



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 12th December 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,

Thank you to all the family members who helped walk our Years 2 and 5 pupils to Mass on Monday morning. Visits like this wouldn't be possible without the fantastic support we receive from our parents.

On Tuesday, our Early Years pupils performed their Christmas Production for their family. Our youngest pupils performed their songs and parts brilliantly. It was also lovely to see so many of you at our end of term gymnastic performances, this week, to help celebrate our children's achievements and progress.

Yesterday, our Year 4 pupils led their Carol Service for parents to watch in our school Hall getting us into the Christmas spirit. Thank you to the parents who baked home made cakes and to those who helped serve refreshments. We are now looking forward to our main Carol Service, in Church, on Tuesday. We hope you see you there.

Christmas Lunch & Jumper Day

Next Wednesday is our Christmas lunch day. We will decorate the Hall, play festive songs and the children will be given a cracker alongside their school Christmas lunch. Pupils may wear Christmas jumpers to school on this day on top of their normal school uniform. We are walking to Church on this day, to attend our end of term Mass, and ask that pupils do not wear any other Christmas costumes, clothes, dresses, hair accessories etc. as we are celebrating Mass. Thank you.

End of Term Mass

On Wednesday, pupils will walk to Church to attend our 9.30am End of Term Mass. If you are able to help accompany the children, please let your child's classteacher know. We will leave school, shortly after 9am, from the main entrance.

Walk & Roll to School Day 2025

Our pupil Eco Council (Emma, Adrielle, Hanna, Elisabeth, Mario and Peter) would like to thank all the parents who helped their child to either walk, cycle or scoot to school on Monday.

Class	% Pupils who walked or rolled last half term	% Pupils who walked or rolled on Monday
1	72%	73%
2	74%	79%
3	75%	83%
4	66%	67%
5	60%	52%
6	58%	64%

Our Year 3 pupils had the highest percentage of children who either walked or rolled to school. They have been awarded with an extra break.

Last Day of Term

This term ends, next Friday, at 12.15pm. There will be no school lunches on this day.

All pupils return to school on Monday 5th January. We change our 8.30am groups on a termly basis and the revised groups will start the second week back after Christmas. Your child should only attend a group if they have received a letter sent home.

Well done to Amy (Year 2) and Angelos (Year 3) for reaching the 2nd round of the 500 words competition. The BBC 500 Words Team received tens of thousands of entries and only around 5,000 got through to the second round of judging by the Reading Agency so this is an amazing achievement.

Well Done – Angelos – Year 3



Angelos has also recently achieved a distinction in his grade 5 piano exam. Grade 5 is a substantial achievement reflecting dedication and musical awareness. We are also delighted to share Angelos' musical achievement at the New Talent Festival this summer, held at the Royal Academy of Music. He was awarded first place in his age group.

As a result of his musical accomplishments, Angelos was also recently invited to meet King Charles at Westminster Abbey.

Well done Angelos for these fantastic achievements – we are all very proud of you!

Christmas Events - Tuesday

The following Christmas production and carol service are planned for next Tuesday:

Tues 16th Dec	KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Christmas Production at 2:15pm (school hall)
Tues 16th Dec	Carol Service <u>in Church</u> (Year 3 leading the carols/singing) at 4pm

Year 5 Prayer

One of our Yr5 pupils (George), wrote this amazing prayer to be printed in this week's Newsletter:



**Jesus is a gift from God.
He forgives us and brings us hope and love.
Jesus is a different type of kin.
Jesus teaches us how to be kind and does not use his power or force on us.
God's love includes everyone.
Jesus doesn't care what background you are from.
Jesus loves us all.**

PTA Christmas Raffle Draw - Thank you & Congratulations

Our Christmas raffle draw happened today in the school, again congratulations to all of the winners (you should have been contacted by the contact details provided and on how to collect your prize), and a **big thank-you to everyone** for your incredible support in participating in the **Christmas Raffle**.

Easyfundraising – Sign up to win £500 Donation for the school & Tesco £5 In-Store Offer

Sign up and get the **Easyfundraising App**, before midnight **14th December** for a chance to win **£500** donation for our school, it'll only take two minutes. **Every new supporter who joins enters into the giveaway:**

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stmarysptauxbridge/5RK5YW/s2s/E7OVWoL0/SE867/whatsapp>

Tesco is giving a flash **£5* donation to St Mary's PTA - Uxbridge** when you shop **in-store**. All you need to do is to have the Easyfundraising App downloaded, add your bank card, and shop in person at Tesco - ideal if you've missed out on a Christmas delivery slot. Simply fill your trolley with items worth £70 or more, and you'll receive a **£5 donation to the school**. To find out more, please visit:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/in-store-donations-web/>

Grotto Photos

Great news! The Grotto photo files have arrived and we are now in process in printing them. Again a **huge thanks** to everyone who helped make the day magical.

Silent Auction – Final Week

Don't miss out on placing your bid for a chance to win **Disney on Ice Tickets** in our Silent auction. Next week **Friday 19/12/25** is the final day to bid. **Get your bids in before it's too late!** <https://www.32auctions.com/stmaryspta>

Warm wishes and Merry Christmas to everyone!

PTA team

stmaryspta-uxbridge@outlook.com

Missed school flu vaccination? There's still time to protect your child this winter

Flu cases are rising locally and can be more serious during this cold weather. The NHS is reminding parents that the free NHS flu vaccine is still available to school-aged children.

Flu is often unpleasant illness for children but it can also have much more serious symptoms such as high fever, coughs, aches, and in some cases complications like pneumonia or ear infections.

Children do not build up natural immunity to flu and the viruses change every year, which is why children need one every year. The nasal spray vaccination is the safe and effective way to ensure they have the protection they need.

Vaccination doesn't just protect your child - it helps keep the whole community safe. By being vaccinated, children are less likely to pass flu on to those who are more likely to become seriously ill from the virus.

There will be another opportunity for your child to have their vaccination at school, so look out for their consent form. If they do miss out, you can book a catch-up at: www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics

Other groups are eligible too, including people over 65 and those with certain health conditions. To find out more you can visit: www.nwlondonicb.nhs.uk/fluCOVID

If you have any questions or concerns, talk to your GP or local pharmacist.

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.

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>

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://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

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.

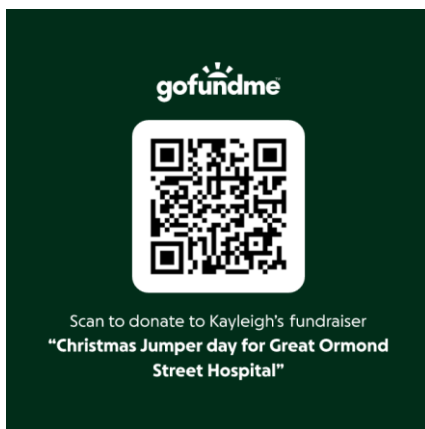
- Set your alarm and your child's alarm clock- see who can beat the clock!
- Only grant days at home for genuine illness (you will know)!
- If your child is slightly under the weather, still send them into school- children often start feeling better as the day goes on and they get busy, and if the school is worried, we will call you.

Reminder

Christmas Jumper Day donations for Great Ormond Street Hospital, who has taken good care of some of our children.

We will be grateful if you would donate to this good cause.

Please find details below.



<https://gofund.me/d77a190cd>

House Point Winners this week:	St. Thomas	1551
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All children from St Thomas :- Non Uniform day on Thursday 18/12/2025

Diary Dates:

Please check our school website for a complete list of diary dates.

Date	Event
16/12/25	KS1- Christmas Production- 2:15pm
16/12/25	Year 3- Carol Service in Church at 4pm.
17/12/25	End of term Mass in the church at 9.30am for UEYs to Y6 Christmas lunch day
19/12/25	Last day of term. School finishes at 12:15pm.
05/01/26	First day of the Spring Term
06/01/26	Epiphany Mass at 2.30pm in the school hall