

20th April 2026

Newsletter

Spring Term (Edition 25)



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Looking Ahead to an Exciting Summer Term!

As we step into the summer term, there's a real buzz around school. The longer days and brighter weather always bring a sense of energy, and we're delighted to share some of the fantastic events coming up over the next few months on page 2 of this week's newsletter. It's shaping up to be a term full of creativity, curiosity and teamwork.

With so much to look forward to, we're excited for a term filled with learning, laughter and memorable moments. Thank you for your continued support — it makes all the difference.

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,

🌞 Looking Ahead to an Exciting Summer Term!

🔬 Science Week

We'll be kicking things off with Science Week, a brilliant opportunity for children to explore, investigate and get hands-on with experiments. From whole-school challenges to class-based investigations, pupils will be encouraged to think like real scientists. Expect plenty of awe and wonder as we dive into discoveries together.

🏆 Sports Week

Later in the term, Sports Week will bring everyone together for a celebration of physical activity, teamwork and healthy competition. Children will take part in a wide range of events designed to get them moving, trying new skills and cheering each other on. Families will also be invited to join us for Sports Day — always a highlight of the year.

🎨 Art Week

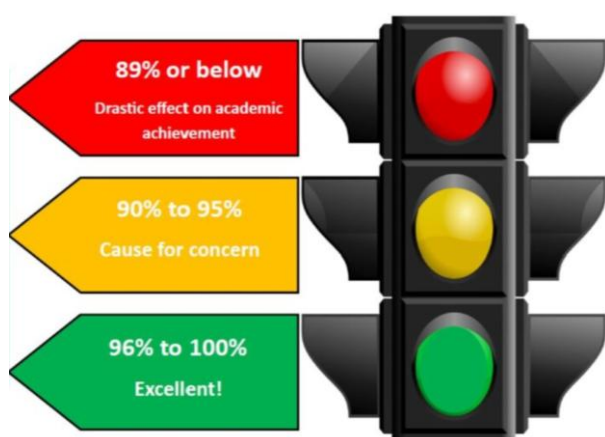
We'll round off the term with Art Week, a chance for pupils to unleash their creativity and explore different artistic styles and techniques. The school will be transformed into a gallery of colour and imagination, showcasing the incredible talent across all year groups. We can't wait to see what the children create.



Parent News Section 2,

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 confirmation of the appointment: officestaff@stmarys.slough.sch.uk
- Well done to **3** classes who achieved **96%** or more attendance last week!
- Well done to: **Larch, Beech 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	91.5%
Nursery PM	89.6%
0Poppy	90.7%
0Bluebell	92.4%
0Daffodil	91.0%
1Damson	92.0%
1Cherry	92.7%
1Apple	89.7%
2Pear	91.3%
2Plum	86.7%
2Peach	95.3%
3Ash	94.9%
3Sycamore	92.3%
3Juniper	89.7%
4Larch	96.9%
4Beech	98.7%
4Oak	94.5%
5Hazel	91.3%
5Alder	95.0%
5Elm	98.7%
6Willow	87.0%
6Maple	91.1%
6Rowan	89.6%

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

Dinosaurs in Nursery

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to Nursery for the Summer term! This half term our topic is Dinosaurs, and the children have enjoyed listening to and talking about our story 'Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs'. The children talked about the names of the dinosaurs, and they had a go at drawing one in their books.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 2

Dinosaurs in Nursery

To link to our topic, we have been creating dinosaur eggs with paint and bubble wrap, to make different textures on the eggs. The children selected their colours and commented on what the paint did as it mixed. They have also been practising using the correct pencil grip to go around the outline of dinosaurs and colour them in. On Tuesday we were fortunate to have a volunteer in our classroom working on their Junior Duke award. She supported the children in using the paint and showed them how to hold their pencils. The children were brilliant with her and enjoyed having a visitor in the classroom.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 3

Bike Riding in Nursery

In our outdoor learning, the bikes have been available for the children. The children have been working on using the pedals to move the bikes forward. This has proven a challenge, but the children are persisting in their efforts and working on using the pedals. This is something that we will continue to work on over the half term.

Nursery Team



Nursery News, Section 4

Bike Riding in Nursery

Nursery Team



Reception News, Section 1

Living World in Reception

During the last week of the spring term, we were gardeners, artists, scientists, chefs and milliners (hat makers)!

We planted bean seeds like Jasper in the book Jasper's Beanstalk (that also taught us the days of the week). We learnt about using heat to melt chocolate so we could make chocolate crispy cake nests. We learnt about why Easter is so special for Christians and had lots of fun hunting for Easter eggs to put into our chocolate nests.

Easter cards with cute chicks were created with our thumb prints, because we had been learning about chicks.

Reception Team



Reception News, Section 2

Living World in Reception

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to the chicks BUT they are happily settling into their new home on a farm near Reading. The farmer was keeping them safe and warm in a brooding box until they are big enough to go outside. Hopefully we can get updates about them from time to time.

Reception



Reception News, Section 3

NELI in Reception

Congratulations to the NELI groups – they completed Part 1 the week before the Easter Holiday. We learnt about Our Body, Clothes and People Who Help Us. We enjoyed The Gingerbread Man, Cinderella and the Postman's Busy Day.

You can access the NELI News, activities and see the vocabulary we have learnt here:

<https://www.stmarys.slough.sch.uk/neli-nuffield-early-language-intervention>

Reception Team

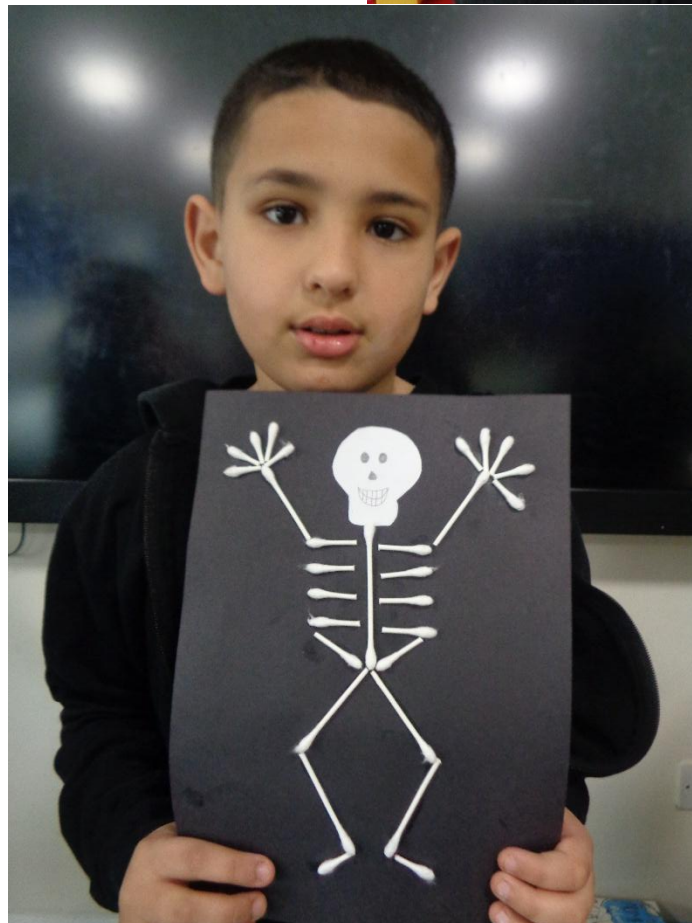


Year 3 News, Section 1

Bingo Projects in Year 3

Juniper has enjoyed showcasing their home bingo projects!

Miss Holder (Music Lead, Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 2

Bingo Projects in Year 5

Juniper has enjoyed showcasing their home bingo projects!

Miss Holder (Music Lead, Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 3

Bingo Projects in Year 5

Juniper has enjoyed showcasing their home bingo projects!

Miss Holder (Music Lead, Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 4

Attendance in Year 3

Well done to D, V and A for their 100% attendance in Spring term.

Miss Holder (Music Lead, Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 5

Art in Year 3

In Art this week, Juniper have enjoyed using their imaginations to create incredible plants! We've focussed on developing our line, shape and tone skills.

Miss Holder (Music Lead, Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 6

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In Art this week, Juniper have enjoyed using their imaginations to create incredible plants! We've focussed on developing our line, shape and tone skills.

Miss Holder (Music Lead, Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 7

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Miss Holder (Music Lead, Y3 Juniper Class teacher)

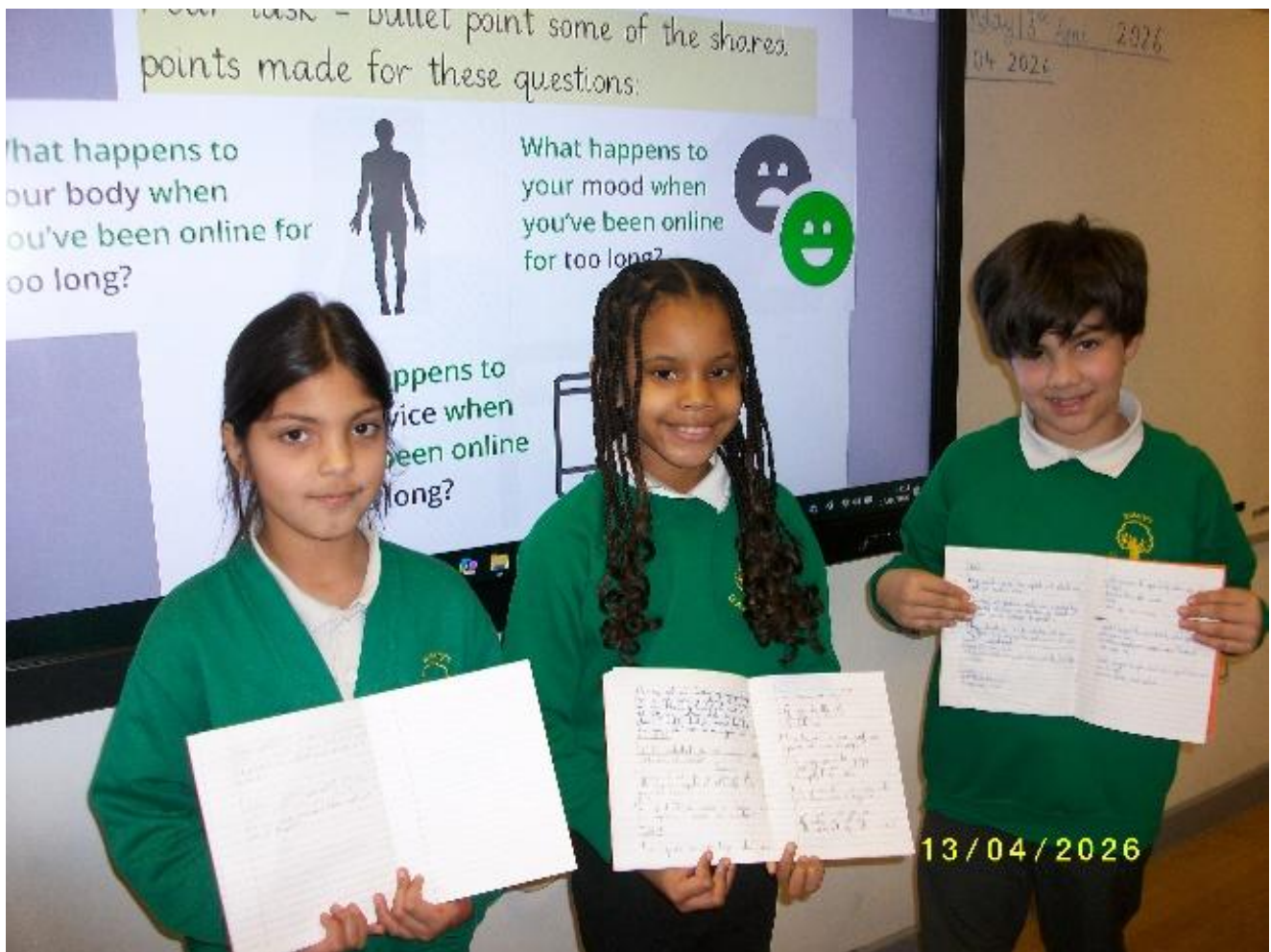


Year 4 News, Section 1

Online Safety in Y4

On Monday, Beech class spent their computing lesson looking at Online Safety. With the help of Mrs Galloway, the children explored the impact of what too much screen time can have on their body and mood.

Mr Plumley (Computing Lead, Year 4 Lead and Y4 Larch Class teacher)



Year 4 News, Section 2

Roman Workshop & History in Y4

On Wednesday the Year 4 children took part in a Roman Workshop to kick off their new Humanities topic. Led by The Rainbow Theatre Company, the children were split into Romans & Celts and spent the morning experiencing what life was like in Roman Britain.

Mr Plumley (Computing Lead, Year 4 Lead and Y4 Larch Class teacher)



Year 4 News, Section 3

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Mr Plumley (Computing Lead, Year 4 Lead and Y4 Larch Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 1

Computing in Y6

Maple class started the term discussing why restrictions on apps are crucial to children's safety online. They explained how these restrictions are applied and help limit access to inappropriate content, can control screen time and control online contact.

Mrs Fogarty (PHSE Lead and Y6 Maple Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 2

Dance in Y6

On Wednesday, Rowan class were invited to take part in a dance workshop. Katie and Jess were the instructors who visited the school. In the first session, the children were asked act as land animals for a dance that they would be putting together on this theme.

Miss Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Year Lead and Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 3

Dance in Y6

The children thoroughly enjoyed it saying they couldn't wait for their next session. They particularly enjoyed the warm-up games which included Musical Statues.

Miss Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Year Lead and Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 4

British Empire and the Commonwealth History in Y6

Willow Class made an excellent start to their new history unit on the British Empire and the creation of the Commonwealth. Pupils have been exploring how the Empire expanded and changed over time and they have shown real maturity when discussing the complexity of this period.

One of the highlights has been the creation of individual and group timelines. Pupils selected key events, illustrated significant moments, and organised their ideas chronologically. This activity not only strengthened their understanding of historical sequence but also encouraged thoughtful discussion about cause, consequence and perspective.

Mrs Parbhoo (Writing Lead, Y6 Willow Class teacher)



Year 6 News, Section 5

British Empire and the Commonwealth History in Y6

The class have also begun examining the experiences of people across the Empire, including the impact of trade, migration, and the movement towards independence. Many pupils were particularly interested in how former colonies chose to form the Commonwealth and how these nations continue to collaborate today.

Overall, the children have demonstrated curiosity, critical thinking and a strong engagement with the topic. Their questions and reflections show a growing awareness of how history shapes the world they live in now. We look forward to building on this strong foundation as the unit continues.

Mrs Parbhoo (Writing Lead, Y6 Willow Class teacher)



Dive into A Great Story at St Mary's!

Read our staff recommendations

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

Set in a sprawling, fascinating mansion, four siblings experience the magic of Narnia behind closed wardrobe doors. Although this is a classic book, I've only just read it over the Easter holidays! Full of adventure, sibling relationships, whimsy and danger, this book is one to really sink your teeth into!

Happy reading!

Miss Holder (Music Lead and Y3 Juniper Clas teacher)



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 →

Online Safety Message 1 at St Mary's

Online Safety Summer Term Message

Online Safety can be separated into four different areas, which are known as the 4 C's. The 4 C's of Online Safety are **Contact**, **Content**, **Conduct** and **Commerce**.

Contact	Content	Conduct	Commerce
Contact risks come with online communication. This could include cyberbullying and hate speech as well as grooming and sextortion.	Content risks come with image- and video-sharing online. It's also in video games and music. This could include explicit or hateful language, violent videos, age-inappropriate games and pornography.	Conduct risks are the actions children might take that could lead to harm. This could include visiting porn sites, gambling platforms and chat rooms, or sending sexual images or texts.	Commerce risks come with online spending, advertising and scams. This could include clicking on ads in a mobile game, sending money to a harmful source or even receiving a phishing email.

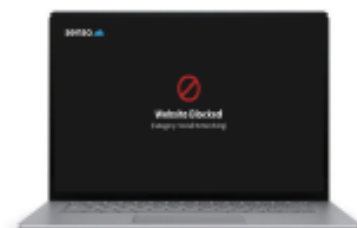
Although there are many risks for children when they are online, it is important to note that risks do not mean guaranteed harm. While risk-taking can lead to harm, it more often results in children discovering new passions and abilities.

Positive actions can limit risks from becoming harmful. Here are 5 tips:

1. Understand the risks
2. Communicate regularly
3. Keep risks in proportion
4. Agree on helpful mediation strategies
5. Develop coping strategies to foster resilience

While at school, the children's online activity is closely monitored by robust monitoring and filtering procedures, which include the following:

- ▶ **SENSO – Monitoring and Filtering Agent (AI)** on all school owned devices.
- ▶ **SENSO Web Console –** Allows teachers to monitor how the devices are being used during lessons and block functionality if required.



However, while the children are not in school we rely on parents to continue to monitor their child's online activity. Are you aware of what your child is doing when they are on their internet enabled devices? Just like films, social media sites and computer games have age restrictions. The age restrictions are in place to protect children from accessing inappropriate content. Please refer to the following posters for guidance:

Online Safety Message 2 at St Mary's

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

13 is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.

X (formerly Twitter) Facebook Instagram Pinterest Messenger
TikTok Discord Snapchat Twitch YouTube
Reddit YouTube BeReal WhatsApp

Disclaimer: This document provides information on minimum age restrictions for social media sites and apps. It is not intended to be used as a guide for parents or guardians. Parents and guardians should be aware of the risks of online activity and should discuss these risks with their children. This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of any product or service.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

16 is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.

Nintendo Online Account
Vimeo
Tumblr

18 is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps.

Xbox Live Account PSN Online Account

Disclaimer: This document provides information on minimum age restrictions for social media sites and apps. It is not intended to be used as a guide for parents or guardians. Parents and guardians should be aware of the risks of online activity and should discuss these risks with their children. This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of any product or service.

Age Restrictions for Video Games

<p>3 PEGI 3</p> <p>Games with a PEGI 3 rating are suitable for all ages.</p> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> child-like settings comical violence language more suitable for young children <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Just Dance FIFA DART Rally Animal Crossing 	<p>7 PEGI 7</p> <p>Games with a PEGI 7 rating are suitable for ages 7 and above.</p> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> some scenes or sounds that could be frightening evil forms of violence (non-realistic or with no detail) <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minecraft Roblox Among Us Lego Series
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The British Board of Computer Classification and Rating (BBFC) provides information on the age restrictions for video games. This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of any product or service.

Age Restrictions for Video Games

<p>12 PEGI 12</p> <p>Games with a PEGI 12 rating are suitable for ages 12 and above.</p> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> violence of a slightly graphic nature involving fantasy characters suggestive activities or language gambling real bad language <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sims Fortnite Dragon Ball FighterZ Super Smash Bros. Ultimate 	<p>16 PEGI 16</p> <p>Games with a PEGI 16 rating are suitable for ages 16 and above.</p> <p>They may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> violence and adult content that looks like real life bad language scenes demonstrating the use of tobacco, alcohol or illegal substances <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marvel's Avengers Battlefield 2042 Halo Infinite Marvel's Spider-Man
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The British Board of Computer Classification and Rating (BBFC) provides information on the age restrictions for video games. This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of any product or service.

Age Restrictions for Video Games

18
PEGI 18

Games with a PEGI 18 rating are suitable for ages 18 and above.

They may have:

- extreme violence
- explicit adult content
- the glorified use of illegal substances

For example:

- Call of Duty Warzone
- Grand Theft Auto V
- For Cry 3 Blood Dragon

The British Board of Computer Classification and Rating (BBFC) provides information on the age restrictions for video games. This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of any product or service.

You can check the age rating of any game using the PEGI website (pegi.info)



Online Safety Message 3 at St Mary's

As well as the Age Restriction posters, please refer to the following websites and guidance for support:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/> - Online website where you are given step by step instructions on how to set parental controls on your home broadband, smartphone and streaming service.

www.pegi.info - Online website where you can check the age restrictions of computer games and apps.

#WakeUpWednesday Emails - Sent out by the school every Wednesday. These weekly emails focus on a different Online Safety topic each week. If you are not receiving these then please make sure that the school has an up-to-date email address where the emails can be sent. Past emails can be found here <https://www.stmarys.slough.sch.uk/online-homework-and-safety-information-1>

To help monitor the effectiveness of the emails we have produced a short survey which we would like you to complete for us. The survey can be accessed by clicking on this link [#WakeUpWednesday Survey – Fill out form](#)

Particular Trends and Areas of Concern

Below are specific concerns affecting the different age groups at the moment. However a common thread and concern to staff of all age groups is the fact that parents are allowing children to access apps and TV programmes that are not age appropriate.

Nursery and Reception (EYFS) – Government Screen time guidance and role playing inappropriate content.

On 27th March the government released some guidance on screen time for children under 5, which can be found here <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/> a short video explaining the guidance can be viewed here <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/wSdQ9aGD8A4>

We have recently been noticing that the children are fighting or acting inappropriately during break times. When we have investigated it has turned out that the children have been reenacting a video they have seen on YouTube or a game on Roblox. Please be mindful of the content that your children are being exposed to. You may have all the parental controls set correctly but they may still be accessing the content via older siblings.

Year 1 & 2 (Key Stage 1) - role playing inappropriate content.

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Year 3 & 4 (Lower Key Stage 2) - accessing inappropriate content on Roblox and YouTube.

We are aware that children are accessing games on Roblox that involve inappropriate content. Although children 7 and over are allowed to play Roblox there are many games on the site that

Online Safety Message 4 at St Mary's

are of an adult nature. Please make sure that the parental settings are in place within the game itself and you monitor them regularly while they are playing.

YouTube videos are also popular with this age group so it is important that parents are aware of the content that your children are being exposed to. I would advise downloading the App YouTube Kids rather than giving your child access to the whole of YouTube as it has extra parental controls built into the app.

Year 5 & 6 (Upper Key Stage 2) – inappropriate messaging on social media

As a school we are noticing that a high number of behaviour issues that we are dealing with in school are connected to the messaging app WhatsApp. Children are either using it to send unkind messages in a group chat or they are sharing links to inappropriate content.

As seen above, the recommended age to be on WhatsApp is 13 years old. Therefore, if parents are allowing their child to use WhatsApp then they should be monitoring the messages their child is sending and receiving. It is also important that parents know who their children are messaging online.

Should you require any further support, please contact Mr Plumley (Online Safety Lead) through his class email address larch@stmarys.slough.sch.uk

Music at Slough Borough Council



SLOUGH
MUSIC
SERVICE



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](#).

Summer Term 1

13.04.2026	First Day of Summer Term 1 for Children
15.04.2026	Workshop: Y4 History 'Romans' experience at St Mary's school
21.04.2026	Trip: Y5 to Milestone Museum
23.04.2026	Parent Workshop at 8.40am: Reading workshop for Y3 and Y4 Parents
27.04.2026	Parent Workshop at 8.40am: Phonics workshop for Y1 Parents
27.04.2026	Parent Workshop at 2.45pm: Phonics workshop for Y1 Parents
29.04.2026	Dance Festival at The Curve at 10am: Y3, Y4, Y5 After-school Dance Club
30.04.2026	Assembly: Y2 Pear Class at 3pm
04.05.2026	May Bank Holiday: School closed
07.05.2026	Assembly: Y1 Apple Class at 3pm
08.05.2026	Assembly: Y4 Beech Class at 8.50am
11.05.2026	KS2 SAT: Monday 11/05/2026-Thursday 14/05/2026
12.05.2026	Trip: Y5 to St Mary's Church for Ascension Service at 2pm
15.05.2026	Trip: Y6 to St Mary's Church for Eucharist Service at 9.30am
18.05.2026	Science Week: Current Affairs
21.05.2026	Assembly: Y1 Cherry Class at 3pm
22.05.2026	Last day of Summer Term 1
25.05.2026	Half Term Holiday
01.06.2026	First Day of Summer Term 2 for Children
03.06.2026	Trip: Y3 Kew Gardens
11.06.2026	Assembly: Y1 Damson Class at 3pm
12.06.2026	Assembly: Y2 Plum Class at 12.50pm
16.06.2026	Workshop: Y5 History 'Victorians' experience at St Mary's school
18.06.2026	Assembly: Reception Bluebell Class at 3pm
19.06.2026	Assembly: Reception Daffodil Class at 12.50pm
22.06.2026	Sports Day: Y5 and Y6 at 9.15am
22.06.2026	Sports Day: Y3 and Y4 at 1.30pm
23.06.2026	Sports Day: Y1 and Y2 at 9.15am
23.06.2026	Sports Day: YR at 2pm
24.06.2026	Sports Day: Morning Nursery at 9.15am
24.06.2026	Sports Day: Afternoon Nursery at 2pm
25.06.2026	Assembly: Reception Poppy Class at 3pm
06/07/2026	Art Week: World Environment
09.07.2026	Trip: Y2 to Littlehampton
14.07.2026	Y6 End of Year Performance for Parents at 2pm
15.07.2026	Y6 End of Year Performance for Parents at 6pm
17.07.2026	Y6 Leavers' Assembly for Parents at 11am
17.07.2026	Last Day of Summer Term 2. School ends at 1.30pm for Children
02.09.2026	First Day of Autumn Term 1, 2026 for Children