



Dear Parents and Carers,

Easter Holiday Wishes

As we head into the Easter break, we want to wish all our pupils, families, and staff a truly lovely holiday. Easter is a time filled with symbols of hope and renewal — from colourful eggs that remind us of new life, to the religious significance of the season, which holds deep meaning for many in our community.

However you choose to celebrate, we hope this time brings joy, rest, and a sense of fresh beginnings.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 13th April 2026**, ready for the summer term ahead.

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter!

It is the **responsibility** of all the community to maintain a supportive environment for everyone. 😊

Values

- St Mary's Christian Values for the **spring term** are **wisdom, responsibility and honesty.**
- 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)

Parent News Section 1,

A Special Visit from the Secretary of State-

Right Honourable Steve Reed MP

Last Friday 20th March, our pupils were given the privilege of meeting **Steve Reed MP**, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and a current member of the UK Cabinet. This role has previously been held by prominent figures such as **Angela Rayner MP**, **Michael Gove MP**, and **Sajid Javid MP**, making the visit an especially notable moment for St Mary's children.

It was an exciting opportunity for the children to speak directly with such a high-ranking member of the serving government. They rose to the occasion brilliantly — exchanging ideas, asking thoughtful questions, and sharing what **Easter** means to the children of St Mary's, from themes of new life to the deeper religious significance of the season.

A memorable experience for everyone involved, and one we hope will inspire our pupils for years to come.



Parent News, Section 2

 A Special Visit from the Secretary of State-

Right Honourable Steve Reed MP, Tan Dhesi MP, Father Scott, Mrs Deans, Miss Brindley and St Mary's Children



Parent News, Section 3

🏠 A Special Visit from the Secretary of State-
Right Honourable Steve Reed MP



Parent News, Section 4

 A Special Visit from the Secretary of State-

Right Honourable Steve Reed MP with St Mary's Staff and Pupils



Parent News Section 5,

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
- Well done to **3** classes who achieved **96%** or more attendance last week!
- Well done to: **Pear, Oak and Elm classes!!**



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.

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	92.0%
Nursery PM	90.0%
0Poppy	90.7%
0Bluebell	94.0%
0Daffodil	94.0%
1Damson	90.0%
1Cherry	95.7%
1Apple	93.3%
2Pear	96.7%
2Plum	95.0%
2Peach	92.3%
3Ash	93.3%
3Sycamore	94.7%
3Juniper	94.6%
4Larch	93.3%
4Beech	94.0%
4Oak	97.3%
5Hazel	88.7%
5Alder	95.7%
5Elm	97.3%
6Willow	95.3%
6Maple	97.4%
6Rowan	90.0%

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 year.

The senior leadership team have pledged that if **5 classes** achieve **100%** in the **same week**, they will come to school wearing **superhero costumes!** Please bring your child to school every day 😊

Nursery News, Section 1

Gardening in Nursery

This week two groups worked with Mr Bradley to do some planting on the field. Mr Bradley created two patches for the children to plant in. The children helped to turn the soil using forks and then they looked at seeds. Mr Bradley showed the children how to plant the seeds into channels and cover them gently. The morning nursery children planted giant sunflower seeds. The children talked about what the seeds looked like and if they were the same as other seeds they had planted.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 2

Gardening in Nursery

The afternoon nursery children planted a range of wildflower seeds in their patch. They talked about how the seeds looked different, depending on what type of flower they are going to grow. The children scattered them into the channels and gently covered them up. We will keep checking on our flower patches to see how they grow!

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 3

Maths in Nursery

The children were learning to make their own patterns this week in maths. We combined art and maths, and the children gathered sticks to create their own ribbon sticks for our lesson on Wednesday. We used our ribbon sticks on the playground to make different shapes and talked about how we could repeat the order of the shapes to create a pattern using movement. The children really enjoyed making patterns with their ribbon sticks.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 4

Spring Walk in Nursery

At the start of the half term, Nursery went for a Spring walk to see what was happening to the plants as the weather was getting warmer. This week, we looked at photos that we took in week 1 and we went for another walk to see if the plants had changed. The children were able to observe that the flowers had grown bigger and that the bushes and trees had leaves now. We talked about whether we think they bushes and trees will grow any more leaves and there some mixed ideas. We will have another walk after the Easter break to see if they have changed again!

Nursery Team



Reception News, Section 1

The Living World in Reception

What an exciting time it has been in Reception! Our unit is alive with cheeps of newly hatched **chicks**! A farmer brought us **10 eggs** in an **incubator**. It was a great opportunity for improving our **maths** as each egg **hatched**.

As **scientists**, we observed the **changes** that happened to the eggs and chicks – once **hatched** they soon fluffed up and grew rapidly. Then we transferred them to a **brooding box** and made sure they had food and water. They are our **responsibility**, so we need to be **respectful** towards them. We learnt about the **life cycle of chickens** too. What an amazing experience this has been for us all.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 2

English in Reception

The week before our focus book was a fiction book about a **hen - Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins** – a super story to help us learn **positional language**. We had lots of fun acting out the story with puppets or props outside as well as inside the classrooms. We worked as a team to set up the route in the story. Rosie went **OVER** the haystack, **THROUGH** the fence and **UNDER** the beehive unaware a hungry fox was after her!

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 3

English in Reception

We explored the story during Book Talk then composed sentences together about the sly fox or Rosie the hen. Some of us composed and wrote our own sentences. We were **RESPONSIBLE** for checking the sentences had **CAPITAL letters, finger spaces, full- stops** and **made sense**.

In NELI groups we had fun playing games to learn about **asleep and awake** along with clothes we would wear for different occasions including nightwear. We also learnt about opposites such as **thick** or **thin long** or **short**. Do you know any other opposites?

Reception Team



Year 1 News, Section 1

Science and the Living World in Year 1

Y1 have had a super Friday where we have visited Reception and saw their beautiful chicks! Y1 were super sensible and made sure they were quiet for the chicks.

They have also been very helpful in being gardeners for the day and helping teachers to plant ready for the summer term in our garden!

Miss Brindley (RE Co-Lead, Y1 Lead, Y1 Cherry Class teacher)



Year 2 News, Section 1

Science and the Living World in Year 2

This week Year 2 visited Whipsnade Zoo to enrich their science learning on 'Living Things and their Habitats'. We were blessed with glorious sunshine, and all the animals came out to say hello (besides the tiger, who had possibly gone to tea). First, the children explored Europe where they encountered a lynx, brown bear, wolverine and a waddle of penguins. Next, we ventured to amazing Africa to visit the animals that call this continent home. We were greeted by a rhino with its adorable calf and giraffes with their calves, too! Did you know both a baby rhino and giraffe are called a calf?

Year 2 enjoyed a workshop about habitats at the learning hub and had the opportunity to study artifacts and replica skeletons of animals from different habitats. Then, we explored the aquarium, butterfly house and Asia where the children saw playful elephants, cheeky monkeys and red pandas. Thank you to all the parent volunteers.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Year Lead and Y2 Peach Class teacher)



Year 2 News, Section 2

Science and the Living World in Year 2

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Year Lead and Y2 Peach Class teacher)



Year 2 News, Section 3

Science and the Living World in Year 2

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Year Lead and Y2 Peach Class teacher)



Year 2 News, Section 4

Science and the Living World in Year 2

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Year Lead and Y2 Peach Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 1

History Stone Age Workshop in Year 3

Year 3 were time travellers this week as they took a step back in time all the way to the stone age! They came dressed in their finest animal print and adorned in bone jewellery. The workshop was engaging, hands on and informative. The children spent their time hunting for food, building a replica of Stonehenge, solving a murder mystery of 'Oatsy the Stone age Warrior' as well as other informative activities and games.

Miss Martins (Reading for Pleasure Lead, and Y3 Sycamore Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 2

History Stone Age Workshop in Year 3

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Miss Martins (Reading for Pleasure Lead, and Y3 Sycamore Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 1

Fire Safety in Year 5

We want to thank the team from the Langley Fire Station for visiting our year 5 students to share with them the vital job that they do with helping to keep our communities safe.

During the visit, the children had the chance to look at the different parts of a fire engine truck and what tools are used to help rescue people from fires. Additionally, children learnt about the steps involved in becoming a fire fighter. For more information on our firefighting service in Berkshire, check out the link below:

[Home | Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service](https://www.rbfrs.co.uk/) <https://www.rbfrs.co.uk/>

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



Year 5 News, Section 2

Rock Steady-Celebration Concert

As part of our commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum, St Mary's offers a range of extra-curricular learning opportunities which includes trips, workshops and afterschool clubs such as Rock Steady. Rock Steady is weekly in-school band lessons that celebrate fun, individuality and creativity!

Last week, we held our first music concert to celebrate the children's progress so far. If you would like your child to join, check out the link below:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

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



Dive into A Great Story at St Mary's!

Read our staff recommendations

Goodnight Mr Tom (Michelle Magorian)

This story fits well for Year 6 as it takes place during WW2 and the protagonist (an evacuee named William) is of a similar age.

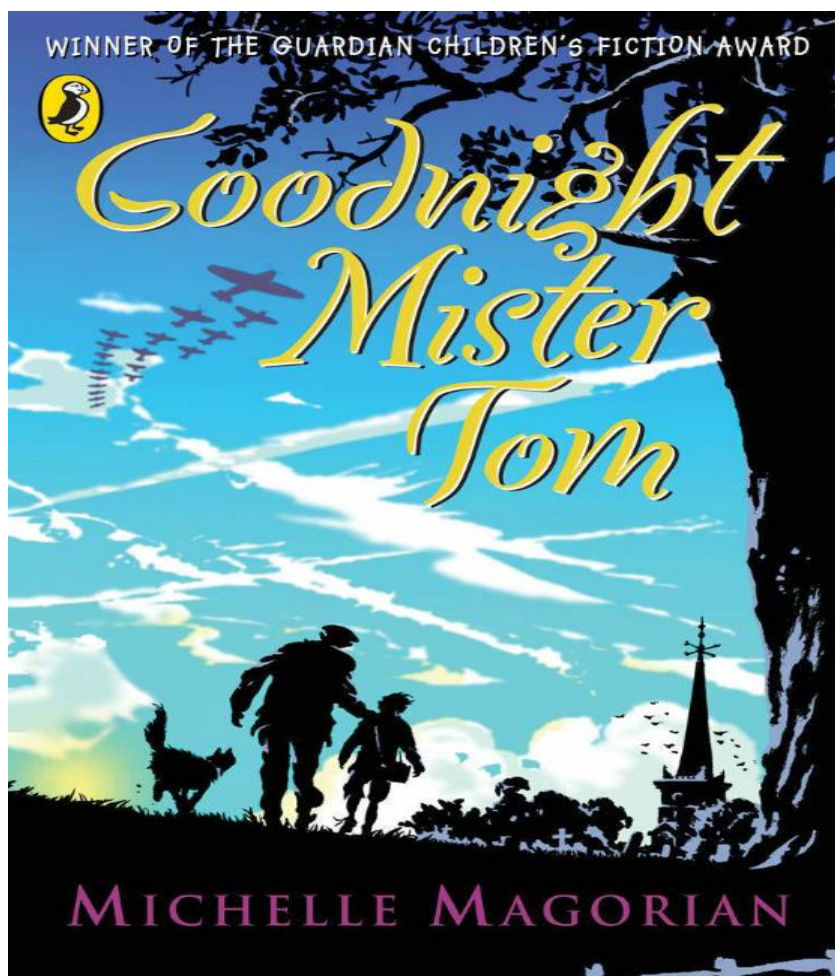
As the story evolves, William transforms from a scared and withdrawn boy, who learns to trust and laugh.

It's a very moving book that covers a lot of serious themes such as neglect, abuse, loss and war as well as love and friendship - evoking many emotions. The ending has me in tears every time!

Goodnight Mr Tom has also been adapted to film and equally enjoyable

Happy reading!

Mrs Fogarty (PHSE Lead, Y6 Maple Class teacher)



Easter Bonnet Competition at St Mary's C.E. Primary



The poster features a large yellow Easter egg shape in the center, set against a light blue background. The text 'EASTER BONNET COMPETITION' is written in a large, pink, curved font across the top of the egg. Below this, in a smaller, dark brown font, it says 'NUSERY, RECEPTION, YEAR 1 AND YEAR 2 ARE INVITED TO MAKE THEIR OWN EASTER BONNETS!'. Further down, in a pink font, it says 'BRING THEM IN BY WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH'. At the bottom of the egg, it says 'Prizes for best Easter hat.' The background is decorated with white daisies and a dashed line representing a bunny trail. A white cartoon rabbit is sitting on the bottom left, and green foliage is at the bottom.

**EASTER
BONNET COMPETITION**

**NUSERY,
RECEPTION, YEAR 1
AND YEAR 2 ARE
INVITED TO MAKE
THEIR OWN EASTER
BONNETS!**

**BRING THEM IN BY
WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH**

Prizes for best Easter hat.

Please see class teachers for more information if needed.

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 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



Find out what parents
say about Rocksteady →

Music at Eton College-19th April 2026

ETON COLLEGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY 19
APRIL 3:00PM

SCHOOL HALL
ETON COLLEGE

FOR CHILDREN
6 YEARS & UP

FREE FAMILY CONCERT

COPLAND FOUR DANCE
EPISODES FROM 'RODEO'



COWBOY HATS AND COSTUMES HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!

**FREE ADMISSION WITH TICKETS
BOOKED THROUGH QR CODE**



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



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](#).

Spring Term

23.03.2026	Easter Performance at St Laurence's Church for morning Nursery Parents at 9.30am
23.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 1 for Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y6
24.03.2026	Easter Performance at St Laurence's Church for afternoon Nursery Parents at 2.00pm
24.03.2026	Trip: Y6 to Imperial War Museum
24.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 1 for Y3, Y4 and Y5
25.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 2 for Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y6
26.03.2026	Easter Performance at St Mary's Church for Y3 and Y4 Parents at 9.30am
26.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 2 for Y3, Y4 and Y5
27.03.2026	Nursery and Reception Easter Egg Hunt
27.03.2026	Reception, Y1 and Y2 Easter Bonnet Parade
27.03.2026	Last Day of Spring Term 2

Easter Holiday

13.04.2026	First Day of Summer Term 1 for Children
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