



Dear Parents and Carers,

🎄 End of Term & Christmas Celebrations 🎄

As we come to the close of the **autumn term 2025**, we would like to wish all our families a wonderful **Christmas break** and a very **Happy New Year 2026**.

This week we look forward to welcoming you to our **Christmas performances** – always a highlight of the festive season!

Thank you for your continued **support** throughout the autumn term. We look forward to seeing everyone again in **January 2026**, refreshed and ready for the **spring term** ahead.

Please note our end of term dates:

- Nursery: Thursday 18th December 2025
- Reception – Year 6: Friday 19th December 2025, finishing at 1.30pm.

School reopens for Nursery-Y6 on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Thank you to our whole school community! 😊

Values

- St Mary's Christian Values for the **autumn term** are **love, respect and peace**.
- 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.

Parent News, Section 1

Christmas Events at St Mary's

🎵 Christmas Lunches 🎵

This week, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the festive **Christmas lunches**. The celebrations were filled with joy as children and adults listened to cheerful festive music, pulled Christmas crackers, shared jokes, and wore colourful party hats.

It was a wonderful occasion, full of fun and laughter, bringing our school community together in the true spirit of Christmas.

Thank you to the Taylor Shaw Catering Team for making this a memorable event!



Parent News, Section 2

Staffing News

👋 Farewell and Best Wishes 🌍

This term we say goodbye to one of our class teachers, **Miss Cresto**, Beech class teacher who has been a wonderful member of our school community. Miss Cresto's care, commitment to the children have made a lasting impact, and Miss Cresto will be greatly missed by pupils, colleagues, and families alike.

As Miss Cresto sets off overseas to travel and begin new adventures, we send our heartfelt thanks for all her hard work and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

🌟 Welcome Back! 🌟

We are delighted to welcome back **Mrs Galloway**, who is returning from maternity leave and will take on the role of Beech class teacher. It is wonderful to have Mrs Galloway back at St Mary's, and both children and staff are excited to see Mrs Galloway once again.

We look forward to the energy, enthusiasm, and expertise Mrs Galloway brings to the classroom, and we know the children will benefit greatly from her return.

👩🏫 Welcome to Our Reception Team 🌟

We are delighted to welcome a new class teacher to our reception team. **Mrs Bains** joins St Mary's in January 2026. With Mrs Bain's wealth of experience and enthusiasm, she will be a fantastic addition to the reception department.

The whole team will benefit from Mrs Bain's expertise, and we look forward to the positive impact she will bring to the children's learning and school life.



Parent News, Section 3

Reminder: School Website Update in the New Year 2026

We are excited to announce that in the **New Year 2026**, the school website will be refreshed with a more modern and vibrant look.

While the location of each section will remain the same, the updated design will provide a cleaner, more **user-friendly** experience.

Our aim is to make the website easier to navigate for everyone visiting, ensuring that **important information** about the school is **accessible** quickly and efficiently.

We look forward to sharing the new design with you soon!



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	90.0%
Nursery PM	73.3%
0Poppy	87.7%
0Bluebell	95.2%
0Daffodil	93.3%
1Damson	93.0%
1Cherry	94.7%
1Apple	96.0%
2Pear	89.2%
2Plum	82.1%
2Peach	94.0%
3Ash	92.0%
3Sycamore	88.2%
3Juniper	94.0%
4Larch	98.0%
4Beech	96.2%
4Oak	94.7%
5Hazel	90.0%
5Alder	95.3%
5Elm	95.3%
6Willow	91.0%
6Maple	93.0%
6Rowan	96.7%

96% or more is the target.

Classes with 100% attendance for the week earn a collective reward!

Only 2 classes have earned the reward so far this term!

Please bring your child to school every day. Thank you 😊

Reception News, Section 1

What an exciting week we had in Reception! Our focus book was **Stick Man** written by Julia Donaldson (the **author**) and **illustrated** by Axel Scheffler. Poor Stick Man has lots of adventures, but he does make it back to his family home in time for Christmas – phew! He could enjoy his Christmas dinner just like we did last Tuesday. Our new teacher Mrs Bains was able to join us for that too. We are looking forward to her joining the team in January. We have enjoyed getting creative and making Stick Men as well as learning about how to **PERSEVERE** and not give up even when things get tricky.

We spotted the beautiful Christmas tree after one of our rehearsals. Reception Staff were extremely proud of how well the children rehearsed and how well many of them coped performing to a packed hall. Thank you to all who have been helping the children learn the songs at home and who came to support your children perform. 😊

The Reception Team



Reception News, Section 2

What an exciting week we had in Reception!. 😊

The Reception Team



Year 3 News, Section 1

This week in Ash, we've seen yet more wonderful bingo projects covering everything from majestic mountains and fiery volcanoes to fascinating Stone Age settlements and amazing fossil facts. A special well done to **Cayden, Ezra, Fasiha, Leon, and Amelia** for their hard work and high-quality projects!.

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



Year 3 News, Section 2

A special well done to **Cayden, Ezra, Fasiha, Leon, and Amelia** for their hard work and high-quality projects!.

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



Year 3 News, Section 3

The whole of Ash Class watched with excitement as **Leon's** volcano erupted! Thankfully, it was created with bicarbonate soda and vinegar. No children or staff were harmed!

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



Christmas Events at St Mary's Church

Children are invited to dress up as any character in the Christmas story.

**Carols at
Christmas**
with Sally the Donkey
&
featuring the United Methodist Church Junior Choir

Sunday, 21st December
4pm

**St Mary's Church, Church St,
Slough, SL1 1PJ**

supporting Slough Foodbank

**UPTON-CUM-
St Mary
St Laurence
St Peter
CHALVEY**

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](#).

16.12.2025	Christmas Concert for UKS2 (Y5 & Y6) Parents at St Mary's Church at 9.30am
16.12.2025	Christmas Party for LKS2 (Y3 & Y4)
17.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Y2 Parents at 9am
17.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Y3 Parents at 2.30pm
17.12.2025	Christmas Party for Y1 and Y2
18.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Y1 Parents at 9am
18.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Y4 Parents at 2.30pm
18.12.2025	Christmas Party for Nursery, Reception, Y5 and Y6
19.12.2025	Last Day of Autumn Term 2

Christmas Holiday

05.01.2026	INSET for Staff
06.01.2026	First Day of Spring Term 1 for Children