



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 7th June 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.

Please use our 1-way system to avoid congestion in our narrow alleyway into school.

Parents should access the school through the Rockingham Close entrance and then walk through the KS1 playground to leave through the green gate on Rockingham Road.

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.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Yesterday was Empathy Day: established to help children learn more about empathy and how to develop their empathy skills. This is now a national day with mass involvement from children's authors, publishers, library services and schools. This week, all pupils covered English lessons around an empathy theme and pupils from Years 1 to 6 took part in author workshops led by Cath Howe. Cath Howe is the author of Ella on the Outside, alongside other children's fiction and scripts/plays for primary age children. You can find out more about her here:

<http://www.cathhowe.com/>

Year 6 Bikeability

Well done to all of the Year 6 pupils who took part in Bikeability sessions this week. Bikeability is the current cycling proficiency scheme that enables children to complete Levels 1, 2 and 3 to be safer cyclists on the roads.



Yr6 Battle Britain Bunker Trip

Year 6 will visit the Uxbridge bunker on Monday. All Yr6 pupils require a packed lunch that they will eat on the trip. The Battle of Britain Bunker housed RAF Fighter Command's No.11 Group Operations Room throughout

the Second World War, the room from which most of the RAF Fighter Command's side of the Battle of Britain was co-ordinated. Key decisions that would decide the fate of the nation were taken in the Uxbridge Bunker throughout 1940 and it was thanks to the tireless work of the plotters and controllers that the RAF's fighter pilots managed to keep the Luftwaffe at bay.

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Fire Brigade Workshops Years 2 and 5

A representative from the London Fire Brigade will visit school on Wednesday to lead their annual workshops with Years 2 and 5. Both sessions will cover fire safety at an age appropriate level.

Year 5 Class Assembly

We would like to invite you to Year 5's class assembly on Tuesday 9th July at 2.30pm. All family members are most welcome to attend.

Empathy Week

This week, in school, we have been learning about empathy through the power of books. Please use the link below to access family resources that you can share at home.

'Why is empathy important for children & families?'

- Empathy is an incredible power which allows us to connect with others and understand what they are feeling.
- Empathy motivates us to help others.
- Empathy is important for children's wellbeing: children with good empathy skills will feel more settled at school and have happier relationships.' (Empathy Lab 2024)

<https://www.empathylab.uk/family-activities-pack-2024>

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

All Year 1 pupils will take part in the Department for Education's phonics screening check next week. This is a check of your child's phonics knowledge designed to help schools confirm whether pupils are making the progress expected in the national curriculum. You can find out more information on the government 'Phonics Check' website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-information-for-parents>

Sports Days

This year's Sports Days will take place as follows:

Mon 24 th June at 9.15am	Years 3 to 6 (KS2) Rockingham Recreation Ground
Thu 4 th July at 9.15am	Early Years School Playground
Tue 9 th July at 9.15am	Years 1 and 2 (KS1) School Playground



Sporting Achievements

Gaelic Football Tournament

Jack (Yr6), Jawdan (Yr6) and Órlaith (Yr5) participated in the Coley Folan Gaelic Football tournament, for St. Clarets GFC, in Birmingham at the weekend. They were the under 11 overall winners. Well done to these pupils for this fantastic achievement!

KS2 Cricket Competition

Well done to all the KS2 pupils who took part in this week's cricket competition held at the Harefield Cricket Club. The children's behaviour was exemplary and their sporting attitude was a credit to our school. Thank you to Mr Beacham for organising this event on behalf of our school.



What are the age restrictions on social media?

Age Restriction	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.

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>

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 – Updated contact details

Website: www.schoolfriendclub.com

New booking portal: <https://schoolfriendclub.magicbooking.co.uk>

Tel: 0333 355 7374

House Point Winners this week:	St Francis	225
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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

Children's Integrated Therapy Service (CITS)

Information from the NHS team of Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, technicians and administrators, who deliver a community service for children and young people.

<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>



Playtime Activities

We are trying to widen the variety of playtime activities that are available to children. Whilst we have plenty of active toys/equipment we would like to focus on having a few options for the children to sit and play with in addition to the Lego we offer.

If you are having a clear out this half term and have any used dinosaur, animal, princess, or action hero figures that you no longer want - please can you donate them to the school.



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



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.

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



Spare Chairs

If anybody is interested in any of these chairs, maybe for a BBQ or summer family/friend gathering, please contact the school and you are welcome to have them for free.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Date	Event

Please visit our school website for Term dates - including 2024 to 2025:

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