



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

## School Newsletter

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### Morning Drop-off

All pupils (from Reception to Yr6) should 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 set days for PE, this sometimes changes due to wet weather and/or extra sports sessions.

All pupils (Years 1 to 6) should bring their P.E kits into school **every Monday** and then take them home every 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,

We hope that you found this week's Parents Evening meetings useful. If you have any further questions, you can speak to your child's class teacher, after school, or please contact our school office. It was lovely to see some of you at our Curriculum Open afternoon on Wednesday afternoon. Our Year 6 pupils enjoyed showing parents around our school and our Rights Knights group gave a talk about the work they will be doing this year to promote our children's rights. This is a part of the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) we are working towards. You can watch a short video on the RRSA website providing further details:

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/>

### October Holiday & INSET Day

The Half Term Holiday is next week from Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct until Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. The FunFest Club will once again be offering a holiday club on our school premises – please see the information provided below.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November is a staff training day and school is closed to all pupils.** The LA Inclusion Team will spend the whole day in school leading SEN training with our teachers and Brunel University lecturers will be working with our staff to carry out a school Sensory Audit.

All pupils return to school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November – our 8.30am groups will also resume on this day.

### Kindness Week

We will be celebrating Kindness Week during our first week back after the holiday. We have planned a range of activities including a special assembly, a kindness Reward Assembly, PSHE work and an opportunity to be extra kind to a 'secret friend'.

### School Lunches

Please continue to order online through the iPay website.

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

**Currently parents can only order 2 weeks in advance.** We met with our school meals provider (Accent) this week and they have agreed to extend this time shortly after the half term holiday.

### Parents Tour - prospective parents

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November (first day back) we are holding an open morning at 9.15am for prospective parents.

### Year 5 Swimming

Year 5 pupils will start their swimming lessons on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November for a one-week course. Pupils require swimming shorts (boys), a one-piece swimming costume (girls), a towel and a swimming hat.

## Digital Smart Watches

Pupils may wear basic watches for which they and their parents accept responsibility. Buying your child an analogue watch, with numbers from 1 to 12, can help them to learn the time. Children are not allowed to wear any watches which have cellular, Bluetooth or Wi-fi connectivity. They cannot wear any device with a recording capability or the ability to take photographs. No watches/electronic items are allowed that enable pupils to communicate with other mobile devices whilst they are in school. Thank you in advance.

## October Half-term Holiday Club

The poster is green and features the 'Fun Fest' logo at the top center. Below the logo, it says 'HOLIDAY CLUB'. The central image shows a group of children in costumes, with the text 'Book Now!' overlaid. Below this, it says 'October Half-Term' and '28th October - 1st November'. The location is 'St Mary's Catholic Primary School' and the website is 'www.fun-fest.co.uk/uxbridge'. The email address 'Uxbridge@funfestholidayclub.co.uk' is at the bottom. The poster is decorated with various activity icons: 'WATER TOWNS', 'ORIGAMI', 'MONEY MATHS', 'PUZZLES & GAMES', 'ARTS & CRAFTS', 'FUN DAY FESTIVAL', and 'FUN DRESSUPS'.

## 500 Words Competition

Pupils brought their completed story home, this week, for parents to submit online (before 9pm on Friday 8th November). Please follow the link below to submit your child's work and remember to read all the guidelines.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zqc8mbk>

**'500 Words is finally open for entries, it's time to get writing! Submit your stories here before 9pm on Friday 8 November 2024.**

There are two age categories: **5-7 and 8-11-year-olds**. All children need to do is write a story they would love to read in 500 Words or less.

We would love children of all abilities to enter; **spelling, punctuation and grammar** are not marked - it's all about creativity!

50 finalists will be invited to go to a glamorous **grand final** at Buckingham Palace in February next year, where the bronze, silver and gold winners in each category will have their stories read out by celebrities. There are also lots of **prizes to be won** - each winner will take home a bundle of books and the gold winners also win 500 books for their school library.

Not only that, the winning stories will receive an original **illustration** from **Dapo Adeola, Nigel Parkinson, Lydia Monks, Momoko Abe, Rob Biddulph or Yasmeen Ismail**.

It's incredibly important to us that children of all abilities and backgrounds are able to take part in the competition; therefore, each school that enters a story and receives 50% free school meals or more, is entitled to a £50 National Book Token and three £10 book tokens for their pupils.' (BBC 500 Words Competition)

Kind regards,  
Miss Gahan

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

On Monday our school librarians carried out a survey in different classes to find out what books each year group would like to read. I have set up a fundraising page on the 'Best Books for Schools' website so that with your help and support we can purchase the books that your children would like to read. Please click on the link below and start donating.

Kind regards,

Miss Gahan

Thank you so much to all the families who have already donated. We have already raised £190!

<https://www.bestbooksforschools.com/community/wishlist/?id=6059082318043>

### **Starting Secondary School 2025**

If you have a child born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014, you must apply for your child to start secondary school in September 2025.

You must apply by: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – further information here:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/8758/Starting-secondary-school-September-2025>

If you regularly attend Our Lady of Lourdes church and your child has been baptised, the CCP school forms can be signed on the following dates only: -

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 4pm- 5:30pm

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 3:30pm – 4:30pm.

Appointments now available on sheet at the back of the church.

### **Starting Reception School 2025**

If you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, you must apply for your child to start Reception in September 2025.

If you regularly attend Our Lady of Lourdes church and your child has been baptised, the CCP school forms can be signed on the following dates only: -

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024- 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – 11:30 am – 1.00pm

You must apply by: 15<sup>st</sup> January 2025 – further information on to the links below:

[www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/schooladmissions) or email [admissions@hillingdon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@hillingdon.gov.uk).

You also need to fill the Supplementary forms for our school that can be obtained from the school website or the school office.

***For the Nursery Children, the CCP school forms, for Nursery 2025, can be signed on the following dates: -***

***Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 3pm – 5:30pm***

***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025- 11:30am \_ 12:30pm***

Wednesday, 16th October 2024

Face to Face Information sessions at

9:30-10:30am  
or  
11-12noon

at the  
The Beck Theatre, Grange Road, Hayes  
UB3 2UE



### 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>

**What are the age restrictions on social media?**

Age Group	Platforms
13	Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Kik, Ask.fm, Houseparty, Periscope, Tumblr, Reddit, Pinterest
13+	Whatsapp, YouTube, WeChat, Whisper, Yubo <small>(13+ means with parental consent)</small>
16	LinkedIn
18	Tinder, Bumble

### 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](mailto: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.

### School Friend Clubs -our onsite breakfast and after school club provider:

Website: [www.schoolfriendclub.com](http://www.schoolfriendclub.com)

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

Tel: 0333 355 7374

## **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>

### 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](http://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.

<b>House Point Winners this week:</b>	<b>St. Francis</b>	<b>244</b>
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## UPCOMING EVENTS - Autumn Term Dates 2024

Please visit our school website for Term dates:

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

Date	Event
28/10/24 - 1/11/24	Half Term Holiday
4/11/24	Teacher INSET (school closed to all pupils)
05/11/24	Pupils back to school - Kindness Week
05/11/24	Open morning at 9.15am for prospective parents
18/11/24 - 22/11/24	Swimming -Year 5
20/11/24	Flu vaccination
19/11/24	Open morning at 9.15am for prospective parents
25/11/24	Test Week -Year 6
29/11/24	National No Pens Day
02/12/24 - 06/12/24	Test Week
12/12/24	Early Years Christmas Production (2:15pm)
18/12/24	KS1 Christmas Production (2:15pm)
20/12/24	End of term. Finish at 12:15pm (no hot lunch)
06/01/25	School opens - start of Spring Term 2025