



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

- **Health and Safety:** a polite reminder that children must only wear **stud earrings** to **prevent accidental injuries**. Children must not wear bangles, bracelets, necklaces unless they are worn for a religious reason.
- **Health and Safety:** a polite reminder that children must **not ride scooters/bikes** on the school grounds. This is to **prevent accidental injuries** to the school community.
- **Health and Safety:** a polite reminder **not to park on the double yellow lines** outside the school building. This is to **prevent accidents/collisions/parking fines** and helps the school to maintain **friendly relations** with our neighbours.
- **Healthy eating:** a polite reminder that fruit is an excellent, nutritious breaktime snack. Children are discouraged from eating chocolates/sweets/crisps/cakes during morning break.

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 Celebrations at St Mary's

🎄 The **festive season** is nearly here, and we're excited to share some wonderful events that will bring our school community together!

🌟 Christmas Performance

Our pupils have been working hard rehearsing songs, lines, and dances to make this year's Christmas performance truly magical. We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us in **celebrating their achievements**. Your presence makes the day extra special for the children, and they can't wait to shine on stage in front of you!

🍽️ Christmas Lunch

We'll also be hosting our traditional **Christmas lunch**. It's always a highlight of the term, filled with festive food, laughter, and cheer. Please make sure to sign up so we can cater for everyone and ensure no one misses out.

👕 Christmas Jumper Day

Finally, don't forget our **Christmas Jumper Day**! Children (and staff!) are encouraged to wear their most festive, fun, or sparkly jumpers. It's a joyful way to spread holiday spirit, and we'd love to see as many creative designs as possible.

📌 How to Get Involved

- **Sign up for Christmas lunch.**
- **Mark your calendars** for the Christmas performance date.
- **Dig out your jumpers** for Christmas Jumper Day!

Let's make this festive season one to remember. Thank you for your continued support—we look forward to celebrating together!



Parent News, Section 2

🎄 A Festive Thank You

This **Christmas season**, our staff were delighted to receive a **generous gift of biscuits** from the generous parents of a **family** who attend St Mary's.

The box of biscuits was **shared and enjoyed** by all, bringing **smiles** and a touch of **sweetness** to our busy days.

Your **kindness and thoughtfulness** are truly appreciated—it's **heart-warming** to know how much you value and care for our school community.

The biscuits were a **welcome treat** and a lovely reminder of the **generosity** that makes this time of year so **special**.

From all of us, thank you for spreading festive cheer and making our staff feel celebrated.



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	82.3%
Nursery PM	83.5%
0Poppy	88.3%
0Bluebell	87.7%
0Daffodil	84.7%
1Damson	89.0%
1Cherry	82.0%
1Apple	90.7%
2Pear	96.7%
2Plum	97.3%
2Peach	89.9%
3Ash	97.3%
3Sycamore	88.7%
3Juniper	95.2%
4Larch	92.4%
4Beech	92.7%
4Oak	93.4%
5Hazel	94.0%
5Alder	89.0%
5Elm	97.7%
6Willow	94.3%
6Maple	92.0%
6Rowan	91.3%

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 term!

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

Reception News

Our focus book last week and this week is **The Squirrels Who Squabbled** by Rachel Bright.

It is a delightful **story** that teaches valuable lessons about **sharing and friendship** through the adventures of two greedy squirrels, Cyril and Bruce.

The children have been making trees for the squirrels because the last **pinecone of the season** is in the **nook** of a tree. They have also been **artists** drawing pictures of squirrels.

In **maths** we have been consolidating our learning in the outside area as well as lessons in the classroom.

We have been having fun **subitising** (instantly recognising numbers in groups without counting them) and then **linking apparatus** to make the number shown.

Do look out for **numbers at home** or when you are out and about. You could try to spot all the **numbers up to 10** in order on front doors, car numberplates, in shops.

Have fun on a number hunt! 😊

The Reception Team



Year 2 News, Section 1

Year 2 have had an incredibly **eventful week**, and what a joy it has been!

On Monday...

- Father Scott delivered a lovely assembly to KS1 all about preparing for special events. He shared some ways that Christians prepare for Christmas and how it is a special time of year called **Advent**.
- In addition, as part of **RE**, Year 2 have been learning about ways **Christians celebrate** and remember the birth of Jesus. Such as retelling the **Nativity** story, decorating **Christmas trees**, singing **songs** and giving **gifts**.

On Tuesday...

- **KS1** had the pleasure of listening to **Liz Frost** deliver a **story-telling** session on **'The Turtle Who Turned the Tide'** by **Rachel Bright**.
- The children were captivated by the story and learned valuable lessons about **empathy**, **courage** and the importance of **community**.

On Wednesday...

- Year 2 enjoyed a **workshop** about **'Toys from the Past'** as part of our **history** lesson delivered by the wonderful **Saskia from Eton College**.
- The children were fascinated to learn about a variety of **old-fashioned toys** through **photographs** and **playing with the toys**.
- The toys kept the children entertained, all while learning about **mechanisms** to make the **toy work** and **materials** they were made of, which linked fabulously to **DT and science**.

Year 2 Team



Year 2 News, Section 2

Year 2 have had an incredibly **eventful week**, and what a joy it has been!



Year 2 News, Section 3

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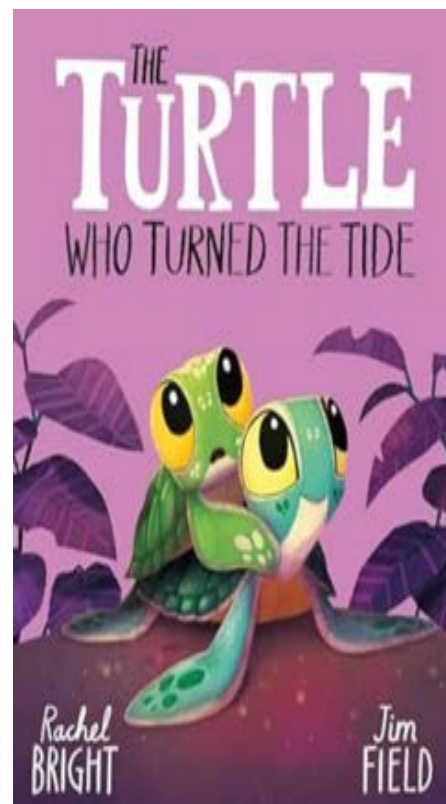
Year 2 News, Section 4

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Year 2 News, Section 5

Year 2 have had an incredibly **eventful week**, and what a joy it has been!



Year 3 News, Section 1

As part of their **history** topic on the **Stone Age**, Year 3 had an exciting day at **Chiltern Open Air Museum!**

The children participated in a variety of **engaging workshops**, including **tool making, fire lighting, shelter building, and Stone Age drawing.**

It was a wonderful day for all, with the **sun shining brightly** and the **sky a brilliant blue.**

With all the **excitement**, there wasn't a single mention of the cold!

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



Year 3 News, Section 2

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Year 3 News, Section 3

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Year 3 News, Section 4

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



Art Club News, Section 1

In **Art Club** across the last two weeks, we have used **air dry clay** to make an array of **vibrant sculptures**. We have created **bowls, animals, snowmen** and even a **dragon eye!**

Miss Cresto (DT Lead, Y4 Beech Class teacher)

Mr Heaton (Y4 Team)



Art Club News, Section 2

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Miss Cresto (DT Lead, Y4 Beech Class teacher)

Mr Heaton (Y4 Team)



Year 5 News, Section 1

Geography

As part of our learning on **water distribution**, year 5 have been using a mixture of **online digital maps** and the **Collins Junior Atlas** to investigate parts of the world which are experiencing **water stress** and children's **access to clean water**.

To find out more about our topic on water distribution, check out the links below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zbcmxyc>

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



Year 5 News, Section 2

Upper KS2 Christmas concert practice

Year 5 have been busy practising and rehearsing for their **Christmas concert**. The children have been working hard to learn the **lyrics and movements** for the songs.

The songs are on our **school website**, on the **year group page** for independent practice.

<https://www.stmarys.slough.sch.uk/christmas-concert-songs-1/>

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



Year 5 News, Section 3

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



Year 6 News, Section 1

Wayne Dixon workshop – Christmas Unwrapped

Year 6 had their first workshop with **Wayne Dixon** this week.

Wayne is a regular visitor to the school presenting **3 workshops** for the children throughout the year. Wayne represents **CCIS (Christian Connections in Schools)**.

This workshop focused on the **true story of Christmas** hence the title '**Christmas Unwrapped**'.

The children took part in a **quiz and a rap** and learnt all about the **real meaning of Christmas**.

They were also given the opportunity to take part in a competition to win a **Christmas hamper**.

Winners will be announced soon!

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



Year 6 News, Section 2

Wayne Dixon workshop – Christmas Unwrapped

They were also given the opportunity to take part in a competition to win a **Christmas hamper**.

Winners will be announced soon!

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



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**.

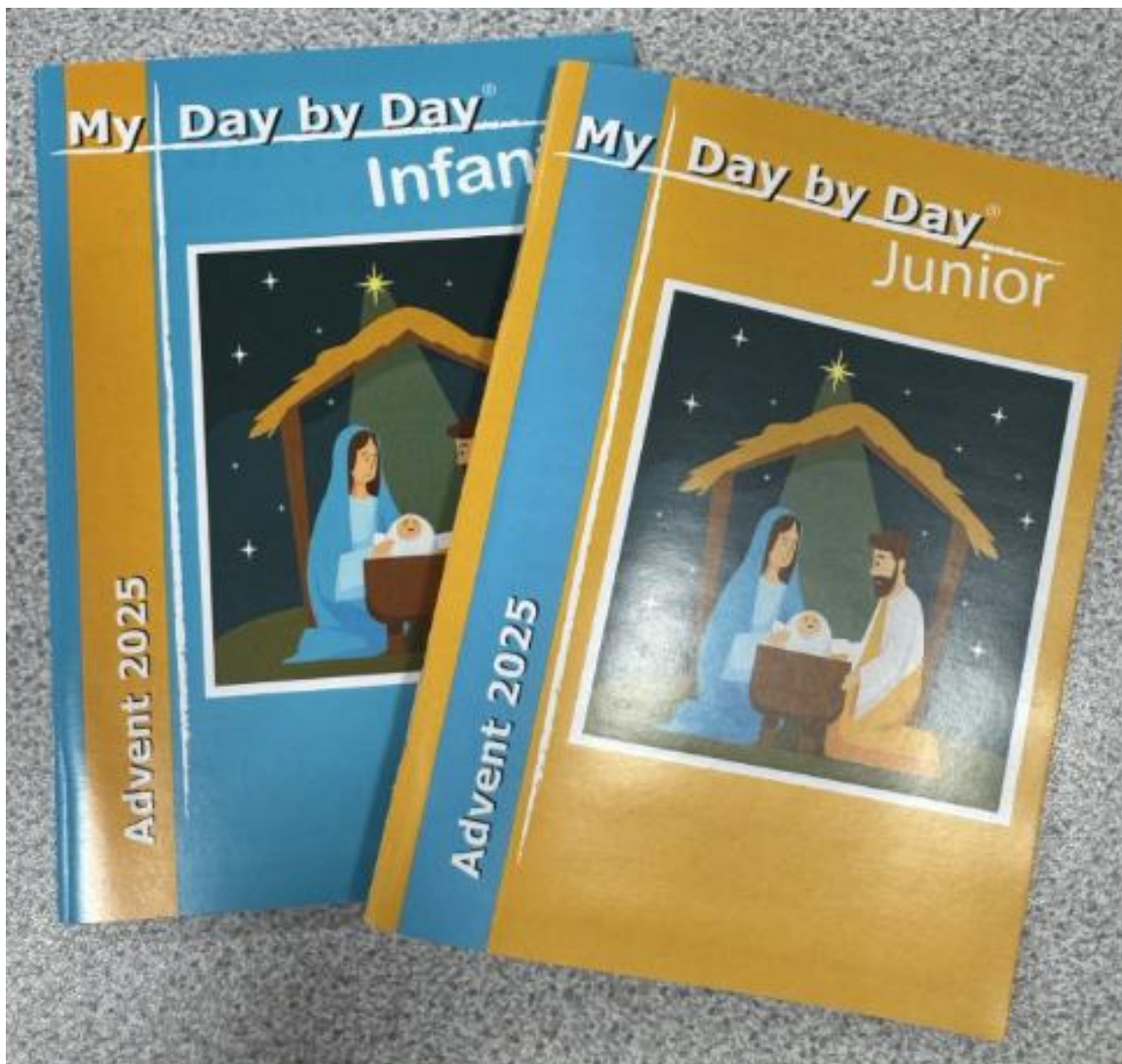
They offer a lovely opportunity to **pause** and to **focus** on the meaning of Christmas in a child-friendly way.

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)



Events at St Mary's

Exciting Storytelling Event at St Mary's!

Storyteller **Liz Fost** brought the tale '**The Turtle Who Turned the Tide**' to life in a lively KS1 assembly this week.

Using delightful **puppets** and plenty of imagination, Liz captivated the children from start to finish. The hall was **buzzing with excitement** as pupils followed the **brave turtle's journey** and joined in with the storytelling fun.

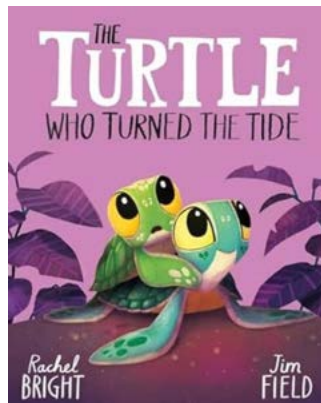
It was a **magical, memorable** session for everyone, with children sharing lots of positive comments!

'I liked that the animals in the story were kind'

'I loved that the author used a puppet, and she made us do actions'

'I really liked the story, and the author made it fun using the toy turtle'.

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



Rags2Riches4Schools News

The school generated **£100** from the clothing collection drive. Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraising efforts!

Thank you to **Mrs Brown** for organising this great initiative for St Mary's! 😊



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 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 →



Drop-in flu clinics

At Foundation House, Windsor SL4 4LE

We are holding drop-in clinics for your child's flu vaccination on the following dates:

- 18.11.25 14:30-16:30
- 27.11.25 14:30-16:00
- 5.12.25 12:00-16:00

If you haven't completed a consent form yet, you can complete one using the information sent by your child's school or complete one at the clinic with one of the team



Goto the address below to share your views and ideas

 cypf.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk/feedback

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](#).

Half Term Holiday

04.12.2025	Y5 Trip to Butser Farm-Anglo Saxons
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

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