



## St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents and carers who shared such positive feedback regarding the school's response to last week's Met Office amber weather warning. Your kind words and support are greatly appreciated.

Many of you recognised and praised the school's investment in air conditioning units, which enabled us to remain open safely throughout the period of extreme weather. We are pleased that this provision ensured our pupils were able to learn in a comfortable and consistent environment, particularly in contrast to the challenges many families experienced at home without access to similar facilities.

We are also extremely proud of our staff at St Mary's, who remained calm, cheerful and supportive throughout. Their professionalism and dedication ensured that pupils felt secure and well cared for, despite the challenging conditions.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and for taking the time to share your feedback—it is truly valued.

It is the **responsibility** of all the community to maintain a supportive environment for everyone. 😊

### Values

- St Mary's Christian Values for the **summer term** are **forgiveness, resilience and perseverance.**
- 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)

## Parent News, Section 1

### How We Managed the Extreme Weather Conditions at St Mary's

We hope you managed to stay comfortable during the period of high temperatures last week.

We would like to reassure you that St Mary's was able to remain open at this time when other schools did not as we have put in place measures of support for extreme heat weather conditions.

As part of our strategic planning and our five-year school development plan, we have invested heavily in temperature control measures across the site. Currently, seven classrooms are equipped with permanent air conditioning units, and eleven classrooms are supported by portable units. This includes the Nursery building, two Learning Hub classrooms, and two administrative offices. Plans are in place for several more classes to have permanent air conditioning units installed over the summer holiday.

We also took the decision to significantly reduce the amount of time the children spent outside in direct sunlight during break and lunch sessions.

However, due to structural limitations—specifically where class walls consist of floor-to-ceiling windows—we are unable to install air conditioning units in the Reception classrooms and Year 2 Plum class. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils in these classes, we took the decision to shorten the school day for these children. They were dismissed at 1:00pm.

To support families and reduce the need for multiple journeys to school, siblings of these pupils were permitted to go home at 1:00pm too.

We also recorded absences of children who stayed at home during this period as an authorised absence. Thank you for your support during this challenging time.

**Thank you for helping the school to always keep your children safe.**



## Parent News, Section 2

### Collection of Children by Other Adults

Thank you to those who have successfully submitted emails this week to the **Collections** email providing permission for other adults to collect your child(ren) on your behalf.

[collections@stmarys.slough.sch.uk](mailto:collections@stmarys.slough.sch.uk)

For clarity, we require an **email authorisation** on **each day** that someone other than a parent will be collecting your child/ren.

If this collection arrangement is to occur regularly, please clearly state this in your email, for example, “every day” or “every Monday”.

A template is provided below for your convenience.

#### Scenario 1:

- Date - xx/xx/2026
- My child's name: xxx
- My child's class: xxx
- I give permission for xxx to collect my child/ren on my behalf **today**.
- Password is: xxx

OR

#### Scenario 2:

- Date-xx/xx/2026
- My child's name: xxx
- My child's class: xxx
- I give permission for xxx to collect my child/ren **every day**.
- I give permission for xxx to collect my child on the following days: xxx and xxx.
- Password is: xxx

**We are unable to allow a child to leave school with an adult who is not their parent unless we have email authorisation from the parent, and the adult confirms the password.**

**Thank you for helping the school to always keep your children safe.**



## Parent News, Section 3

### Sun Protection During the Summer Term

As a general reminder, please can we advise the following:

- ALL pupils bring a water bottle into school to drink from throughout the day
- Pupils have a high factor sun cream which they can apply to any exposed skin (face, hands, legs) themselves
- Children have a sun hat to wear outside (please write your child's name in these)
- Children are not required to bring coats to school when it is very warm
- Sweatshirts should be removed in school
- Please check the school uniform policy for guidance for summer uniform clothing
- School shoes and covered sandals are acceptable but NOT flip flops or slides.
- Please speak to your children about being sun aware. Not running around at break and lunchtimes but taking the opportunity to seek shade in the school gazebos or under the parasols, ensuring that they drink water throughout the day, not wearing coats or sweatshirts.
- The school is doing everything it can to keep the staff and pupils as cool as possible during this hot weather. Some classrooms have the benefit of air conditioning. Other classes have portable air conditioning units and fans. Access to water is constant and staff are planning and encouraging more sedate activities – including changes to outdoor PE lessons as dictated by the weather.

**Miss Robinson (Health and Safety Lead, DDSL, Assistant Head teacher)**



## Parent News, Section 4

### Attendance at St Mary's

- 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)
- Well done to **10** classes who achieved **96%** or more attendance last week!
- Well done to: **Bluebell, Apple, Pear, Peach, Sycamore, Oak, Hazel, Elm, Willow and Maple classes!!**



**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	93.8%
Nursery PM	90.1%
0Poppy	93.8%
<b>0Bluebell</b>	<b>97.9%</b>
0Daffodil	93.3%
1Damson	93.3%
1Cherry	94.3%
<b>1Apple</b>	<b>96.0%</b>
<b>2Pear</b>	<b>98.7%</b>
2Plum	95.7%
<b>2Peach</b>	<b>98.0%</b>
3Ash	95.3%
<b>3Sycamore</b>	<b>96.0%</b>
3Juniper	95.3%
4Larch	89.0%
4Beech	93.7%
<b>4Oak</b>	<b>98.0%</b>
<b>5Hazel</b>	<b>97.9%</b>
5Alder	93.8%
<b>5Elm</b>	<b>97.3%</b>
<b>6Willow</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
<b>6Maple</b>	<b>96.1%</b>
6Rowan	95.9%

**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 😊

# Nursery News, Section 1

## Yoga- Physical Development

To support the children with their physical development, we frequently do yoga in the Nursery. The children did excellent work this week, completing the stretches and moving themselves into the different positions. This has also helped us keep our bodies active while we have been unable to go outside as much in the heatwave!

## Nursery Department



## Nursery News, Section 2

### Water Play in Nursery

The children have been using the water tray to explore the different sized tubs and containers, and they have also been playing with sea creatures to link to books we have read about underwater animals.

### Nursery Department



## Nursery News, Section 3

### Water Play in Nursery

The children talked about the containers, using the vocabulary of full and empty which linked to our learning about capacity. Some of the children could name the different sea creatures which we learnt about in Week 3 of this half term.

### Nursery Department



## Nursery News, Section 4

### Mark Making and Fine Motor Skills in Nursery

The children have been mark making on boxes outside, drawing pictures and writing sounds and numbers.

### Nursery Department



## Nursery News, Section 5

### Mark Making and Fine Motor Skills in Nursery

When inside, the children have been using scissors to cut out underwater images and create their own underwater scene, and they have been selecting colouring tools to colour their sea creatures.

### Nursery Department



## Reception News, Section 1

### Keeping Cool in Reception

Thank you to everyone who sent in spare clothes in case children needed to change after cooling down in water play. It is a good idea to have a spare set of clothes in school (in a labelled plastic bag,) regardless of the weather. If you aren't sure your child does have a set in school, please do send one in.

### Reception Department



## Reception News, Section 2

### Understanding the World in Reception

We have been continuing our learning about **Looking After Our World**. This week we have started learning all about **minibeasts**. Well done to everyone who completed the Remote Learning from our Website. Each class went on a bug hunt in the **Nursery Wild Garden** and in our **Forest School**.

### Reception Department



## Reception News, Section 3

### Understanding the World in Reception

It was lovely and cool under the trees in the Forest School. Do look out for minibeasts and see if you can name them. They may decide to crawl or land on you but please encourage your children to just look at them rather than touch or trap them.

Please note Poppy Class assembly has been postponed due to the Heat Wave. It will now be on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 12.50pm.**

### Reception Department

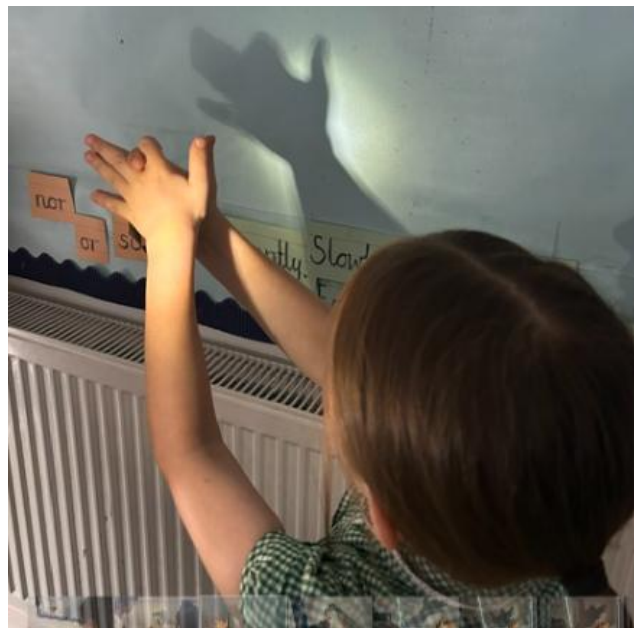
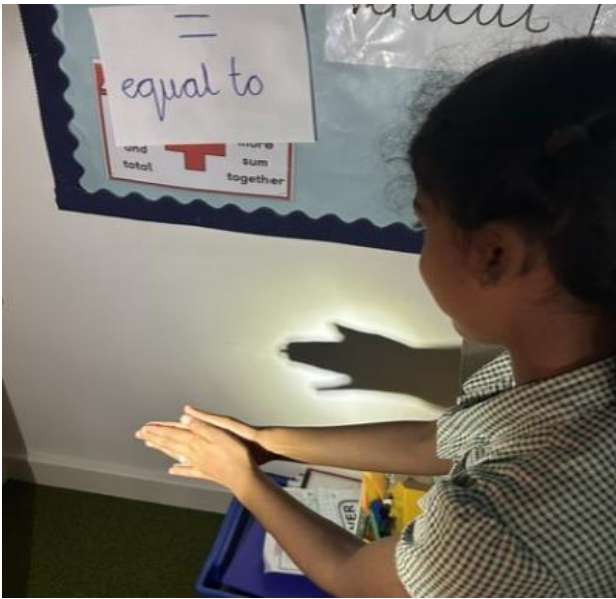


# Year 3 News, Section 1

## Science in Year 3

Despite the warm weather, learning continued in Ash class! The children had a wonderful time exploring shadows and how they are made. We talked about how shadows appear when an object blocks the light, then looked closely at the shapes they created. Using their hands, the children made a fantastic range of animal shadows. Can you guess which animals they made?

## Year 3 Department



# Year 5 News, Section 1

## History in Year 5

As part of our learning on the impact of British rule in India, Year 5 have spent time researching how India's economy and migration patterns were affected by British rule. This week, the children learnt about 'indentured servants' who were transported across the British Empire (and other European colonies) to work on plantations. As part of their research, they listened to historical eye-witness accounts.

## Year 5 Department



Indian indentured laborer



British-Indian indentured laborer



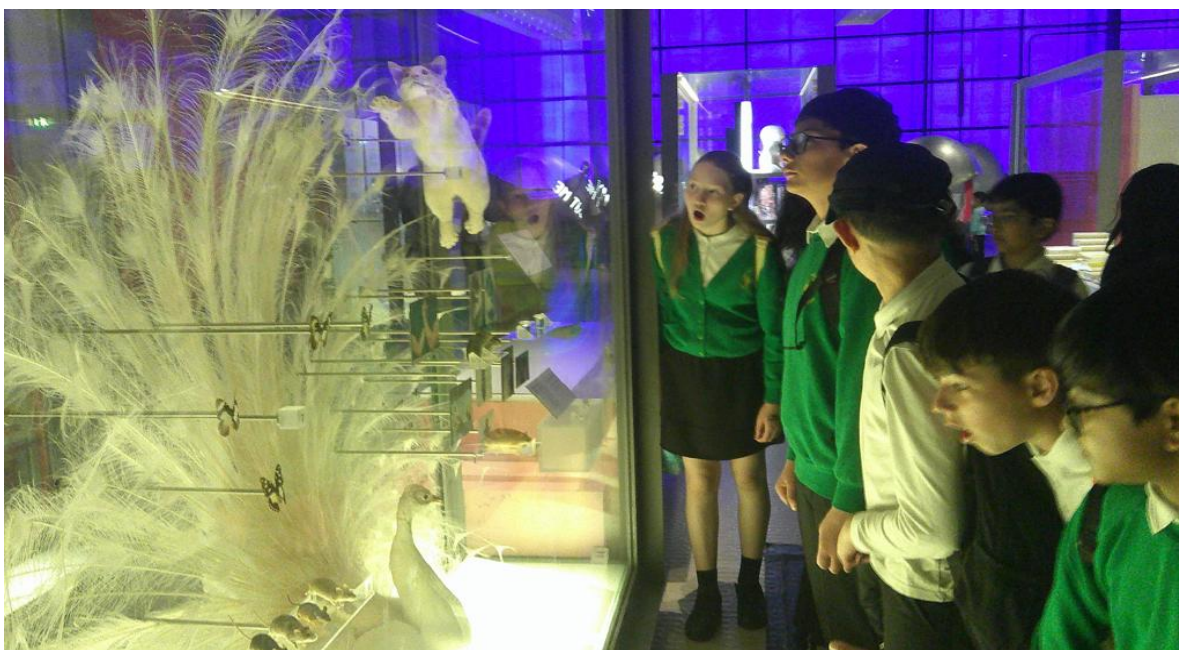
...oh, brothers and sisters.

# Year 6 News, Section 1

## Science Museum Trip in Year 6

Year 6 had the exciting opportunity to visit the Science Museum as part of their learning. The children were amazed by the wide range of exhibits and were eager to explore everything on offer. One of the highlights was experiencing video games from the past, giving them a glimpse into how gaming has evolved over time. It was a fun-filled and memorable trip for all.

## Year 6 Department



## Dive into A Great Story at St Mary's!

### Reading Recommendations

#### The Butterfly Lion

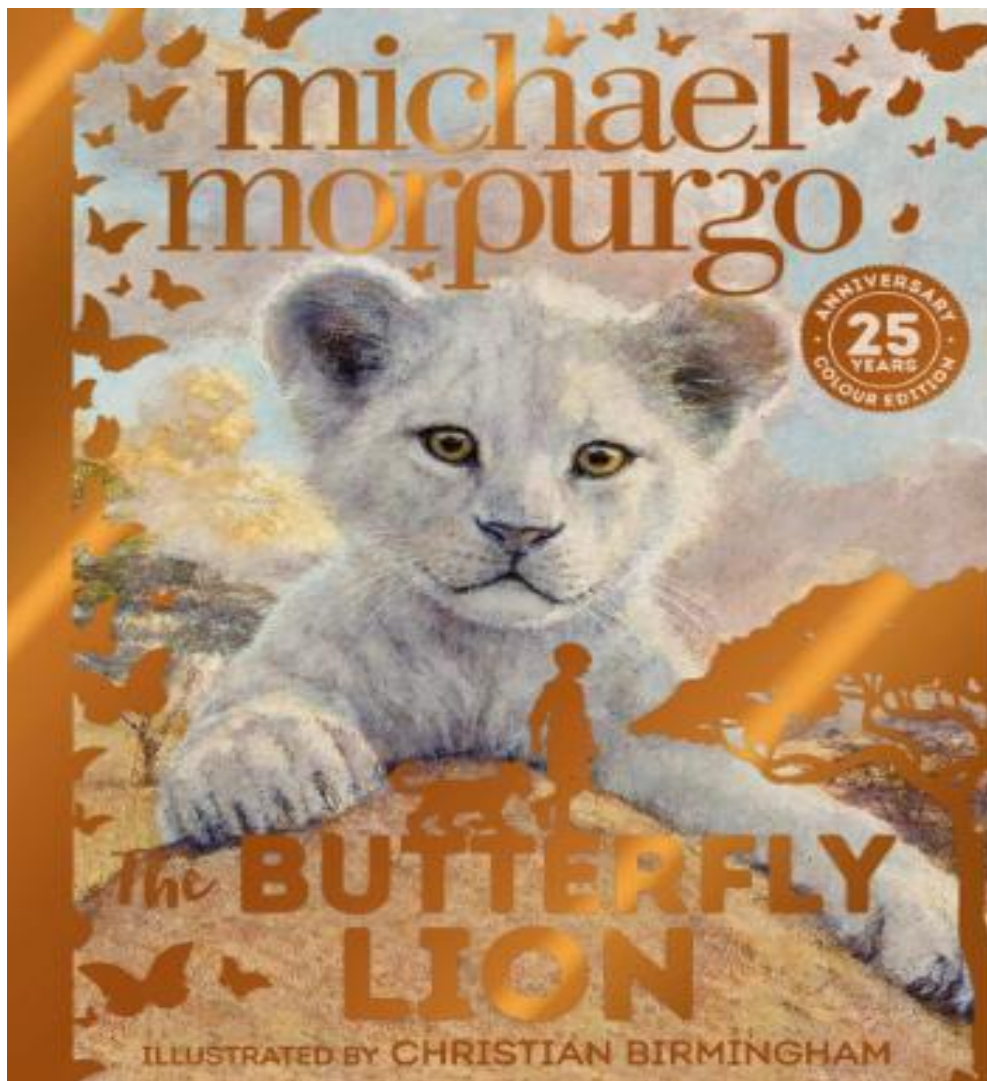
This week's book recommendation comes from Michael Morpurgo. The butterfly lion is such a captivating read filled with emotion. If you're interested in animals and war stories this will be the perfect book to dive into. The twist at the end was brilliant and left me wanting to know more about what happens next.

This book is great for upper KS2!

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**Happy reading!**

**Miss Martins** (Reading for Pleasure Lead, Y3 Sycamore 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](http://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](http://rocksteadymusicschool.com)



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say about Rocksteady →

## Music at Slough Borough Council



# Slough Youth Orchestra



Film music, Theatre, Classical, Pop, and more –  
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Meet like-minded musicians from schools in the community.  
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For more information, contact us: [music.service@slough.gov.uk](mailto:music.service@slough.gov.uk)



# Holiday Camp News



SINGH SABHA SLOUGH  
SPORTS CENTRE



## HOLIDAY CAMP

School's out... the fun is ON!

- Science Experiments
- Fun Crafting
- Cookery lessons
- Over 20 different sports
- Football Coaching
- Dance Workshops
- Boxing drills and skills and so much more!



AGES  
6-12YRS



ALL  
MEALS  
AND  
SNACKS  
INCLUDED

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## 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](#).

### Summer Term 1

<del>22.06.2026</del>	<del>Sports Day: Y5 and Y6 at 9.15am</del>
<del>22.06.2026</del>	<del>Sports Day: Y3 and Y4 at 1.30pm</del>
<del>23.06.2026</del>	<del>Sports Day: Y1 and Y2 at 9.15am</del>
<del>23.06.2026</del>	<del>Sports Day: YR at 2pm</del>
<del>24.06.2026</del>	<del>Sports Day: Morning Nursery at 9.15am</del>
<del>24.06.2026</del>	<del>Sports Day: Afternoon Nursery at 2pm</del>
<del>25.06.2026</del>	<del>Assembly: Reception Poppy Class at 3pm</del>
01/07/2026	<a href="#">School Photographer</a>
03.07.2026	<a href="#">Assembly: Reception Poppy Class at 12.50pm</a>
06/07/2026	Art Week: World Environment
09.07.2026	Trip: Y2 to Littlehampton
14.07.2026	<a href="#">Morning Nursery Graduation Ceremony at 10am</a>
15.07.2026	<a href="#">Afternoon Nursery Graduation Ceremony at 2pm</a>
17.07.2026	Y6 Leavers' Assembly for Parents at <a href="#">9am</a>
<b>17.07.2026</b>	<b>Last Day of Summer Term 2. School ends at 1.30pm for Children</b>
<b>02.09.2026</b>	<b>First Day of Autumn Term 1, 2026 for Children</b>