



Dear Parents and Carers,

- **Parent-Teacher-Pupil Consultations:** thank you to all parents/carers who attended meetings with their child's class teacher last week. We hope that meetings were helpful.
- **Specialist Support:** If you would like to meet with our SENDCO to discuss something further about your child's learning, please email on [sendco@stmarys.slough.sch.uk](mailto:sendco@stmarys.slough.sch.uk) or [officestaff@stamarts.slough.sch.uk](mailto:officestaff@stamarts.slough.sch.uk).
- **Parent information Workshops-phonics:** We are holding phonics workshops for **Reception** and **KS1** parents/carers on **Monday 17/11/2025** and **Wednesday 19/11/2025**.
- Please check your email notification for further details.
- **Parent information Workshops-reading:** We are holding a reading workshop for **Y3** and **Y4** parents/carers on **Thursday 20/11/2025**.
- Please check your email notification for further details.

Thank you to our whole school community! 😊

### Values

- St Mary's Christian Values for the **autumn term** are **love, respect and peace**.
- Our school Bible quote which we aspire for all children and adults to achieve is **'I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.'** (Proverbs 4:11)

### Absence

- Attending school every day is important for children to learn well.
- On the rare occasion children are absent, please report this on our **Study Bugs** system.
- If reporting your child's absence, clearly state your child's **name, year group, class** and the **reason why** your child is absent. We ask that you are **specific about your child's illness** so we can recognise trends and local outbreaks.
- We do not authorise holidays during term time, and you may be fined through the authority.
- Please try to arrange appointments out of school hours. If this is not possible, please email the school office with conformation of the appointment:

[officestaff@stmarys.slough.sch.uk](mailto:officestaff@stmarys.slough.sch.uk)



**GATES OPEN: 08:20 am**

**GATES CLOSE: 08:30 am**

Children **must** be in class, registered and ready for learning at **08.30am**.

Please avoid lateness as this impacts on the front office and a calm start to your child's day.

## Parent News, Section 1

### Honouring Remembrance: A Moment to Reflect

Last week, our school community came together to observe **Remembrance**—a time to reflect on the **courage, sacrifice, and resilience** of those who served and in times of conflict.

While our pupils are still young, we believe it's important to gently introduce the values of **peace, respect, love** and **empathy** that underpin this tradition.

We invited **special friends and guests** to the opening of our **Spirituality Garden** and took a moment to reflect on the dear friends of our school community who are no longer with us.

**Tan Dhesi, MP for Slough** and our **Chair of Governors Mr R. Nuru** were also in attendance.

We ended the memorial with a blessing led by **Father Andrew Wickens, foundation governor**.

In assemblies and classroom discussions, children have been learning about the significance of the **poppy**, the importance of remembering those who came before us, and how small acts of **kindness and understanding** can help build a more peaceful world.

We encourage families to **continue these conversations** at home. Whether it's sharing a story from a grandparent, visiting a local memorial, or simply taking a quiet moment together, remembrance can be a powerful way to connect across generations.

**Let us honour those who gave so much, and help our children grow into thoughtful, compassionate citizens of tomorrow.**



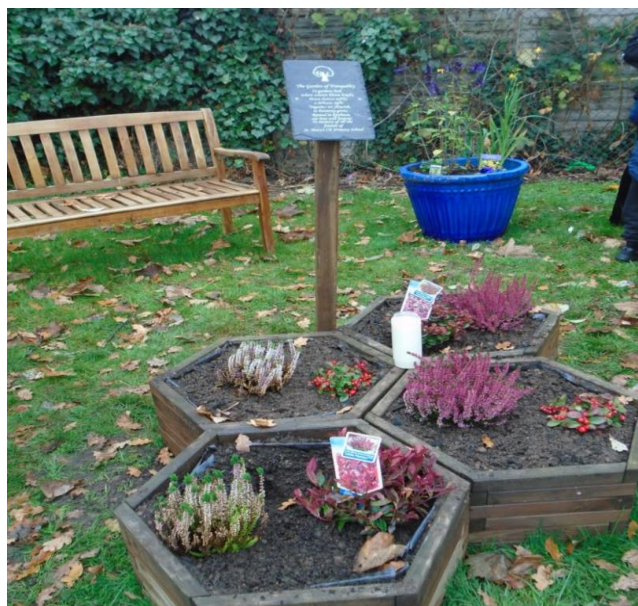
## Parent News, Section 2

### Honouring Remembrance: A Moment to Reflect



## Parent News, Section 3

### Honouring Remembrance: A Moment to Reflect



## Parent News, Section 4

### Parent/Carer-Teacher-Pupil Consultations

It was **super** to see how many parents attended their child's parent-teacher-pupil meetings last week. Thank you for working with us to support your child to **learn, grow, achieve and flourish**.

It is proven that children's learning is positively impacted when parents and carers **actively engage** with their child's learning by attending **consultation meetings** with class teachers and **parent information workshops**.

Supporting your child to complete their **homework** to a good standard in a **quiet, dedicated space** is also proven to positively impact learning and children's recall of the knowledge and facts they have learned in school.

However, the biggest determiner of children learning well has been noticed to be children's **attendance** of school.

Last week, **Larch** and **Elm** class received **100% certificate and gold stickers** as **every child in the class** had been in school for the week.

**Larch and Elm class are invited to wear their home clothes on Friday 21/11/2025 as a reward for this excellent collective effort. Congratulations!**

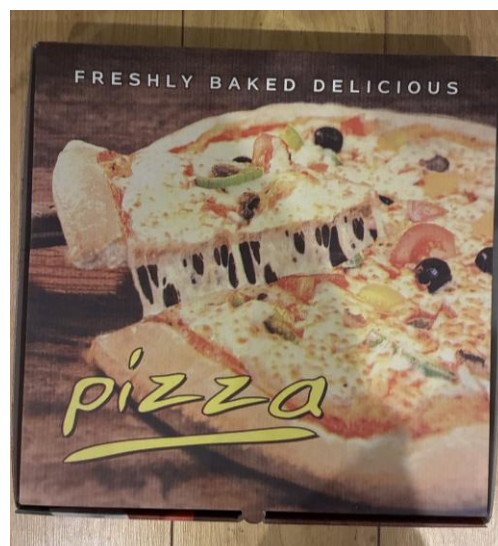
**Please bring your child to school every day.**

### Parent/Carer Code of Conduct

Thank you to parents and carers that treat our staff and community with **care, consideration** and **respect**.

We politely remind you that addressing staff members as 'darling, sweetie, gorgeous, honey, hey you, sweet-heart, beautiful' goes against the parent/carers code of conduct.

A special thank you to the very generous parent that **gifted the teaching staff** with **pizza** last **Wednesday**. We all really enjoyed having a tasty, slice (or two!) of pizza at the end of a long day of catching up with parents. Thank you!



## Attendance Competition



We are repeating our attendance competition again this year. It is open to everyone who attends St Mary's school.

All children who achieve **100%** and flourish in their school attendance will be receiving a **special certificate** to thank them for coming to school every day for a **whole term**.

Those who achieve **100% for the whole year** will receive a special celebration and receive some prizes.

They will automatically be entered into a draw where one lucky family will win a summer **family day** out for **four** to **Legoland**.

### Good luck everyone!



## Attendance for last week

Nursery AM	87.7%
Nursery PM	83.3%
0Poppy	94.2%
0Bluebell	98.6%
0Daffodil	98.7%
1Damson	97.3%
1Cherry	94.5%
1Apple	93.0%
2Pear	98.0%
2Plum	98.6%
2Peach	98.0%
3Ash	98.3%
3Sycamore	97.7%
3Juniper	95.3%
4Larch	100%
4Beech	93.6%
4Oak	94.2%
5Hazel	97.3%
5Alder	96.9%
5Elm	100%
6Willow	93.7%
6Maple	94.7%
6Rowan	93.2%

**Average across the school: 96.0%**

**96% or more is the target.**

**Classes with 100% attendance for the week earn a collective reward!**  
**2 classes have earned the reward so far this term!**

Please bring your child to school every day. Thank you 😊

## Reception News

This week we have begun our new focus book **The Owl Babies**. Three owl babies think that they have lost their mummy. They wait and wait for her to come home to the nest. They close their eyes and wish. Their Mummy does return - much to their relief and excitement – just like when our parents return to collect us at the end of our school day.

We have been **building nests and trees** out of various construction apparatus inside and outside.

We had a special time in our classrooms on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day**. We made **poppy wreaths** and sat quietly and thoughtfully at 11am to remember those who help bring **PEACE** to our world.

We have been working hard to learn our **phonics** with some of us keen to have a go at writing the sounds too. Phonics is an extremely important area of learning thank you for all the support and encouragement you are giving your children at home to learn the **SOUNDS** of the letters. Here is the link to our website and the RWInc phonics videos you can use at home. It would be great if you can do one or two a day with them if you aren't already. Many thanks.

<https://st-marys-church-of-england.secure-primariesite.net/ruth-miskin-rwinc-phonics-videos/>

### The Reception Team



## KS1 News, Section 1

### Remembrance Day

On Tuesday morning KS1 pupils gathered for a **Remembrance Day Assembly**.

During the assembly we learnt about the significance and importance of this day; why we wear **poppies** as a symbol of remembrance; and how this day is marked around the world.

As the clock turned **11.00am** the pupils showed our Autumn core values of love and respect as they sat silently during our **1-minute silence**. Together we prayed and hoped for **peace** and **love** and thought of those that lost their lives in or due to conflict. The staff were immensely proud to see such young children show so much **maturity** during the assembly.

Each class made a **poppy wreath** to lay as a sign of **respect** and to show that as always at St Mary's - **We Will Remember**. Every child contributed a poppy to their class wreath. I am sure you will agree they are beautiful and a true **symbol of unity**.

**Mrs Brotherston** (PPG Lead, Y1 Data Lead, Y2 Peach Class teacher)



## Year 5 News, Section 1

### Viking Dance Workshop

Our year 5s have had a fun dose of **history** through the medium of **dance** last week! The children learnt and revised about the **Viking period of British history** whilst learning different **dance choreographies**.

For information on the **Vikings** and their interactions with the **Anglo Saxons in Britian**, check out the link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6>

**Mr Ali** (Humanities Co Lead, Y5 Lead, Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



## Year 5 News, Section 2

### Geography fieldwork

As part of our learning on **water distribution**, the year 5 students have been investigating how permeable different surfaces in different parts of the school grounds.

The investigation supported children's geographical understanding of how the permeability of the surface influences where rainwater collects into puddles or drains away in **drainage systems**.

**Mr Ali** (Humanities Co Lead, Y5 Lead, Y5 Hazel Class teacher)





## Year 6 News

### Eton College Visit

Last week, year 6 were invited to the prestigious **Eton College** in Eton to learn about World War II. Saskia, the leader of the workshop, told them stories about previous **Eton College** pupils being enlisted to join the army, some of whom did not return.

The children took part in interactive activities which involved experiencing how fires were put out during **World War 2**.

They also learnt how to build walls with **sandbags** and played some **games** that were popular during this time.

They thoroughly enjoyed the visit and are looking forward to the start of our **World War 2 history topic** in **January 2026**.

**Ms. Rockett** (Maths Lead, Y6 Lead, Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



# Phonics News at St Mary's, Section 1

Welcome back to another wonderful term!

## Key Phonics Dates this term:

- **KS1 Phonics Meeting - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 @ 8:30am**
- **Reception Phonics Parent Meeting - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 @ 8:30am**
- **Reception Phonics Parent Meeting - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025 @ 2:45pm**

**Thank you to all parents who have been logging onto the online Phonics e-book system, Oxford Owl.**

We would like to celebrate the **pupil engagement** with Oxford Owl in our KS1 classes:

### Year 1:

- Apple Class 9 children engaged with Oxford Owl.
- Cherry Class 9 children engaged with Oxford Owl.
- Damson Class 12 children engaged with Oxford Owl.

### Year 2:

- Peach Class 7 children engaged with Oxford Owl.
- Pear Class 3 children engaged with Oxford Owl.
- Plum Class 8 children engaged with Oxford Owl.

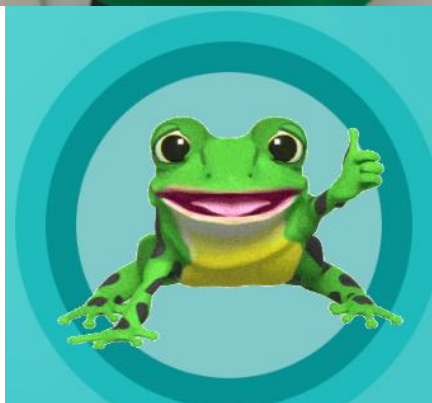
Well done to **Damson Class** who have the **most engagement!**

Let's see which class will win next week. Remember to check your child's **Oxford Owl log in** every **Wednesday!**

## Phonics News at St Mary's, Section 2

Miss Jenkins would also like to give a special shout out to **Rohaan in Year 1** and **Duha in Year 2** for engaging with all of their **online Oxford Owl learning!**

**Miss Jenkins** (Phonics Lead, Y1 Damson Class teacher)



## Events at St Mary's

### Exciting Storytelling Event at St Mary's!

We're thrilled to announce a special storytelling session for **KS1** with the amazing **Liz Fost**!

Liz is a wonderful storyteller who brings books to life with her fun, energy, and imagination. This time, she'll be sharing the beautiful story:

#### ***The Turtle Who Turned the Tide* by Rachel Bright**

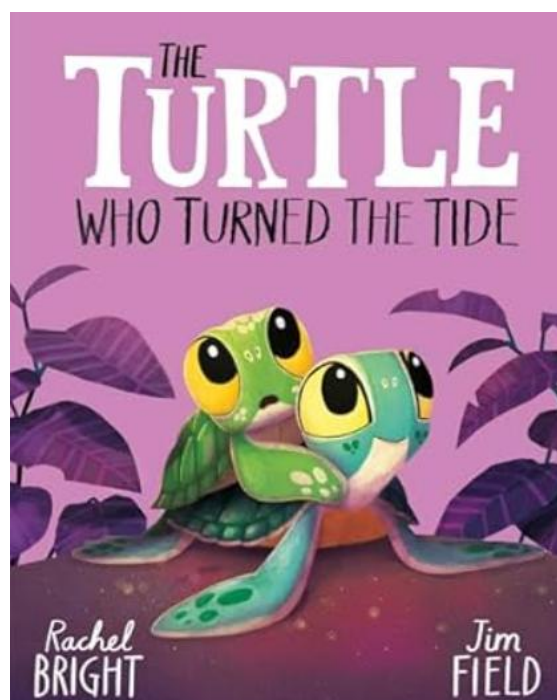
#### **Here's what you need to know:**

- **Liz Fost** will be performing a live storytelling session in school.
- This will happen during the school day on the **25th of November**.
- This book teaches about **friendship, courage, and protecting our oceans**.
- **This event is for Reception-Year 2**

#### **Want your own copy of the book?**

- Price: **£12.99**
- A pre-order letter will be sent out soon with all the details. Watch out for further details!

**Miss Martins** (Reading for Pleasure Co-Lead, Y3 Sycamore Class teacher)



## Rags2Riches4Schools News

We are taking part in the **Rags2Riches4Schools** clothing collection to raise funds for our school and help families around the world access affordable clothing.

Do you have clothes in your wardrobe that you no longer wear? **Let's give them a new life!**

What they collect	What they don't collect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Clean, good quality, dry reusable clothing</li><li>● Adults, children's &amp; babies clothing</li><li>● Paired shoes and footwear</li><li>● Jewellery and accessories</li><li>● Belts and Handbags</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Poor quality items such as dirty, wet, ripped or soiled clothing</li><li>● Uniform or sports kits</li><li>● Socks</li><li>● Pillows</li><li>● Duvets</li><li>● Curtains</li><li>● Books or CD's or bric-a-brac</li></ul>

**STOP & THINK** – *Would you pass it on to a friend to wear?* If not, it's not suitable to donate.

Even one item makes a difference, and don't forget to ask your friends, grandparents and neighbours to join in!

**Please bring your donations to school by: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

### Did you know?

Every bag we fill helps reduce textile waste going to landfill. Clothes are sent to Europe, Africa and beyond, where they are resold at affordable prices, giving them a second life and helping families in need.

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts! 😊



## Working in Partnership with Parents

Partnerships  
for Inclusion of  
Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)



BRIGHTER  
FUTURES TOGETHER

Slough  
Parent  
Carer  
Forum

# Participation session

For parent carers of children  
with neurodivergent needs

JOIN US AT  
YOUR SCHOOL

Wednesday 10 December 09:30 - 10:30  
St Mary's C of E Primary School



[Click here to book](#)

**Connect - Share - Make a difference**

PINS is a national project funded by NHS England in partnership with the  
Department for Education, Department of Health & Social Care &  
the National Network of Parent Carer Forums

# Rocksteady Music at St Mary's C.E. Primary



Hi Parent or Guardian,

Do you want your child to experience the magic of playing music in their very own band? Rocksteady Music School is the leading provider of in-school rock and pop band lessons for primary age children – and we're delighted to let you know we're teaching in your child's school!

How does it work?

With Rocksteady, children learn to play an instrument through weekly band lessons. It's the perfect way to learn new musical skills, make friends and have fun – all at school! Rocksteady lessons are also shown to boost confidence, wellbeing social skills and even academic achievement.

Your child will learn to play songs instantly through listening and playing. There's no music theory involved and lessons are designed to be fun, inclusive and accessible. They will be making progress in every lesson and can also achieve an Ofqual-regulated Trinity Music qualification, without having to take a single exam!

Here's what else you need to know:

- Most lessons take place during the school day. There's no experience necessary and all instruments for lessons are provided.
- You can choose if they shine on vocals, keyboard, drums, guitar or bass.
- Proudly watch as your child performs in their end of term concerts, showing just how far they have come!
- Rocksteady band leaders are professional musicians who inspire a passion for music and support your child every step of the way.

Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. There's a money-back guarantee for the first month and you can cancel at any time.

For more details on availability and cost, visit [rocksteadymusicschool.com](https://rocksteadymusicschool.com) and find your school on the sign up page or call 0330 113 0330.

Best wishes,

Rachel Hawker | Director of Education



0330 113 0330  
(Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)  
[rocksteadymusicschool.com](https://rocksteadymusicschool.com)



Find out what parents say about Rocksteady →



# Drop-in flu clinics

At Foundation House, Windsor SL4 4LE

We are holding drop-in clinics for your child's flu vaccination on the following dates:

- 18.11.25 14:30-16:30
- 27.11.25 14:30-16:00
- 5.12.25 12:00-16:00

If you haven't completed a consent form yet, you can complete one using the information sent by your child's school or complete one at the clinic with one of the team



Goto the address below to share your views and ideas

 [cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/feedback](https://cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/feedback)

## Music at Slough Borough Council



# Slough Youth Orchestra



Film music, Theatre, Classical, Pop, and more –  
The World of Orchestra is limitless, and continually developing!

Required Grade 2+ standard on your instrument.

Meet like-minded musicians from schools in the community.  
Perform in exceptional concert venues.  
Develop your string, brass, wind, or percussion playing.

For more information, contact us: [music.service@slough.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@slough.gov.uk)



## Diary Dates

Please check 'diary dates' weekly. As new school events are confirmed, the 'diary dates' section of the newsletter is updated. Each week's new confirmed dates are shown in [blue](#).

### Half Term Holiday

17.11.2025	Phonics Parent Workshop for KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Parents at 8.35am
19.11.2025	Phonics Parent Workshop for Reception Parents at 2.45pm
20.11.2025	Reading Parent Workshop for LKS2 (Y3 & Y4) Parents at 8.35am
26.11.2025	Y2 Eton College Workshop at St Mary's School
26.11.2025	Y3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
04.12.2025	Y5 Trip to Butser Farm-Anglo Saxons
08.12.2025	St Mary's Choir Christmas Carol Performance at St Andrew's Methodist Church
09.12.2025	Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day for Reception and KS1 (Y1 & Y2)
10.12.2025	St Mary's Choir Performance at St Mary's Church for 'Slough Schools' Multi-Faith Carol Concert'
10.12.2025	Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day for KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)
11.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Reception Parents at 2.30pm
12.12.2025	Christmas Jumper Day for Nursery
16.12.2025	Christmas Concert for UKS2 (Y5 & Y6) Parents at St Mary's Church at 9.30am
16.12.2025	Christmas Party for LKS2 (Y3 & Y4)
17.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Y2 Parents at 9am
17.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Y3 Parents at 2.30pm
17.12.2025	Christmas Party for Y1 and Y2
18.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Y1 Parents at 9am
18.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Y4 Parents at 2.30pm
18.12.2025	Christmas Party for Nursery, Reception, Y5 and Y6
19.12.2025	Last Day of Autumn Term 2

### Christmas Holiday

<b>05.01.2026</b>	<b>INSET for Staff</b>
<b>06.01.2026</b>	<b>First Day of Spring Term 1 for Children</b>