



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

This week was the national Children's Mental Health Week. On Monday, Miss Shevlin led an assembly looking at emotions – the children loved the video clips from Disney's animated film Inside Out. As a part of this week's PSHE lesson, each class completed an activity exploring emotions and coping strategies for when pupils may be feeling dysregulated.

Today, our school team represented St. Mary's at this year's Hillingdon Kurling Competition. This event was held at Pield Heath Catholic School near Hillingdon hospital. We'll let you know how they got on in next week's Newsletter.

Coffee and cake With Hillingdon PCF



Hillingdon Parent Carers Forum

Hillingdon PCF are returning for another coffee morning for Parent carers of neurodivergent/SEND children as part of our ongoing PINS Project.



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, 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 looking at Ordinarily Available Provision for all pupils (OAP), more targeted support and EHCPs for pupils with complex needs.

Please note: This Coffee Morning is only for parents of pupils with SEN. You can view Hillingdon's OAP document here:

<https://leap.hillingdon.gov.uk/article/11852/Ordinarily-Available-Provision-OAP>

Year 6 Cake Sale

Our Year 6 Cake Sale (organised by our Yr6 Eco Council) will now take place on **Thursday 13th February**. Our Eco Council are raising money for Water Aid - following their recent talk in school. This sale will take place, from 3pm until about 3.30pm, in our school Hall. We will open up the front entrance, green gate, a little earlier on this day before pupil collection. Please bring some loose change if you would like to buy some cakes as we can only take cash payments.

Any donations of cakes on the day of the sale, or the day before, would be much appreciated.

Thank you.

Year 2 Pedestrian Training

Our Year 2 pupils will take part in Pedestrian training on Wednesday 12th February - led by a representative from the Hillingdon Local Authority. Pedestrian Training has been delivered and refined over several years by the Council's School Travel and Road Safety team with 7 dedicated trainers to help children of all ages develop basic pedestrian skills. This could be from learning the importance of holding hands all the way to travelling independently. We believe it is vitally important that they have the life skills necessary to keep themselves safe when travelling.

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.



Follow-up Parent Survey

Ref: Parent Survey to support the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project

This is the second Parent Carer Survey following the support we have received in school.

The purpose of the PINS project has been to improve the experience of mainstream school for children who may have an additional educational need. The information from the survey will be used to understand the influence there has been on parent carer views since the start of PINS.

This survey is for all parents of children attending our school. If you have more than one child attend the school, then you may complete the survey for the number of children you have attending the school.

This survey is not just for parents of children with SEN.

The individual information provided will only be accessible to the Hillingdon Parent Carer Forum (HPCF). Your individual survey responses will NOT be shared with our school staff. The only time information will be shared is if it raises a concern for someone's safety.

A thematic summary and comparison of the survey results will be shared with our school by the HPCF.

Please click on this web link to complete the Parent Survey online - thank you for your time:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfTr0VEVgKUgk9crBIDbiqTOSmzEHJRDDu1EUtognRfmugD4A/viewform>



Nursery Pupils – Little Link programme



Our Nursery has signed up to be a part of a new speech and language programme called Little Link. This programme is still at the development stage and we sent a letter to the parents (of all pupils who are eligible to take part) yesterday.

We would like to encourage as many Nursery parents as possible to sign their child up to take part by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code in the letter. The programme includes a short informal assessment of speech and language using stories and games. The results will be used to plan any further language support needed.

Unfortunately the first stage of this programme is not suitable for EAL pupils so not all parents will have received a letter inviting them to take part.

Discover Ballet Sessions

This morning, all pupils (Years 1 to 6) joined the Royal Ballet for our FREE, fun-filled 1 hour 'Discover Ballet' Live Lesson especially for primary school children.

This ballet taster introduced our students to the world of dance by bringing the Royal Ballet LIVE into their classrooms from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden!

During this Live Lesson the children:

- Watched LIVE performances of dances from famous ballets by dancers of the Royal Ballet!
- Joined children across the country in dancing
- Went behind the scenes to visit the props and costume departments
- Saw how props, scenery and lighting transform the stage

This Live Lesson aimed to:

- Make ballet fun and accessible to children
- Encouraged our pupil's creativity and confidence
- Built students' cultural capital
- Supported key elements of the PE curriculum including movement skills, dance performance using movement and cooperative physical activity

Thank you to Mrs Parry for organising this exciting event in school!

Half Term Holiday

We break up on Friday 14th February (usual time) for the half term break.

All pupils return to school on Monday 24th February – all groups/interventions will resume on this day.

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 from 4pm until 4:45pm

Children from Reception through to Year 6 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 a popular children's writer and illustrator to our school, she will be leading workshops and an assembly (more details to follow in next week's newsletter).

Thank you,
Miss Gahan



Fun Fest Half Term Holiday Club

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

The Fun Fest group are now taking bookings for their holiday club which will be held on our school site. 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



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	202
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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
10/02/2025	Year 6 Test Week
12/02/2025	Year 2 Pedestrian Training Outdoor
13/02/2025	Year 6 Cake Sale for Water Aid. In the Hall from 3:00pm Any donations of cakes would be much appreciated.
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