

11th May 2026

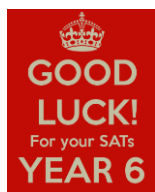
Newsletter

Summer Term (Edition 28)



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,



KS2 SAT Week

Good luck to all our Year 6 pupils as they begin their KS2 SATs next week.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work, resilience, and perseverance they have shown throughout the year. These assessments are just one moment in their learning journey, and we know they will approach them with the confidence and maturity they have developed. We encourage pupils to approach each day with a positive mindset and to take pride in their efforts, knowing that we are behind them every step of the way, confident that they will give their very best.

Thank you to our staff and families for the support you continue to provide. We wish our pupils a calm, focused, and successful week ahead.

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: Science Week

Science Week begins on Monday 18th May, and this year our theme is **Growth**, with a special focus on plant growth. We have a brilliant range of shows, workshops and hands-on activities for every child to enjoy.

We kick off the week with a visit from the very amusing **Dr Ken**, who will explore how magicians use science and engineering in their tricks. His show includes forces, gravity, sound, and materials and their properties. Dr Ken was hugely popular when he last visited St Mary's, and we can't wait to see what he has up his sleeve this year!

VodafoneThree will be helping pupils create digital posters, cartoons and stop-motion animations linked to our theme.

Our daily assemblies will also feature guest speakers, including a forensic scientist, an optician and a dentist, all hoping to inspire our children towards a future in science.

Don't forget our science competition too, with some wonderful prizes to be won. All entries must be handed in on **Wednesday 20th May only**. Please see the flyer below for more information.

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



Parent News, Section 2

🔔 Important Reminders: Science Week Competition

Science Week Competition 2026

KS1 & 2	Nursery and Reception
<p data-bbox="225 488 738 584">Design and make your own mini greenhouse.</p> 	<p data-bbox="815 488 1345 600">Create your <u>own</u> original 3D flower and give it a name.</p> 

- Deadline: **Wednesday 20th May 2026**
- All entries to be placed in Yew Hall on **Wednesday 20th May 2026**.
- **Name** and **class** to be written clearly on the bottom
- Lots of amazing prizes to be won!
- Winners announced on **Friday 22nd May 2026**

Deadline: Wednesday 20th May

Parent News, Section 3

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: **Bluebell, Cherry, Pear, Peach, Plum, Ash, Sycamore, Juniper, Larch, Beech, Hazel, Alder, Maple and Rowan classes!!**
- **Special well done to Year 2 and Year 3 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	89.4%
Nursery PM	83.7%
0Poppy	91.7%
0Bluebell	96.3%
0Daffodil	95.4%
1Damson	94.8%
1Cherry	93.3%
1Apple	91.4%
2Pear	99.1%
2Plum	97.5%
2Peach	98.3%
3Ash	98.7%
3Sycamore	98.3%
3Juniper	97.5%
4Larch	99.6%
4Beech	98.8%
4Oak	88.3%
5Hazel	96.4%
5Alder	99.6%
5Elm	90.8%
6Willow	87.9%
6Maple	97.6%
6Rowan	98.5%

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 we have been practising counting in order up to 5. The children have used songs and objects to help them count amounts from a larger group. We also had a go at using 10 frames for the first time! The children could move their cubes around on their 10 frame and have started to understand that if we don't take any away, no matter what their position is, the amount or cubes stays the same. The children used their subitising skills brilliantly to support them.

Nursery Department



Nursery News, Section 2

Maths in Nursery

When you are out and about, ask your children to count vehicles they can see or recognise numerals on doors and buses- can they recognise numerals 1-5 and count them in order?

Nursery Department



Nursery News, Section 3

Art in Nursery

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have been creating their very own dinosaurs using different things to create their image- a combination of hand painting and using paintbrushes. To continue encouraging the children to write their own name, we asked them to write their name underneath so they can show their dinosaur with pride!

Nursery Department



Nursery News, Section 4

Art in Nursery

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have been creating their very own dinosaurs using different things to create their image- a combination of hand painting and using paintbrushes. To continue encouraging the children to write their own name, we asked them to write their name underneath so they can show their dinosaur with pride!

Nursery Department



Reception News, Section 1

Living World in Reception

In Reception we began learning about people who help us - our '**Helpful Heroes**' we are starting with a focus on health professionals - doctors, nurses, paramedics.

Our focus book was a **non-fiction** book called **Doctors**. We discussed the importance of Health Professionals and the different jobs they do. We enjoyed roleplaying being a doctor or a patient and writing prescriptions. We found the word **stethoscope** tricky to say – can you pronounce it properly? Do you know what it is?

We have also been improving our handwriting and improving our mathematics by strengthening our finger muscles by making shapes out of play dough.

Reception Department



Reception News, Section 2

NELI in Reception

The NELI groups are coming to the end of our Growing topic. We have been learning about animals, vegetables, flowers and fruit that are grown on farms. We have also been enjoying The Enormous Turnip story. 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 Department



Year 1 News, Section 1

Science in Year 1

Year 1 have had a lot of fun in science this week exploring evergreen and deciduous trees! We went on a walk around the school grounds and then we came back and labelled the different parts of the trees and recorded our findings. Y1 are very excited to be learning about plants this term and are preparing to plant our own beans soon and flowers in our outside area!

Year 1 Department



Year 2 News, Section 1

Science in Year 2

Year 2 have been fascinated by observing the life cycle of our caterpillars over the past couple of weeks. The children have loved checking on them each day and noticing the exciting changes as the caterpillars grew bigger and eventually formed their cocoons. There has been lots of discussion, curiosity, and excitement in the classroom as we learned about the different stages of a butterfly's life cycle. We are all very hopeful that when we return to school on Monday, we may be greeted by some beautiful butterflies ready to emerge!

Year 2 Department



Year 2 News, Section 2

Computing in Year 2

Year 2 have been developing their computing skills by using iPads and other devices to take photographs around the school. The children enjoyed exploring different features of the cameras while learning how to hold and use devices carefully and responsibly.

They took pictures of a variety of objects, locations, and interesting features around the school grounds, helping them to practise focusing, framing, and capturing clear images. It was wonderful to see the children working collaboratively, showing creativity, and building confidence with technology in a fun and engaging way. Of course, Plum Class had to take a class selfie too 😊

Year 2 Department



Year 3 News, Section 1

Religious Education in Year 3

This week in RE, the children learned about the Amrit Ceremony and the importance of joining the Khalsa in Sikhism. The class explored the meaning behind the special ceremony and discussed the values of commitment, equality, and courage. To help deepen their understanding, the children took part in a role play of the ceremony using sugar water to represent Amrit. The children showed great respect and enthusiasm throughout the lesson and enjoyed learning about Sikh traditions and beliefs.

Year 3 Department



Year 3 News, Section 2

Design and Technology in Year 3

Juniper have been busy experimenting with card to create 3D sculptures which can stand up independently! We had to create joins in the paper without using glue or tape.

Year 3 Department



Year 3 News, Section 3

Design and Technology in Year 3

Juniper have been busy experimenting with card to create 3D sculptures which can stand up independently! We had to create joins in the paper without using glue or tape.

Year 3 Department



Dive into A Great Story at St Mary's!

Read our Staff Recommendations

The Big Bad Wolf Murder

The Big Bad Wolf Murder is an utterly captivating story, brimming with unexpected twists, brisk pacing, and brilliantly crafted characters. I found myself completely engrossed from beginning to end. The inventive reimagining of classic fairy tales, woven together with clever and thoughtful references, was especially delightful. Fillan's character is exceptionally well written, charming and deeply likeable. This is a story that can be appreciated by all ages, and Sycamore class can definitely testify to how enjoyable it is!

Happy reading!

Miss Martins (Reading for Pleasure Lead, Y3 Sycamore Class 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

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
09.06.2026	Trip: Y5 to Gurdwara
11.06.2026	Assembly: Y1 Damson Class at 3pm: Re-scheduled
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	Trip: Y6 to Science Museum
18.06.2026	Assembly: Reception Bluebell Class at 3pm
19.06.2026	Assembly: Y1 Damson Class at 8.50am
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
30.06.2026	Trip: Y6 to Mosque
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