



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 14th November 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,

Tuesday was Remembrance Day. We held a two minute silence to remember the people who have lost their lives in past World Wars. Each class also took part in an age appropriate lesson looking at the significance of Remembrance Day.

Yesterday, our Year 3 pupils took part in a Volcanoes and Earthquakes workshop led by a representative from the Freshwater Theatre Company. Led by an 'Earth Explorer' they took an imaginary journey to some of the world's most dangerous places and they visited the sites of natural disasters. The children found out about the different stages of a volcano and the causes and effects of an earthquake. With storytelling, role-play, and hands-on activities, this workshop was an exciting and engaging way to explore aspects of this term's Year 3 Geography topic: 'Why do people live near volcanoes?' Throughout the last two weeks we have been using a class set of Virtual Reality Headsets to help bring some of our curriculum topics to life. This has included experiencing moments & historical sites from the past as well as exploring far away environments such as the Amazon rainforest. This technology resource has enabled some fantastic writing opportunities! These headsets were kindly loaned to us through our partnership with the ACS International School in Uxbridge.

Over the next two weeks, each class (Year 1 upwards) will have the chance to build some models using our new Spike Lego kits and then to control them using computer programs. We were able to purchase these kits as a result of PTA funding. The classes who have used the kits so far have really enjoyed their hands on coding lessons.

Christmas Fair

We are very much looking forward to next week's Christmas Fair.

This will take place on **Friday (21st)** in our school hall.

Time: 3.15 – 5.15pm

Our PTA have planned lots of stalls including luxury item & sweet cup tombolas, a nearly new toy stall, arts & crafts, Christmas games, cakes and other refreshments (further details from our PTA below).

Thank you for all the generous donations this week.

Help Fill Our Christmas Toy Tombola & Luxury Stall!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

We're getting ready for our Christmas Fayre (21/11/25) and would love your help to make it sparkle.

We're collecting:

- New or nearly-new toys for our Toy Tombola
- Luxury gifts or treats (chocolates, candles, pamper items, wine, festive goodies) for our Luxury Tombola

Please bring donations in a plastic bag and leave them near the Early Years entrance table up until Wednesday 19/11/2025.

Every little gift helps spread some Christmas cheer and makes our Christmas Fair truly magical! Thank you for your help and your festive spirit, PTA team.



Non-Uniform Day

We are holding a Non-Uniform Day next Wednesday (19th November). This non-uniform day is to say thank you to all the families who have donated nearly new toys, sweet cups and luxury items to be used at our upcoming Christmas Fair. This day is the final day we will be collecting these donations. Thank you.

Kind Donation - Hellenic Society



We were kindly donated a big box of replica Ancient Greek artefacts this week. As a part of their History lessons, pupils explore artefacts (and other historical sources) to help develop their understanding of the past. These objects will be used by our Upper Key Stage 2 pupils (Years 5 and 6) in their History lessons.

For almost a century and a half the Hellenic Society has been the leading organization for the study of Greece with an international membership across all ages and walks of life. It maintains a world class library and publishes internationally acclaimed journals in the field.

We are very grateful for their kind donation to our school!

School Mass

Please come and join us for Mass in the school on Friday morning the 21st of November at 9.30am. The whole school will be attending Mass in the school hall. We look forward to welcoming parents to come and join us.

Prayer group for parents

Please join Angela for the monthly prayer group in St. Joseph's room at 2.45pm on the 18th of November. All parents are welcome to attend.

Christmas Events

Classes will be busy practising their productions, carol concerts etc. during this half term. Please see the diary dates, below, for specific details/times.

These dates also include our PTA Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto day in school. It promises to be a busy half term!

Message from Our PTA

Our much-loved **School Christmas Fayre** (21/11/25) is just around the corner, and we're busy preparing for a day full of **festive fun, laughter, and community spirit!** One of the highlights of the event is always our **Tombola Stalls**, and we'd love your help to make it a success.

Non-Uniform Day Wednesday (19/11/25)

We are inviting all children to come to school in non-uniform next week Wednesday in exchange for donations towards our **final Tombola Collection Deadlines**.

We are collecting these following donations:

* **Toys**- Clean Toys, children gifts, clean & washed **Christmas jumpers...** (*Collection Deadline, Wednesday 19/11/25*)

***Luxury items** – candles, bath sets, bottles of wine, chocolates...(Collection Deadline, Wednesday, 19/11/25)

Final Collection for Sweet Cup is next week Monday

***Sweet cups** - filled with wrapped nut-free sweets, if fancy decorate the cup with stickers! (*Collection Deadline, Monday 17/11/25*)

All donations can be dropped off at the **Early Years entrance table**.

Your support helps us create a magical festive atmosphere for our **children** and our **St Marys community** – and ensures our fayre is a **fun and memorable** event for everyone.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

PTA Team



Nut Free School

We are a nut free school. We ask that pupils do not bring in any food items containing nuts e.g. Nutella chocolate spread. We also ask that the children do not bring in any biscuits, cakes, cereal bars **coated or containing chocolate** as these food items often contain hidden traces of nuts. We have several pupils in our school who are allergic to nuts and some of these children can get an allergic reaction from just sitting near somebody who may be eating food items containing nuts. Thank you for your consideration.

Starting Reception September 2026

Please apply through the Hillingdon Local Authority website (and through our school) by 15th January 2026.

Priest References

Priest reference signing will take place as follows:-

Reception:- Monday 1/12/25 and Tuesday 2/12/25 between 4pm and 6pm.

Nursery:- Monday 15/12/25 between 3:30pm and 6pm.

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/>

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>

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/>

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://hillingsdonpcf.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.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.

Diary Dates:

Date	Event
18/11/25	Prayer Group for Parents at 2.45pm
21/11/25	Whole School Mass at 9.30 am in the school hall
21/11/25	PTA:- Christmas Fair 3:15pm to 5:15pm
24/11/25 – 28/11/25	Year 5 - Swimming
28/11/25	PTA:- Santa's Grotto photos
01/12/25	Test week- Years 1 to 6
09/12/25	Early Years Christmas Production- 2:15pm
11/12/25	Year 4- Carol Service in school- 2:30pm
16/12/25	KS1- Christmas Production- 2:15pm
16/12/25	Year 3- Carol Service in Church at 4pm.
19/12/25	Last day of term. School finishes at 12:15pm.

Please check the school website for all future dates.