



Dear Parents and Carers,



Bees-iness as Usual at St Mary's

We hope everyone enjoyed the bank holiday weekend. Thank you for your support and understanding on Friday when we needed to divert collection points at short notice. An unexpected swarm of bees arrived on the playground right at the end of the school day, and our priority was to keep all children and adults safe. The swarm of bees moved away from the school grounds over the weekend, and we are happy to report that all is well.

A special thank you goes to our Reception parents and carers for working with us so calmly and cooperatively as we arranged handover via Holly Hall instead of the usual classroom exits. Your flexibility made a big difference.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.

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

Values

- St Mary's Christian Values for the **summer term** are **forgiveness, resilience and perseverance**.
- 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

🔔 Important Reminders: Water Bottles

As we move further into the summer term, we would like to remind parents and carers of our health and safety expectations to ensure all children can enjoy school safely and comfortably.

Water Bottle Safety Reminder for All Families

Keeping our school environment safe, dry, and slip-free is a shared priority. Recently, we've noticed a rise in accidental leaks from pupils' water bottles, which can create slipping hazards in classrooms and corridors. To help us maintain a safe learning environment, we are asking all families to check that their child's water bottle meets the following safety guidelines.

✓ What Type of Water Bottle Is Allowed?

1. Must be fully secure and leakproof



Bottles should have a **tight-sealing lid** that does not drip when tipped or placed in a bag.



Parent News, Section 2

🔔 Important Reminders: Water Bottles

2. Must be *non-metal*

Metal bottles can be noisy, heavy, and more likely to cause injury if dropped. Please choose **plastic or similar lightweight materials**.



3. Small, compact size

Children should bring a **small bottle** that fits easily into their bag or tray without risk of falling or rolling.



Parent News, Section 3

🔔 Important Reminders: Water Bottles

4. Built-in straws must be leak-free

If your child's bottle has a straw, it must be a non-leaking design with a secure flip-top or locking mechanism.



Why This Matters

Even a small amount of spilled water can create a slipping hazard. Our goal is to prevent avoidable accidents and keep every child and adult safe throughout the school day.

Helpful Safety Tips for Families

- Test the bottle at home by tipping it upside down.
- Check that the lid closes firmly and doesn't pop open in a bag.
- Avoid bottles with loose or easily damaged parts.
- Clean and inspect bottles regularly to keep them in good condition.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please reach out to the school office.

Thank you for working with us to ensure bottles are safe, secure, and suitable for school use.



Parent News, Section 4

2026 Slough School Sport Network Dance Festival

For the very first time, St Mary's proudly took part in the Slough School Sport Network Dance Festival.

Children from Years 3, 4 and 5 have been attending an after-school dance club with Mrs Meher since October, working incredibly hard towards this exciting performance. The theme set by the SSSN was "*It's Coming Home*", and, as a school rooted in a wonderfully diverse community, St Mary's chose to interpret this by celebrating different cultures coming together.

The group spent the 28th and 29th at The Curve rehearsing and performing in two fantastic shows for parents and spectators. Their performances truly reflected the values of St Mary's we could not be prouder.

A huge well done to the St Mary's Dance Crew for representing our school so brilliantly and thank you very much to Mrs Meher for leading our Dance Club so well!

Mr Bignell (PE Lead) and **Mrs Meher** (Dance Club Lead)



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 **14** classes who achieved **96%** or more attendance last week! **The highest total this year!!**
 - Well done to: **Daffodil, Cherry, Pear, Peach, Ash, Sycamore, Juniper, Larch, Beech, Hazel, Alder, Elm, Maple and Rowan classes!!**
- Special well done to Year 3 and Year 5 departments with all classes achieving 96% or more attendance last week!!!**



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	86.9%
Nursery PM	86.7%
0Poppy	92.9%
0Bluebell	95.0%
0Daffodil	97.3%
1Damson	92.2%
1Cherry	98.3%
1Apple	95.5%
2Pear	96.3%
2Plum	93.7%
2Peach	99.0%
3Ash	97.2%
3Sycamore	96.3%
3Juniper	99.3%
4Larch	96.9%
4Beech	99.0%
4Oak	91.2%
5Hazel	97.1%
5Alder	97.3%
5Elm	97.3%
6Willow	92.0%
6Maple	98.4%
6Rowan	96.7%

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.

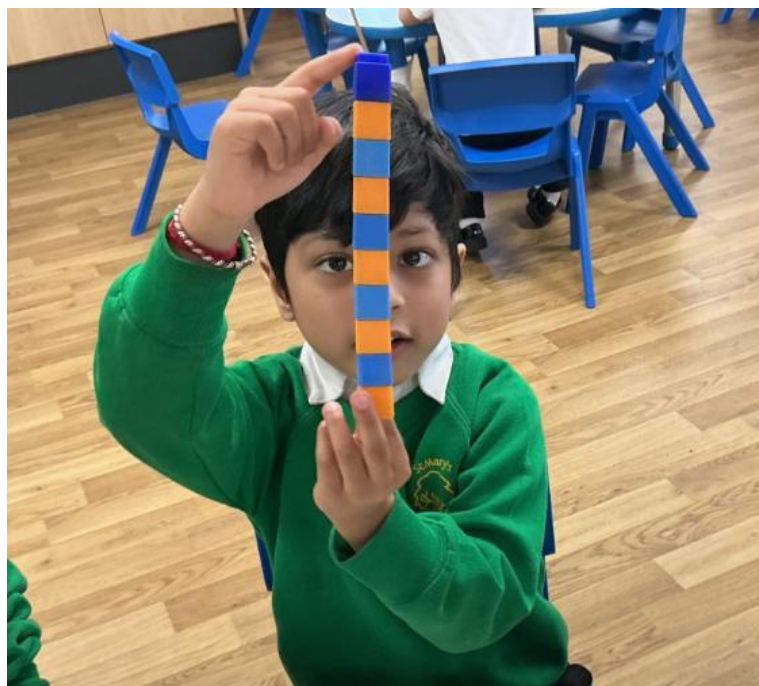
The senior leadership team have pledged that if 5 classes achieve 100% in the same week, they will come to school wearing superhero costumes! Please bring your child to school every day 😊

Nursery News, Section 1

Maths in Nursery

In Maths, the nursery has been learning all about repeating patterns. The children have been working on continuing a pattern, recognising when a pattern is incorrect and identifying how to fix it and they have then been working on creating their own patterns using resources in the classroom. Here are some of the lovely patterns they created in learning play!

Nursery Department



Nursery News, Section 2

Construction in Nursery

To link to our learning about patterns, we have looked at blocks and how we can use them to build different things. The children listened to the story 'When I build with blocks' by Nikki Alling and then they were set a challenge to build something using our blocks in the outdoor area.

Nursery Department



Nursery News, Section 3

Construction in Nursery

They came up with some brilliant creations and used their problem-solving skills to help them when their constructions didn't work straight away.

Nursery Department

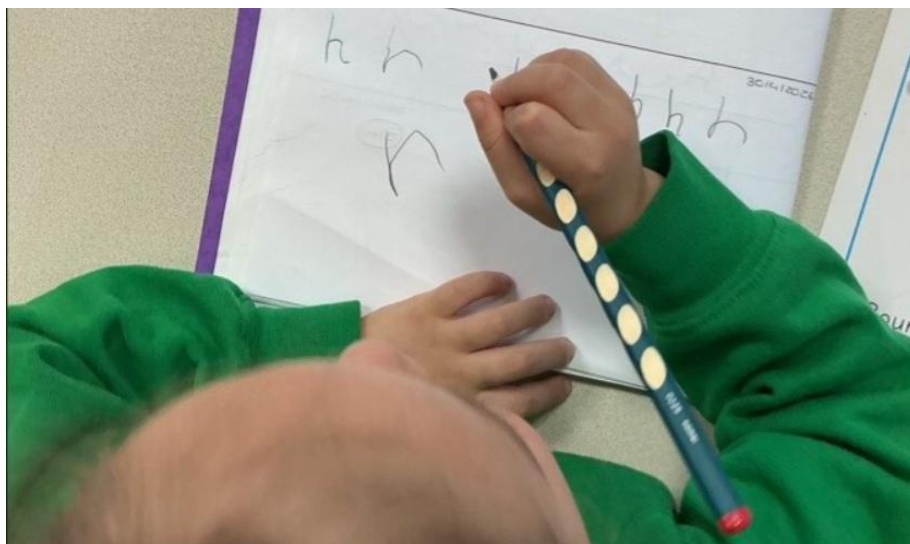


Nursery News, Section 4

Read Write Inc and Learning Phonics in Nursery

In RWI, the children have been working hard on their letter recognition and formation. Each week we learn two new sounds and practise writing it. The children have worked incredibly hard on their pencil grip and to reach our goal of writing some recognisable letters. Here are some wonderful examples of the children hard at work!

Nursery Department



Reception News, Section 1

History and Outdoor Learning in Reception

In Reception we are still learning about the past, Kings, Queens, knights and castles; last week our focus book was **Queen Aneena's Feast**. Some of us remembered making a feast in a classroom. We noticed lots of **rhyming words** in the story – Queen **Nelly** enjoyed eating **jelly** ! Can you spot any **rhyming words** in your reading books or other books at home?

We made the most of the nice weather being creative outside. A drum kit was created following a session with the Rocksteady teacher.

Reception Department



Reception News, Section 2

NELI in Reception

NELI groups have been learning about **Growing**. We have been learning about flowers, fruits and vegetables. We 'planted' cress seeds into cotton wool balls and hope they will continue to grow at home.

Please see the link below for the NELI Newsletters including the vocabulary we have learnt.

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

Reception Department



Year 2 News, Section 1

Science in Year 2

This week, Year 2 were thrilled to welcome some very special new classroom visitors —caterpillars! The children have been buzzing with excitement as they carefully observe the tiny creatures each day, watching them grow and shed their skin. This hands-on experience links perfectly with our science topic, Animals Including Humans, as pupils learn about life cycles and how living things develop. The sense of wonder in the classroom has been lovely to see, with lots of thoughtful questions and eager discussions about what might happen next as we wait for the caterpillars to transform.

We will update the newsletter as much as we can with pictures, so families and friends at home can come along this journey with the Year 2 Department.

Mrs Hill (Y2 Plum Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 1

Art in Year 3

So much fun was had in this week's art lesson! As part of our unit 'Sculpture and 3D Abstract Art', the children were challenged to turn 2D cardboard shapes into 3D structures. The trickiest part was thinking of ways to hold the parts in place—without using glue!

Mrs Williams (Science Lead, Y3 Lead and Y3 Ash Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 2

Maths in Year 3

In our maths lesson today, the children put their knowledge of angles to the test. We made the most of the sunny weather and went outside to investigate how many acute, obtuse and right angles we could find in real life. The children used their whiteboards as 'angle finders' and hunted down all the angles they could see.

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



Year 3 News, Section 3

Maths in Year 3

They also used their oracy skills to explain why they thought the object had a certain angle. Well done year 3 for using your creativity, thinking outside the box and applying your maths skills to the real world!

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



Year 3 News, Section 4

Geography Fieldwork in Year 3

Year 3 enjoyed walking to Slough High Street on Wednesday, where we conducted fieldwork creating tally charts to see the different types of shops we saw

Miss Holder (Music Lead and Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 3 News, Section 5

Geography Fieldwork in Year 3

We looked for retail, professional services, fresh food, takeaways and unused buildings. Ask us what we saw the most of!

Miss Holder (Music Lead and Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



Year 5 News, Section 1

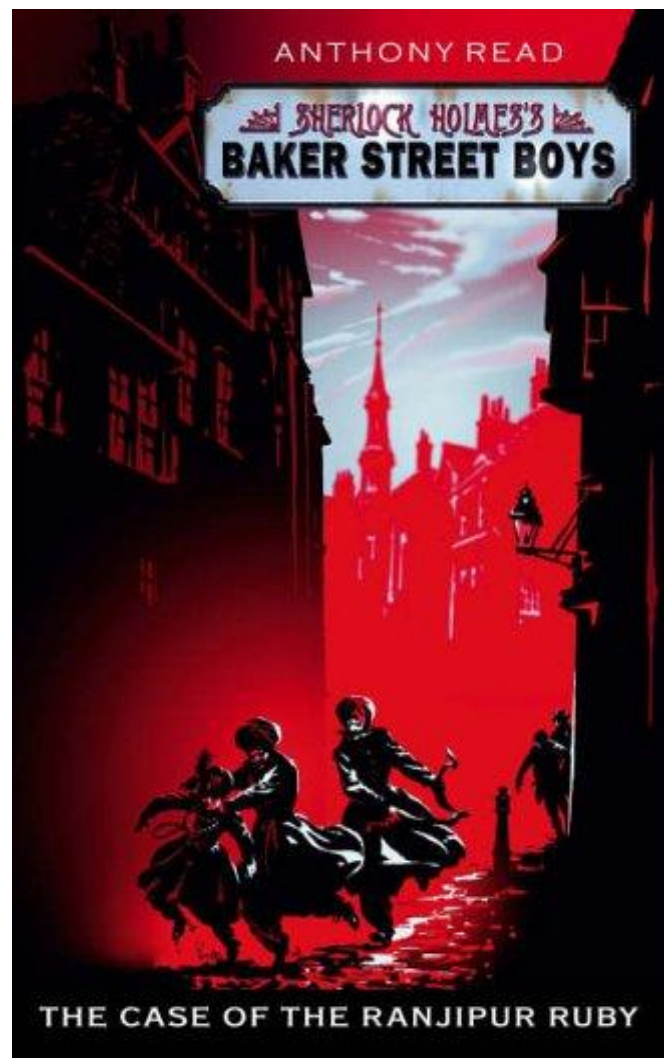
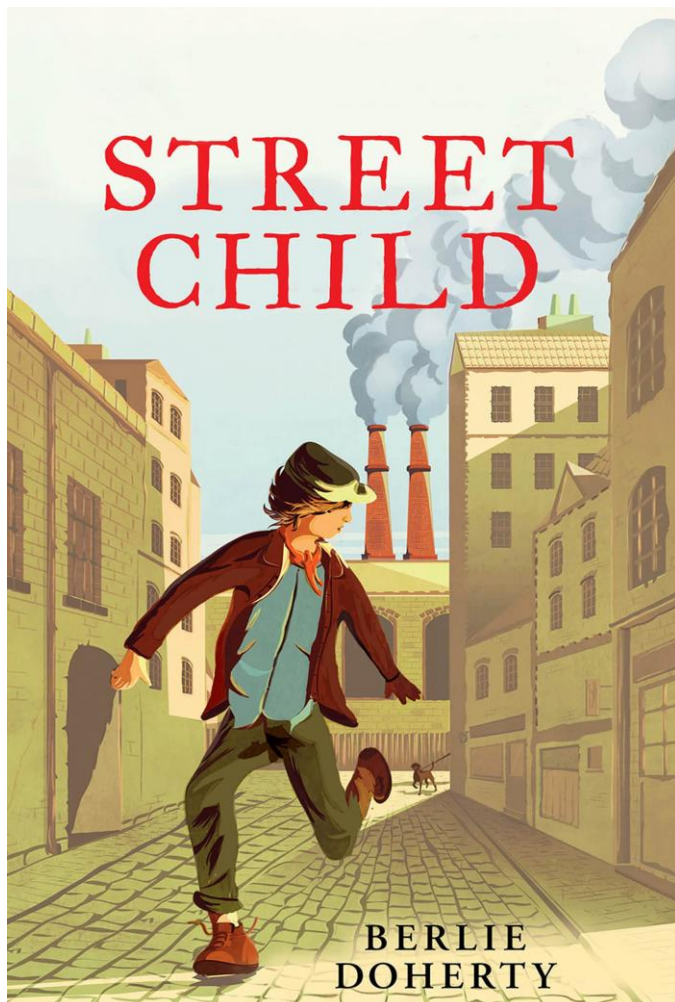
History Enrichment in Year 5

Year 5: Milestone Museum – Victorian Britain and The Industrial Revolution

Last week, our year 5 students were able to travel back in time to Victorian Britain and experience what life was like in Britain's towns and cities. The children had the opportunity to see how children were educated, what work in the factories was like, examine maps and photographs on the area.

The trip has linked well to our core texts which are being used in our Reading and English sets:

Year 5 Department



Year 5 News, Section 2

History Enrichment in Year 5

Year 5: Milestone Museum – Victorian Britain and The Industrial Revolution

Year 5 Department



Year 5 News, Section 3

History Enrichment in Year 5

Year 5: Milestone Museum – Victorian Britain and The Industrial Revolution

Year 5 Department



Year 5 News, Section 4

History Enrichment in Year 5

Year 5: Milestone Museum – Victorian Britain and The Industrial Revolution

Year 5 Department



Year 5 News, Section 5

History Enrichment in Year 5

Year 5: Milestone Museum – Victorian Britain and The Industrial Revolution

Year 5 Department



Dive into A Great Story at St Mary's!

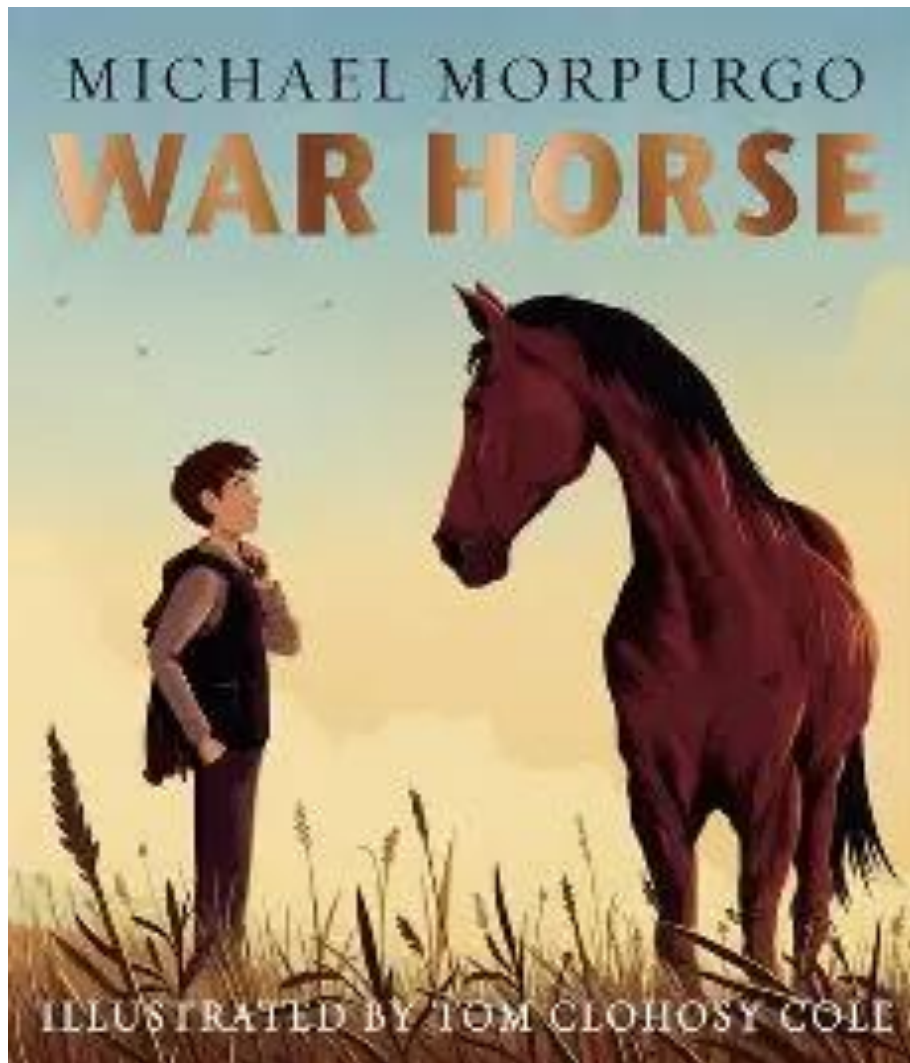
Read our Staff Recommendations

War Horse

War Horse is a powerful and emotional novel that left a lasting impression on me, especially because of the deep bond between Joey and Albert. It is a heart-warming story that left me unable to put the book down. What stood out most to me was the relationship between Joey and Albert. Their connection is built on trust and loyalty, which remains strong even when they are separated by the chaos of war. Albert's determination to find Joey shows how love and friendship can endure even in the darkest times. I found myself really rooting for them to reunite, which made their journey feel personal and emotional.

Happy reading!

Mrs Williams (Science Lead, Y3 Lead and Y3 Ash 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 →

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](#).

Summer Term 1

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