



Dear Parents and Carers,

☀ Attendance and Term Time Holidays

Well done to **eleven** classes who achieved **96% or more** attendance last week! Well done to: **Cherry, Pear, Plum, Peach, Ash, Juniper, Larch, Oak, Hazel, Elm and Maple classes!!**

A reminder that strong **attendance** is essential for your child's progress. We expect pupils to be in school **every day** unless they are unwell or have an authorised reason for absence. Please inform the school office promptly using the **Study Bugs** app if your child is unable to attend.

Term-time holidays **cannot be authorised** except in exceptional circumstances. All requests must be submitted in advance. Unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice from the local authority. The best way to support your child's learning is to ensure they attend school daily, on time for lessons.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring high attendance and punctuality! 😊

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)

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



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	88.5%
Nursery PM	85.0%
0Poppy	90.0%
0Bluebell	95.3%
0Daffodil	93.0%
1Damson	90.7%
1Cherry	97.3%
1Apple	92.7%
2Pear	97.9%
2Plum	99.7%
2Peach	98.7%
3Ash	97.3%
3Sycamore	94.3%
3Juniper	98.0%
4Larch	97.3%
4Beech	89.9%
4Oak	98.0%
5Hazel	98.6%
5Alder	93.0%
5Elm	99.7%
6Willow	93.0%
6Maple	98.0%
6Rowan	91.2%

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 😊

Parent News, Section 1

School Attendance & Term-Time Holiday

As we move further into the school year, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all families of the importance of **excellent attendance** and the procedures surrounding **term-time holiday requests**.

Attendance Expectations

Regular attendance is essential for every child's learning, progress, and wellbeing. Even short periods of absence can disrupt a child's understanding of key concepts and affect their confidence in the classroom.

- Our expectation is that all pupils attend school **every day**, unless they are unwell or have an authorised reason for absence.
- If your child is unable to attend, please inform the school using the Study Bugs app on the morning of every day of absence.
- We monitor attendance closely and will contact families if attendance falls below expected levels.

Term-Time Holiday Requests

We understand that family time is important; however, the law states that headteachers **cannot authorise holidays during term time** except in *exceptional circumstances*. These circumstances are rare and must meet specific criteria.

- All requests must be submitted to our Attendance Manager, Mrs Idrees.
- Requests should be made **in advance**, and approval is not guaranteed.
- Unauthorised holidays may result in a **fixed penalty notice** issued by the local authority.

Working Together

We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and arrives on time each day. Strong attendance builds good habits, supports academic success, and helps children feel confident and settled in school life.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's attendance, please contact the school office. We are here to help and work in partnership with you



Year 5 News

Science Workshop at School

This week, our year 5 cohort were able to travel through **space** using **virtual vision**. The workshop enabled children to deepen their understanding of the different planets which form our solar system. To find out more about our science unit of learning, check out the link below:

[Space - KS2 Topic - BBC Bitesize](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zgpvbnb>

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



Year 6 News

Geography

We proudly present to you our amazing projects on **North and South America**. Our topic this term in **geography** is to plan an itinerary for a group of tourists to the Americas. We will be considering **climate, time zones and leisure activities**. In addition, as part of this topic, we will be investigating the longitude and latitude of countries we want our tourists to visit. The children were asked to design a project relating to a country in either North or South America. Here are some of the outstanding ones.

Ms Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Lead, Y6 Rowan 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](#).

Spring Term

21.01.2026	Parent Information Meeting-Y6: KS2 SAT at 8.30am
22.01.2026	Parent Information Meeting- Y3 and Y4: Supporting Reading at Home at 8.30am
23.01.2026	Parent Information Meeting- Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6: Supporting Maths at Home at 8.30am
26.01.2026	Trip: Y4 to Synagogue- Larch class and 15 children from Oak class
27.01.2026	Workshop: Y2 History 'Great Fire of London' experience at St Mary's school
29.01.2026	Assembly: Y4 Larch Class at 3pm
30.01.2026	Assembly: Y3 Sycamore Class at 8.50am
02.02.2026	Trip: Y4 to Synagogue- Beech class and 15 children from Oak class
02.02.2026	YR Shopping Trip experience to Slough High Street
04.02.2026	St Mary's School Choir Participating in 'Young Voices' Performance at Wembley Arena
02.02.2026	Maths Week
05.02.2026	Assembly: Y5 Alder Class at 3pm
06.02.2026	Number Day
06.02.2026	Assembly: Y5 Hazel Class at 8.50am
11.02.2026	Parent Information Meeting- Y1: Phonics Screening Check 8.30am
12.02.2026	Parent Information Meeting- Y4: Multiplication Test at 8.30am
12.02.2026	Assembly: Y3 Ash Class at 3pm
12.02.2026	Trip: Y1 to Windsor Castle
13.02.2026	Lunar New Year Celebration for Nursery, Reception, Y3 and Y4
13.02.2026	Last day of Spring Term 1

Half Term Holiday

23.02.2026	First Day of Spring Term 2
24.02.2026	Trip: Y2 Eton College
24.02.2026	Workshop: Y6 History 'World War 2' experience at St Mary's school
02.03.2026	Reading Week
05.03.2026	World Book Day
05.03.2026	Assembly: Y5 Elm Class at 3pm
06.03.2026	Assembly: Y3 Juniper Class at 8.50am
09.03.2026	Parent Information Meeting- Y1: Phonics at 8.30am and 2.45pm
12.03.2026	Assembly: Y2 Peach Class at 3pm
13.03.2025	Assembly: Y4 Oak Class at 8.50am
16.03.2026	EYFS Natural World 'Living Eggs' experience at St Mary's school
17.03.2026	Workshop: Y3 History 'Stone Age' experience at St Mary's school
18.03.2026	Trip: Y2 to Whipsnade Zoo
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 Y1 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