St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Fortnightly School Newsletter

Friday 2nd 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,

We held our last Meet the Teacher meeting on Wednesday evening. We hope you found these meetings useful. There is lots of information for parents on our website including our 'Curriculum' pages and an overview of the topics that each class will cover this year:
https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Overviews&pid=60

We have an open door policy after school. If you need to speak to your child's classteacher, please wait until they have dismissed their class. Our next Parents' Evening will take place in January. This will be a chance to discuss assessment results and there will also be an opportunity for you to look at your child's books.

There will be no newsletter next week as we are moving to a fortnightly school newsletter.

Pupil Photographs

Our school photographer (Tempest) visited school on Monday to take all individual pupil photographs. We will send home further details of how parents can order these photographs as soon as we have this information from Tempest.

Staff – Deanery Mass

All of our teachers attended a Deanery Mass on Tuesday evening at Botwell House Catholic School. This Mass was attended by staff from the Douay Martyrs Secondary School and staff from across all of the Hillingdon Primary Schools. The service was led by Bishop Jim Curry and Canon Nicholas. It was lovely coming together, as a wider school Catholic community, at the start of this academic year.

National Poetry Day

Yesterday was the National Poetry Day. Our pupils have been sharing poems and each class and also completing poetry themed activities. These activities have included reciting poems, comprehension based on a poem and writing their own poem.

Watches in School

We ask that pupils do not bring in expensive smart watches that have internet connectivity. Pupils may wear small watches to school. If pupils do wear a watch to school, we would prefer that this watch is an analogue watch that can help them to tell the time. Please do not send your child into school wearing a large, bulky watch that could cause injury to another child when playing. Thank you.

Years 3 – 6 Sporting Panathlon Event.

A group of our Key Stage 2 (KS2) pupils are visiting Oakwood Secondary School, on Tuesday, to take part in this year's Hillingdon Panathlon event. This year's event will include a circuit of inclusive sports skills stations where teams collect points. Specific activities include: Table Cricket, New Age Kurling, Boccia, Bat-and-ball game, Precision Bean Bag & Flight Path, Skittles and Basketball. We would like to wish all the pupils taking part our best of luck.

We are excited to celebrate our House Feast Days throughout the school year!

To mark these special occasions, we invite children to wear **one item of clothing or an accessory alongside their regular school uniform in their House colour** on their specific celebration day.

Here are a few upcoming examples of how we will celebrate:

- **St. Francis House:** The Feast of St. Francis falls on Sunday, October 4th, so children in this house are invited to wear **one item of green** on **Monday, October 5th**
- **St. Bernadette House:** We will celebrate this feast day on **Friday, April 16th** with children wearing one item of blue.
- **St. Thomas the Apostle House:** We will celebrate this feast day on **Friday, July 2nd** with children wearing one item of red.

Please note that children should still wear their **regular school uniform** alongside their single coloured item. **This single coloured item could include: a hair accessory, extra item of clothing, socks, a badge or the coloured T-shirt they wore at Sports Day representing their house etc.** We will send out reminders closer to the date for each individual House celebration.

Thank you for your continued support of our pupils in celebrating our school's saints.

Chaplaincy Team Formation Day

Our school Chaplaincy Team are very much looking forward to their Formation Day at St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School today. The day will start with prayer and the children will be supported in understanding their chaplaincy team role. They will then be supported in their planning for the year ahead - linking their understanding to scripture and Catholic social teaching. We are very grateful to St. Bernadette's for including our school in this event.



School Lunches

As you are aware, we moved to a new school lunch provider at the start of this academic year. We have been talking to pupils about their lunches, this week, and the responses have been really positive.

Yesterday the Orchard held a special themed day titled 'The Orchard Extravaganza.' This circus themed day included a special menu which was really well received – especially the cookies!

We would like to encourage as many pupils as possible to order a FREE school lunch. We now have 5 different menu options, each day, including two meat options, vegetarian choice, rolls, jacket potatoes and specific allergen free meals. We are also sent lots of fresh salad bar options every day – the raisins and banana chips are particularly popular.

Please order your free meal through the Orchard website here:

https://www.theorchardcontractcatering.co.uk/#



Packed Lunches

What should a packed lunch consist of?

Lunch Box Policy

Never allowed in Lunch Boxes ❌
• Sugary soft drinks including squash, juice and fizzy drinks (we are a '**water only**' school – see further details below). • Confectionery such as chocolate bars or sweets. Cakes, biscuits or cereal bars **containing or coated in chocolate.** • Crisps • Hot food/drinks, items of food on skewer sticks and meat on bones e.g. chicken drumsticks (due to health and safety reasons) • Nuts (including Nutella chocolate spread) • Fruit Winders • Prawns/shellfish

Grapes: Please cut in quarters or at least halved lengthwise due to the risk of choking

Parents are discouraged from including the following items.
Alternatives are indicated in the right column

Item	As an alternative please include
Snacks such as crisps	Instead, include vegetables and fruit (with no added sugar, salt or fat). Savoury crackers or breadsticks served with fruit, vegetables or dairy food are also a good choice, e.g. cheese spread and crackers.
Confectionary, such as chocolate-coated biscuits and cakes.	Cakes and biscuits are allowed but encourage your child to eat these as part of a balanced meal. Healthier alternatives include a small tub of rice pudding, malt loaf, scone or current bun.
Meat products such as sausage rolls, individual pies, corned meat and sausages/chipolatas.	Choose non-processed alternatives such as chicken drumsticks, pasta salad or mixed salad, or ham and pineapple pizza slice.

USEFUL LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

- Home - Food for Life
- School food standards: resources for schools - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
- The Eatwell Guide

Parents can view our full Lunch Box Policy on our website here:
https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=41

School Football Team

Our school football team played St. Catherine's on Wednesday. All of the players played brilliantly winning this match 5-2. The goal scorers are as follows:

- Cillian (Yr6) – 2 goals
- Shiloh (Yr5) – 1 goal
- George. T (Yr6) – 1 goal
- Myles (Yr4) – 1 goal



Fun Fest – Holiday Club



Unfortunately, due to essential building work, we are unable to host another Fun Fest club over the October half term holiday. Fun Fest do not offer a club over the two week Christmas break.
Our first holiday club has been scheduled for the week of **Monday 15th February 2027**.

Places can be booked, via the Fun Fest website, nearer to this time.

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.

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