



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

School Newsletter

Friday 6th September 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.

Afternoon Nursery finishes at 3.30pm.

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. Thank you in advance.



Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back – we hope you had a fantastic summer break with your family.

We would like to wish a warm welcome to the family members who have joined our school community this year.

Our teaching staff returned to school on Monday and have planned lots of exciting activities for your child. We are looking forward to a busy term ahead. You can view all of the diary dates for this term at the bottom of this Newsletter and also on our school website:

<https://www.st-marys.hillingdon.sch.uk/>

Start of Term Mass

This is an excellent opportunity for our school community to come together at the start of this new academic year. This Mass will take place on Monday (9th September) at 10.45am in our school hall. All family members are more than welcome to attend.

Meet the Teacher

Our teachers have planned a series of Meet the Teacher presentations over the next couple of weeks. These presentations will share information including curriculum information, class timetables, homework schedules, uniform expectations etc. All presentations start at 2.30pm in our school Hall and will finish before the end of the school day.

Monday 9 th September	Year 5 Parents
Wednesday 11 th September	Years 3 and 4 Parents
Friday 13 th September	Year 6 Parents
Monday 16 th September	Years 1 and 2 Parents
Wednesday 18 th September	Nursery and Reception (Early Years) Parents

SEN Coffee Morning



Our next SEN Coffee morning will take place on Friday 20th September in our school Hall.

We will serve tea, coffee and other refreshments after the morning drop off. Please buzz in at our main entrance after you drop your child off at the green gate – any time after 8.45am.

We will be joined by Nicola from the Parent Carers Forum (from 9am) who will give a short talk about the support they offer.

The Parent Carers forum is a small group of parent carer volunteers that work in co-production with local groups and agencies to help improve the lives and opportunities of children and young people with SEND. They hold monthly meetings and run an event annually for SEND children and their families.

All family members are more than welcome to attend. There will also be the opportunity to ask questions.

School Gate – Locked at 8.45am

There is a new government expectation for all state-funded mainstream schools to deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours to all pupils from Reception to Year 6. Although we are already delivering a 32.5 hour week, we will need to lock our green gate promptly at 8.45am, each morning, to ensure that all pupils are attending school for this required amount of time. Any child arriving after this time will need to use our main entrance and parents will need to sign them in late via our online iPad system so they can be added to the class register by our office staff.



Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight starts on Monday. Fairtrade changes the way trade works through **better prices, decent working conditions and a fairer deal** for farmers and workers in developing countries. We will be talking to the children about Fairtrade in school and parents can support this by encouraging their child to look out for Fairtrade products in the shops:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade/>

Fire Safety Workshops

On Thursday, pupils in Years 2 and 5 will take part in fire safety workshops led by a representative from the London Fire Brigade. Officers use their training, experience and expertise to deliver fire safety messages in a sensitive and reassuring way so children understand the importance of home fire safety without becoming worried about a fire happening in their home. There are two different workshop sessions on offer to teach younger children about fire safety.

Children in Year 2 will learn that fire is dangerous and can hurt people. They'll learn about common fire hazards, and to never play with matches and lighters. We also talk about smoke alarms and how they keep homes safe from fire, what to do in an emergency if there is a fire, and how to call 999.

The session for Year 5 goes into more detail and explains that fire kills, destroys homes and spreads quickly. The activities will educate that smoke can be as dangerous as fire, how smoke alarms work, and how to make sure they are working properly. The representative will talk about how to make fire escape plans from homes (including tower blocks), what to do if there is a fire, and how to call 999.

SEN Training for Parents

The Hillingdon Inclusion Team run courses for parents and carers looking at supporting various special needs (SEN). We sent home their training brochure for this academic year as an attachment with today's newsletter. You can book using the details in the document sent.

One-Way System

All classes (Reception to Year 6) finish school at 3.15pm.

We use our 1-way system for entering and leaving school.

Please use this 1-way system to avoid congestion in our narrow alleyway into school. It can get very busy with lots of parents, children, push chairs and scooters. 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.

Thank you in advance.

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 – Updated contact details

Website: www.schoolfriendclub.com

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

Tel: 0333 355 7374

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>

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://hillingtonpcf.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>

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.

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:01895 556006). If a child is in immediate danger, call the Police immediately on 999.

It is all our responsibility to safeguard children

UPCOMING EVENTS - Autumn Term Dates 2024

Date	Event
09/09/24	Meet the teacher Year 5
09/09/24	Clubs start back this week
11/09/24	Meet the teacher Year 3 and 4
13/09/24	Meet the teacher Year 6
16/09/24	Meet the teacher Year 1 and 2
18/09/24	Meet the teacher UYEY and LEY

Please visit our school website for Term dates:

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