



Dear Parents and Carers,

☀️ **Welcome Back and Happy New Year!**

We hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday break. As we step into **2026**, we're excited for the rich learning experiences and opportunities that lie ahead for our pupils.

This term promises new challenges, fresh discoveries, and plenty of moments to celebrate **growth**. We are committed to working in **close partnership** with you to support every child's success—academically, socially, and emotionally.

Here's to a fantastic year of **learning** and **achieving** together. We look forward to seeing all at St Mary's **flourishing!** *Thank you to our whole school community!* 😊

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	96.2%
Nursery PM	75.5%
0Poppy	87.9%
0Bluebell	92.0%
0Daffodil	95.8%
1Damson	92.5%
1Cherry	90.8%
1Apple	84.6%
2Pear	95.1%
2Plum	94.0%
2Peach	95.8%
3Ash	92.9%
3Sycamore	91.8%
3Juniper	99.2%
4Larch	95.8%
4Beech	94.0%
4Oak	94.2%
5Hazel	93.3%
5Alder	91.7%
5Elm	98.3%
6Willow	86.7%
6Maple	93.3%
6Rowan	95.0%

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 academic year!

The senior leadership team have pledged that they will wear superhero outfits if 5 classes get 100% in the same week!

Please bring your child to school every day. 😊

Parent News, Section 1

Leading Parent Partnership Award

🇬🇧 **We're Proud to Share Some Wonderful News!**

We are delighted to inform you that, following the audit that took place on 1st December 2025, our school has successfully secured the **Leading Parent Partnership Award, 2025-2028!**

This achievement recognises our ongoing commitment to building **strong, positive relationships** with families and ensuring parents are actively involved in their children's learning journey.

It reflects the hard work of our staff, the engagement of our families, and the shared belief that children thrive when school and home work closely together.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to building on this success throughout the year.

Special thank you once again to those involved on the day of the audit-

- Our **pupils**: Alessio-Y4 Larch Class; Antonia and Momen – Y5 Alder class; Bethany and Ajran – Y6 Maple class; Rudaina – Y6 Willow class.
- Our **Vice Chair of Governors**: Mrs Chaudhry.
- Our **parents**: Mrs O'Kelly; Ms. Frydrychowicz; Ms. Heatman.
- Our **staff**: Mrs Canali; Mrs Allwood; Mr Plumley; Miss Jenkins; Mrs Zeb; Mrs Brotherston.
- Our **staff who led** on this achievement: Ms. Whatley and Mrs Wood.



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

Parent News, Section 2

2025 Autumn Term Christmas and Sporting Events Round-Up

As we start 2026, we are delighted to share a summary of the wonderful Christmas celebrations and sporting achievements that took place across the school during **autumn term 2025**. The term was filled with community spirit, talent, and teamwork, and we are incredibly proud of all our pupils.

Christmas Events

- **Christmas Performances**

Pupils across all year groups showcased their creativity and confidence in a series of festive performances. From traditional nativity plays to musical concerts and drama pieces, each event was beautifully delivered and warmly received by families and staff.

Handmade Winter Cards

- **Festive Card Workshops**

Pupils took part in card-making sessions, designing and crafting their own winter cards using stamps, stencils, recycled materials, and hand-drawn illustrations.

- **Sharing Kindness**

Many of the cards were created for family members, friends, and members of the local community, spreading warmth and goodwill during the festive season.

- **Celebrating Individual Style**

From traditional winter motifs to modern, playful designs, each card reflected the unique personality and creativity of its maker.



Year 5 News-Christmas 2025, Section 1

Year 5 were getting wonderfully festive in Design and Technology **last December!** Pupils had been busy developing their creative skills through a series of Christmas-themed projects. They created hedgehogs from pinecones, clay and a sprinkle of glitter; they decorated beautiful Christmas lanterns; and made striking nativity silhouettes. To complete the unit, the children experimented with depth, texture, colour and produced layered Christmas cards.

The children have shown fantastic creativity, focus, and enthusiasm while learning key Design and Technology skills, including planning, cutting, assembling, and evaluating their designs. We are very proud of their hard work, and their finished pieces brought a lovely festive feel to our classrooms in the run-up to the Christmas holiday!

Mrs Deans (Y5 Alder Class teacher)



Year 5 News-Christmas 2025, Section 2

Y5 Elm class had a wonderful time in the **last week of the autumn term 2025** doing Christmas activities such as creating Christmas cards and capturing the Nativity scene in Silhouettes. Students enthusiastically designed the cards for their parents, friends and some for their teachers. Pupils combined their artistic talents with the Christmas spirit while making the striking silhouettes. It was indeed a cheerful, memorable Christmas celebration!

Mrs Rajan (Y5 Elm Class teacher)



Year 6 News-Christmas 2025, Section 1

Year 6 Christmas Celebrations

On **Tuesday 16th December**, Year 5 and Year 6 performed a **Christmas carol concert** with carols and readings. We were extremely proud of how the children sang and read with confidence and clarity. We thank all the parents who supported us during the concert, and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Ms Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Lead, Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



Year 6 News-Christmas 2025, Section 2

Year 6 Christmas Celebrations

On **Wednesday 17th December**, Year 6 made Christmas cards to give to our friends and families. They followed simple instructions to make very effective and creative cards.

On **Thursday 18th December**, we celebrated the end of a very hard-working term with a party. Year 6 enjoyed playing party games, taking part in karaoke and relaxing with their friends.

Ms Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Lead, Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



Sporting News-Autumn Term 2025, Section 1

🏆 Autumn Term 2025 Sporting Highlights Roundup

Regional Fixtures and Achievements

Several of our school teams represented us in cross-school competitions, achieving impressive results.

At St Mary's, we have enjoyed an exceptionally busy Autumn term, filled with a wide range of activities and opportunities for our students. From football league fixtures and sports trips to engaging workshops, team try-outs, and after-school clubs, it has truly been a vibrant and productive season.

We are proud to share some of the highlights and achievements from the autumn term at St Mary's.

Mr Bignell (PE Lead and Sports Coach)



Sporting News-Autumn Term 2025, Section 2

🏆 Sporting Highlights-Sports Trips, Fixtures & Onsite workshops

On 14th October, our Girls' Netball team proudly represented St Mary's at the Netball Stingers Tournament. Competing against other schools from Slough in a series of fast-paced, small-sided games, the team showed great determination and teamwork.

This event was the perfect way to kick off the season, giving the players a valuable warm-up and a chance to sharpen their skills for the matches ahead.

Mr Bignell (PE Lead and Sports Coach)



Sporting News-Autumn Term 2025, Section 3

🏆 Sporting Highlights

On 12th November, we were delighted to welcome students from **Creative Academy** for a series of **Viking-themed dance** workshops.

The morning began with an engaging performance that brought the Viking era to life, showcasing the culture and daily life of the time. Following the performance, each of our Year 5 classes enjoyed a one-hour workshop where they learned a Viking-inspired dance routine.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to combine history with creativity, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A big thank you to **Creative Academy** for delivering such an inspiring event!

17th November, our Year 5 & 6 Boys' Football team played their first fixture of the season against **Claycots Primary School-Town Hall Campus**. The team travelled to **Salt Hill Park**, ready to kick off their campaign in style.

In a closely contested match, two well-taken goals secured a fantastic 2–1 victory, earning the boys their first three points of the season. A brilliant start—well done, team!

Mr Bignell (PE Lead and Sports Coach)



Sporting News-Autumn Term 2025, Section 4

🏆 Sporting Highlights

On 24th November, our Boccia team travelled to **Beechwood School** to take part in the first **Boccia** event of the school year. The morning was filled with exciting matches as our team competed against several schools, all aiming for the title of Boccia Champions of Slough.

Our players showed fantastic effort and teamwork, winning some matches along the way. Although we didn't take home the trophy this time, it was a great experience and an excellent start to the season. Well done to everyone who took part!

28th November, a group of boys from St Mary's had the exciting opportunity to take part in 'This Boy Can Dance!', an event hosted by **Creative Academy** through the **Slough Schools Sport Network**.

Throughout the day, the boys participated in four dynamic dance workshops, exploring styles such as breakdance and popping, all led by professional male dancers. The sessions were energetic, inspiring, and a fantastic way to try something new.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learning new skills and building confidence along the way. Well done to everyone who took part!

Mr Bignell (PE Lead and Sports Coach)



Sporting News-Autumn Term 2025, Section 5

🏆 Sporting Highlights

12th December, our Year 5 and 6 boys' football team travelled to **Montem Academy School** for their second league fixture of the season.

The first half saw an outstanding performance from team St Mary's, with three impressive goals scored by three different players. In the second half, the team continued to apply pressure but unfortunately conceded a couple of goals.

The match ended with a fantastic 5–3 victory for St Mary's, securing **two wins from two games in the league so far!**

Mr Bignell (PE Lead and Sports Coach)



Sporting News-Autumn Term 2025, Section 6

🏆 Sporting Highlights-After School Clubs

This term at St Mary's, we've offered an exciting range of **after-school sports clubs**, giving children plenty of opportunities to stay active and try new activities.

Our ever-popular **Dodgeball, Football, and Multi-Sports** clubs, led by **Mr. Bignell**, continued to be a big hit. In addition, we strengthened our partnership with the **Slough School Sports Network**, allowing us to introduce more clubs than ever before.

Highlights include:

- **Fencing** for Years 3 & 4, delivered by **Little Musketeers**.
- **Basketball** sessions run by our favourite team, **Thames Valley Cavaliers**, for Years 1 & 2 and Years 5 & 6.
- **Dance** workshops for Years 3, 4 & 5, led by **Aaron from Creative Academy**.
- Plus, **Mrs. Meher's** lively **Zumba** club for KS2 children every Tuesday.

We're thrilled with the enthusiasm and participation this term and look forward to offering even more exciting after-school opportunities in 2026!

Mr Bignell (PE Lead and Sports Coach)



Art Club News-December 2025, Section 1

In the last **Art Club of 2025**, the children selected watercolour as their favourite medium for our final meeting. We enjoyed painting with Christmas music in the background.

The giraffe was done by Eshaal in Beech Class, and the Sonic was Shaikh in Larch Class!

Miss Cresto (former DT Lead, former Y4 Beech Class teacher)



Art Club News-December 2025, Section 2

In the last **Art Club of 2025**, the children selected watercolour as their favourite medium for our final meeting. We enjoyed painting with Christmas music in the background.

Miss Cresto (former DT Lead, former Y4 Beech Class teacher)



Spanish Corner News-December 2025, Section 1

Spanish Corner!

Year 6:

The Year 6 children have been busy writing letters to their Spanish pen-pals with a Christmas theme. They have written in Spanish, telling their friends a little about themselves, their likes and dislikes and wishing them a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year! - **¡Feliz Navidad y próspero Año Nuevo!** They are all very talented artist and letter writers. Their pen-pal letters from Spain arrived yesterday as a new year surprise!.

Senora Aguilar (Spanish Lead)



Spanish Corner News-December 2025, Section 2

Spanish Corner!

Year 5:

The Year 5 children designed and wrote each other a Christmas card. They all got one card, but they did not know who wrote the card until the last minute when they all stood, one by one, and gave their card to one of their allocated classmates. They were delighted! Happy faces all around.

Senora Aguilar (Spanish Lead)



Spanish Corner News-December 2025, Section 3

Spanish Corner!

Year 4:

The Year 4 children designed and described in Spanish a Christmas tree. They followed a model, but they chose the elements and colours of the various items. It was a lot of fun! 😊

Senora Aguilar (Spanish Lead)



Spanish Corner News-December 2025, Section 4

Spanish Corner!

Year 3:

The Year 3 children learnt about the Three Wise Men that brought presents to baby Jesus. They wrote a card to Their Majesties telling them what their favourite toy was. There were 6 toys they could choose from: a ball, a doll, a watch, a car, a book and a teddy. They learnt those words in Spanish and took a lovely picture of them. Well done!

Senora Aguilar (Spanish Lead)



Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! ¡Próspero Año Nuevo!

Muchas gracias,

Senora Aguilar (Spanish Lead)

Reception News-January 2026, Section 1

It has been an exciting start to the new year with a variety of wintery weather! We are learning about Wonderful Winter, so this is ideal for us!

Reception staff and children took the opportunity to go on a **Winter Walk**. We used our **senses** sight, **smell** and **touch** to explore the **changes in the environment** – we made sure no one tasted anything though! We looked out for bare trees that had no leaves and evergreen trees that still had leaves. Many children remembered our Autumn Walk and noticed the **seasonal changes**.

Some pupils found **ice** while others spotted **frost** on the paths and leaves. The sun was shining so the frost **melted** and the water dripped off the leaves soon after we found them.

Mrs Bains is new to St Mary's, so Poppy Class showed her our **Spirituality Garden** during the Winter Walk. She thought it was a lovely tranquil area and was impressed with how well the plants had survived the frost.

Reception Team



Reception News-January 2026, Section 2

Mrs Bains is new to St Mary's, so Poppy Class showed her our **Spirituality Garden** during the Winter Walk. She thought it was a lovely tranquil area and was impressed with how well the plants had survived the frost.

Reception Team

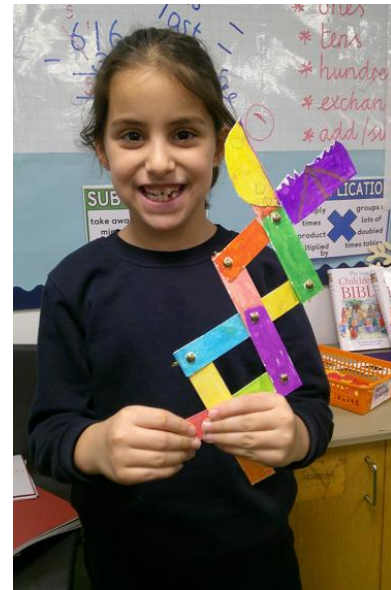
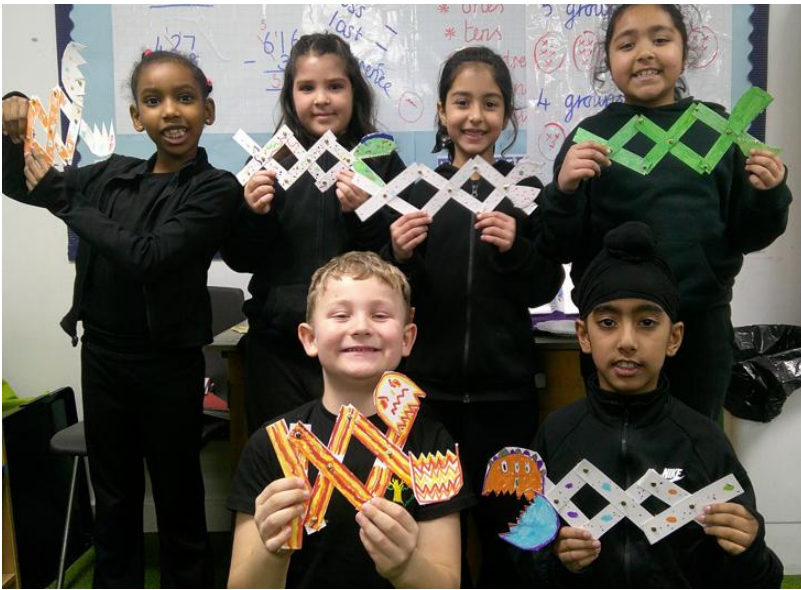


Year 3 News-January 2026, Section 1

Look at Ash Class's magnificent moving monsters! Every child worked independently to create their own

Well done to Ash Class who excelled in their Design Technology project, creating magnificent moving monsters! Each child worked independently to design and construct their own unique creations. Using split pins and strips of card, they crafted mechanisms that made their monsters come to life with movement.

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



Year 5 News-January 2026, Section 1

Geography: understanding climate zones

For geography this week, year 5 have been using the Collin's Junior Atlas to investigate the distribution of different climate zones around the world. The learning involved cross referencing between different maps of the world which helped to develop their knowledge of place. To find out more about our unit of learning, check out the links below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z849q6f>

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



Year 5 News-January 2026, Section 2

TTRS

In this week's KS2 assembly, children were reminded of the importance of practising their timetables facts on the Timetables Rockstars website daily. Without secure multiplication facts, your child will find accessing learning on fractions, percentages and decimals difficult.

The log in details for your child's account is inside both their reading record and homework book. If these are not working or present, please contact the class email account or Mr Ali on hazel@stmarys.slough.sch.uk.

<https://trockstars.com/>

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



	20	25	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120
10	10 x 20	10 x 25	10 x 30	10 x 40	10 x 50	10 x 60	10 x 70	10 x 80	10 x 90	10 x 100	10 x 110	10 x 120
2	2 x 20	2 x 25	2 x 30	2 x 40	2 x 50	2 x 60	2 x 70	2 x 80	2 x 90	2 x 100	2 x 110	2 x 120
5	5 x 20	5 x 25	5 x 30	5 x 40	5 x 50	5 x 60	5 x 70	5 x 80	5 x 90	5 x 100	5 x 110	5 x 120
3	3 x 20	3 x 25	3 x 30	3 x 40	3 x 50	3 x 60	3 x 70	3 x 80	3 x 90	3 x 100	3 x 110	3 x 120
4	4 x 20	4 x 25	4 x 30	4 x 40	4 x 50	4 x 60	4 x 70	4 x 80	4 x 90	4 x 100	4 x 110	4 x 120
8	8 x 20	8 x 25	8 x 30	8 x 40	8 x 50	8 x 60	8 x 70	8 x 80	8 x 90	8 x 100	8 x 110	8 x 120
6	6 x 20	6 x 25	6 x 30	6 x 40	6 x 50	6 x 60	6 x 70	6 x 80	6 x 90	6 x 100	6 x 110	6 x 120
7	7 x 20	7 x 25	7 x 30	7 x 40	7 x 50	7 x 60	7 x 70	7 x 80	7 x 90	7 x 100	7 x 110	7 x 120
9	9 x 20	9 x 25	9 x 30	9 x 40	9 x 50	9 x 60	9 x 70	9 x 80	9 x 90	9 x 100	9 x 110	9 x 120
11	11 x 20	11 x 25	11 x 30	11 x 40	11 x 50	11 x 60	11 x 70	11 x 80	11 x 90	11 x 100	11 x 110	11 x 120
12	12 x 20	12 x 25	12 x 30	12 x 40	12 x 50	12 x 60	12 x 70	12 x 80	12 x 90	12 x 100	12 x 110	12 x 120

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

What is the minimum age for account holders on these social media sites and apps?



Sourced from NSPCC website October 2019

Homework and online safety workshop

Next week Friday, Mr Ali (homework lead) and Mr Plumley (computing lead) will be holding a parent workshop to support parents with understanding the homework expectations and how to keep your child safe online.

Please note the details below:

- **Date: Friday 16th January 2026**
- **Time: 8:50am -9:20am**
- **Where: Yew Hall - entrance from the external doors**

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

06.01.2026

First Day of Spring Term 1

12.01.2026

Workshop: Y5 Science 'Solar System' experience at St Mary's school

16.01.2026

Parent Information Meeting: Online Safety and Homework Support at 8.30am

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

27.01.2026

Workshop: Y2 History 'Great Fire of London' experience at St Mary's school

29.01.2026

Assembly: Y4 Beech Class at 3pm

30.01.2026

Assembly: Y3 Sycamore Class at 8.50am

02.02.2026

YR Shopping Trip experience to Slough High Street

02.02.2026

Maths Week

04.02.2026

St Mary's School Choir Participating in 'Young Voices' Performance at Wembley Arena

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

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

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 Larch 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

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 in London

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

Nursery, 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