



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2024

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 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,

This half term has been a particularly busy one. In the lead up to Christmas, the children have enjoyed productions, carols, a pantomime, Christmas films, parties and carol concerts. On Tuesday, the children were visited by Father Christmas. He made a special visit to each classroom, read a story, gave out a little treat and an Elf took photos to capture this special moment. The pupils in our Upper KS2 classes (Years 5 and 6) really enjoyed the Christmas themed Blankety Blank style game. Thank you to our PTA for organising this event which was really well received by both pupils and staff. Thank you also to all of the parents who attended our Mass, in school, on Wednesday. It was lovely to come together as a community to celebrate advent and the end of this busy term.

Church Carol Concert

We hope you enjoyed this year's Carol Concert, on Tuesday evening, in our Church. Our Year 3 pupils (alongside Cara and Estelle from Year 6) did a fantastic job of bringing the Nativity to life and leading the carols. Thank you to Mrs Parry for organising this event.

Best Books for School

Thank you to all parents who contributed to our Best Books for School fundraising page. We raised a staggering £300 and our beautiful new books have arrived! These will be distributed to classes by our diligent librarians.

KS1 Christmas Production

Our KS1 production took place on Wednesday. The children recited their lines and performed their acting parts, songs and dance routines brilliantly. If you were able to attend, we hope you enjoyed their performance. Thank you to Miss Gahan (KS1 lead), Mrs Rowland and all of our KS1 staff for organising this event.

Year 4 Carols

Our Year 4 pupils have been busy learning carols this term and they performed these really well for their parents yesterday afternoon. Thank you to all of the Yr4 parents who organised the coffee and cakes, after this event, raising an amazing £60 for the Catholic Children's Society.

End of Term

Our school finishes today for the holiday. We hope you have a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing all of our family members in the new year. All pupils return to school on Monday 6th January at 8.40am. We have revised our before school (8.30am) booster groups which are starting during the 2nd week back. You will receive a letter if your child has been invited to join one of these groups.

January Parents' Evening Meetings

These meetings will take place on Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th January – please keep these dates in your diary.

A letter will be sent home, on the first day back after the Christmas break, inviting you to choose a convenient time for you to meet your child's class teacher.

School Lunches – 4 Week Menu

Yesterday, we sent home our 4-week rotating menu for the Spring Term 2025.

There's a wider selection of different meals including the daily desserts. The caterers are also offering tuna baps every Friday. This new menu will be available to order over the Christmas break:

<https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/>

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.

You must apply by: 15th January 2025 – further information on to the links below:

www.hillingdon.gov/schooladmissions or email 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 10th January 2025 – 3pm – 5:30pm

Saturday 11th January 2025- 11:30am _ 12:30pm

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>



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.

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

Website: www.schoolfriendclub.com

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

Tel: 07925 033120

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>

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.

House Point Winners this week:		
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UPCOMING EVENTS - Spring Term Dates 2025

Date	Event
06/01/2025	School opens - start of Spring Term 2025
10/01/2025	Open morning at 9.15am for prospecting parents.
14/01/25, 16/01/25	Parents Evening
20/01/2025	Jubilee Year Pledge Day
24/01/2025	Year 5 Assembly
03/02/2025	Children's Mental Health Week
10/02/2025	Year 6 Test Week
17/02/2025	Half Term
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

Please visit our school website for Term dates: <https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=45>