



Dear Parents and Carers,

### 🎄 Christmas Events at School 🎄

- We are delighted to share that the festive season is upon us, and we have a wonderful programme of events planned for our children.
- This year, we are looking forward to:
- Scrumptious Christmas lunches 🍽️
- Magical Christmas performances ✨
- Exciting year group parties 🎉
- Please make a note of these important dates in your diary to ensure your child can take part in all the celebrations.

**We can't wait to celebrate this special time of year together!**

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](mailto: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

#### 🎄 Trimming and Decorating Christmas Trees 🎄

Things have been getting wonderfully **Christmassy** at school this week, with **Christmas trees** and **decorations** appearing throughout the building. The children have loved joining in, helping to make the school environment festive, bright, and full of fun.

It's been a joy to see their excitement as we prepare for the celebrations ahead. The school is looking truly magical, thanks to their efforts!



## Parent News, Section 2

### Leading Parent Partnership Award

#### ☀️ Parent Partnership Award Audit ☀️

Last Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, the school proudly hosted the **Leading Parent Partnership Award auditor**. We are eagerly awaiting the outcome and remain optimistic about the positive results.

We would like to extend a **heartfelt thank you** to everyone who contributed — our dedicated parents, enthusiastic pupils, and committed staff. Your support and involvement made this process truly meaningful.

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

**Good news is on its way, and we look forward to sharing it with you soon!**



Leading Parent  
Partnership Award

## Parent News, Section 3

### 🌐 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	91.5%
Nursery PM	72.3%
0Poppy	90.0%
0Bluebell	89.0%
0Daffodil	92.0%
1Damson	81.0%
1Cherry	88.3%
1Apple	92.0%
2Pear	94.0%
2Plum	94.7%
2Peach	92.0%
3Ash	90.0%
3Sycamore	90.0%
3Juniper	78.0%
4Larch	92.8%
4Beech	94.1%
4Oak	90.3%
5Hazel	91.3%
5Alder	86.7%
5Elm	97.3%
6Willow	96.0%
6Maple	98.0%
6Rowan	90.3%

**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

Last week we continued our learning based on our focus book **The Squirrels Who Squabbled** by **Rachel Bright**. This included improving our cutting skills with scissors to create squirrel puppets.

Did you know **cutting** with scissors strengthens our finger and hand muscles which will help with our **pencil control** and therefore with our **handwriting** too!

We have been using some new resources to aid our understanding of **number** in maths. For example, we have been working out that **2** blue dots **add 3** black dots **equals 5** dots **altogether**.

We can do this in reverse too - **3** blue dots **add 2** black dots **equals 5** dots **altogether**. Alongside this the children have been learning how to write number sentences  $2 + 3 = 5$ .

You could try this at home too. 😊

### The Reception Team



## Year 3 News, Section 1

HUGE well done to **Year 3's Sofia**, who worked incredibly hard with her family to create this amazing **3D volcano**, one of this term's exciting **Bingo projects!**

Mr Fuller and Mrs Wood were blown away and can't wait to see what the rest of Year 3 have in store!

Please bring all bingo projects into school by **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

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



## Year 3 News, Section 2

### Collective Worship

In this week's **lower key stage 2 phase assembly for Year 3 and Year 4**, we explored the **power and impact of our words**. Using real toothpaste, the children discovered how easy it is to squeeze words out—and how impossible it is to take them back.

They also crumpled paper hearts to see how unkind words can leave lasting marks. We reflected on the **Bible story of the Good Samaritan** and thought about what it means to show **kindness in action**.

Throughout the assembly, we linked our learning to our school's **core values of love, respect, and peace**, reminding ourselves that our words should always help to build others up.

**Miss Martins** (Reading for Pleasure Co-Lead, Y3 Sycamore Class teacher)



## Year 3 News, Section 3

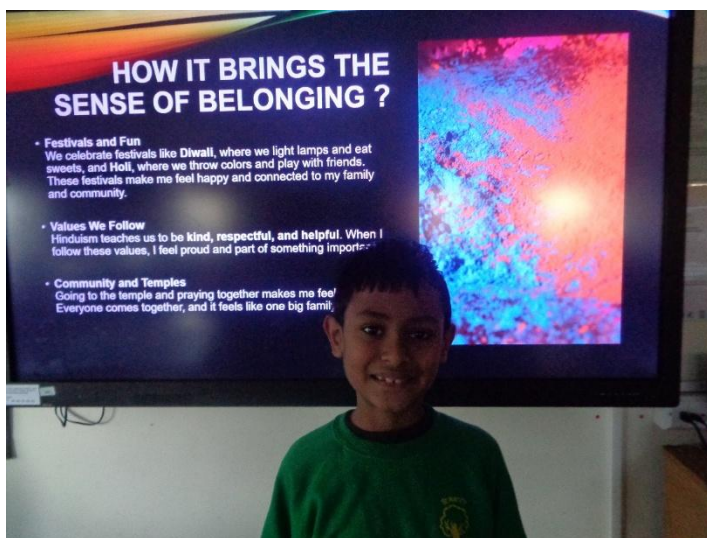
### Bingo projects

Juniper class have been busy creating **Bingo projects** at home and sharing them with the class!

This includes **Stone Age artwork**, **Hinduism presentation**, learning about **fossils** and creating **volcanoes** (just to name a few!)

Well done, Teagan, Makayla, Arryana and Vivek.

**Miss Holder** (Music Lead, Y3 Juniper Class teacher)



## Year 3 News, Section 4

Year 3 have had an incredibly **eventful week**, and what a joy it has been!

### English

This week in Year 3, we wrote and shared our **recounts** from our **Chiltern Open Air Museum** trip!

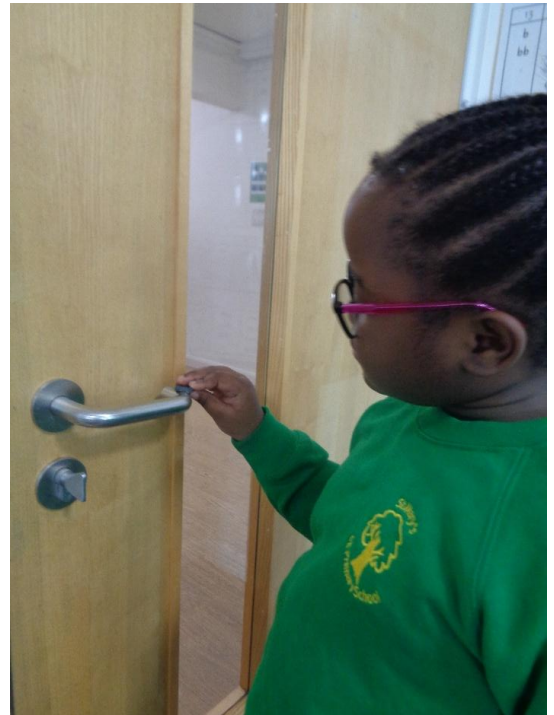


## Year 3 News, Section 5

Year 3 have had an incredibly **eventful week**, and what a joy it has been!

### Science

Juniper class are enjoying learning about **Forces in science**. This week we conducted two different **experiments with magnets**! First, we **predicted** and **tested** which objects in the class were **magnetic**. Then, we explored how magnets are a **non-contact force**.



## Advent at St Mary's

As we prepare for the season of **Advent**, we are delighted to gift special **Advent booklets** for years 1-6!

These booklets are designed to help you share simple **reflections, prayers** and **activities** to enjoy the build up to **Christmas**.

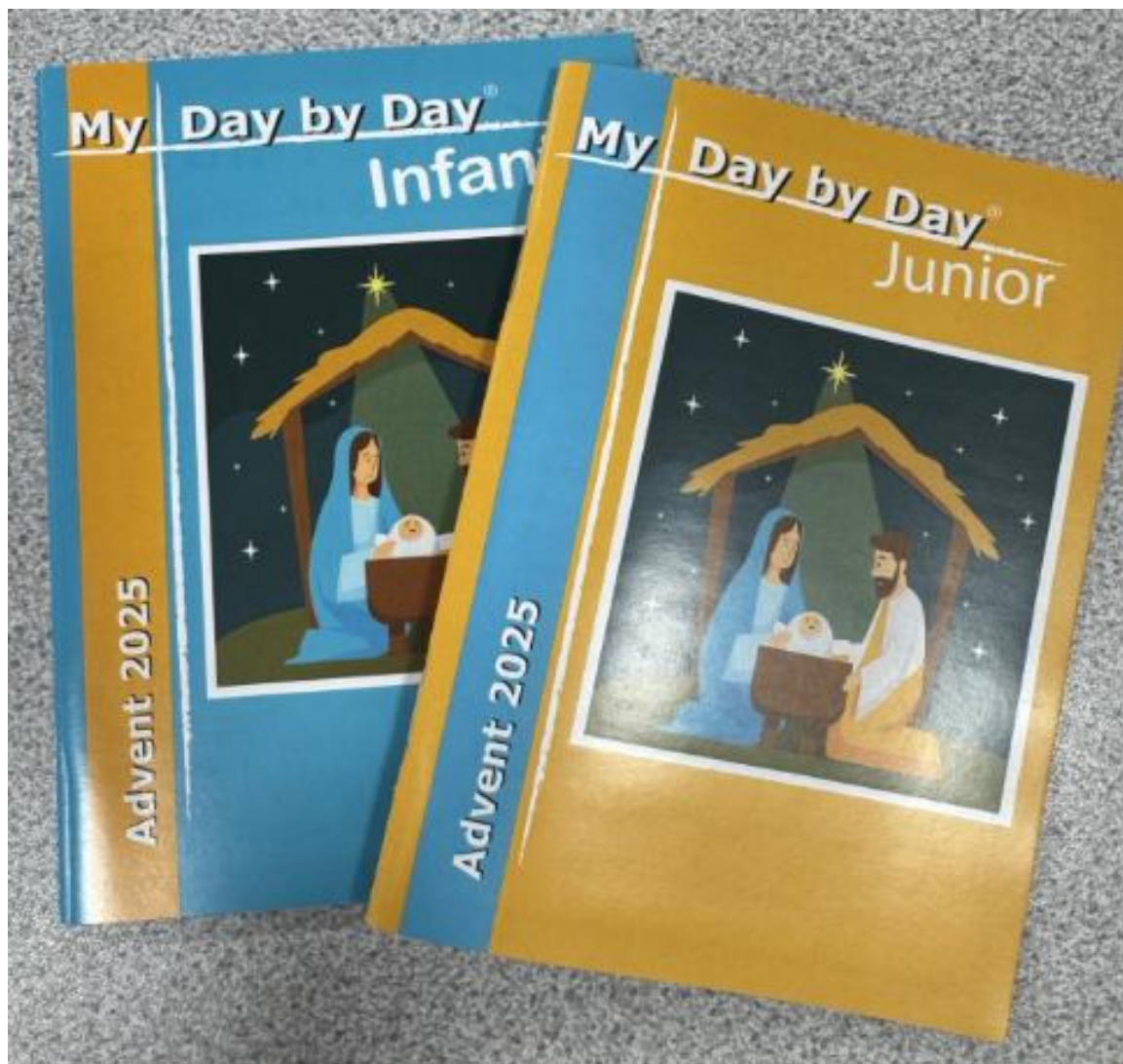
They offer a lovely opportunity to **pause** and to **focus** on the meaning of Christmas in a child-friendly way.

We hope your children enjoy doing these at school and at home!

**Please feel free to share with school any activities that you and your child have enjoyed.**

**Mrs Allwood** (Co-RE Lead, Y2 Pear Class teacher)

**Miss Brindley** (Co-RE Lead, Y1 Lead, Y1 Cherry Class teacher)



Working in Partnership with Parents

Partnerships  
for Inclusion of  
Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)



BRIGHTER  
FUTURES TOGETHER

Slough  
Parent  
Carer  
Forum

## Participation session

For parent carers of children  
with neurodivergent needs

JOIN US AT  
YOUR SCHOOL

Wednesday 10 December 09:30 - 10:30  
St Mary's C of E Primary School



[Click here to book](#)

**Connect - Share - Make a difference**

PINS is a national project funded by NHS England in partnership with the Department for Education, Department of Health & Social Care & the National Network of Parent Carer Forums

# 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](https://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](https://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](mailto: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](#).

### Half Term Holiday

08.12.2025	St Mary's Choir Christmas Carol Performance at St Andrew's Methodist Church
09.12.2025	Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day for Reception and KS1 (Y1 & Y2)
10.12.2025	St Mary's Choir Performance at St Mary's Church for 'Slough Schools' Multi-Faith Carol Concert'
10.12.2025	Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day for KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)
11.12.2025	Christmas Concert for Reception Parents at 2.30pm
12.12.2025	Christmas Jumper Day for Nursery
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

<b>05.01.2026</b>	<b>INSET for Staff</b>
<b>06.01.2026</b>	<b>First Day of Spring Term 1 for Children</b>