps, foam, pompoms

Instructions:

Encourage children to think about change and adaptation – what it means to them and how it relates to science they've learnt about – to come up with ideas to include in their poster. Here are some points and questions to get you going:

- Get children to think about ways that they might have changed or adapted to new experiences and places as they've grown.
- What about change and adaptation in the world, and beyond? How do plants and animals adapt to a changing environment? Do the stars and planets in space change?
- Technology changes all the time, how is it changing our lives? Is it always for the better?

Make your poster:

Once they've done their thinking, it's time for children to get creative! Posters must be A4 or A3 in size. Once they've been submitted to Mrs Rowland, she can only choose 5 to submit online for judging. Children can use pop-up pictures, pull out tabs or use materials such as pencils, paints, crayons and paper to create their posters.

Deadline:

Posters to be handed back to Mrs Rowland by **Friday 21st March 2025**.

For more information, please visit www.britishscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition/



Age Restrictions on Social Media

Pupils cover work on online safety every term. We have been reminding our KS2 children of these age restrictions on social media.

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.

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://hillingdonpcf.com/>

Speech Link – Parent Portal

Speech and language support for parents and carers:

<https://speechandlanguage.info/parents>

Tiny Happy People

The BBC's Tiny Happy People website is here to help you develop your child's language skills. Explore our simple activities and play ideas and find out about babies and toddlers' amazing early development:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

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>

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.

House Point Winners this week:	St.Thomas	204
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Spring 2025 - Diary Dates

Please visit our school website for Term dates:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=45>

Date	Event
17/02/2025	Half Term Holiday starts
17/03/2025	Test Week
24/03/2025	Year 5 Swimming
24/03/2025	World Autism Awareness Week
02/04/2025	Year 2 Trip Roald Dahl Museum
04/04/2025	End of term. School finishes at 12:15pm
22/04/2025	Term starts at 8:40am