



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,



- We hope that everyone had a happy, relaxing and reenergising **half term** holiday break.
- **Parent-Teacher-Pupil Consultations:** we look forward to speaking with parents this week about your child's progress so far, this academic year.
- **Poppy Appeal:** thank you to families who have generously donated to the poppy appeal.

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 confirmation 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	83.3%
Nursery PM	92.3%
0Poppy	90.3%
0Bluebell	87.5%
0Daffodil	98.0%
1Damson	96.0%
1Cherry	96.6%
1Apple	89.3%
2Pear	93.7%
2Plum	94.4%
2Peach	98.6%
3Ash	90.0%
3Sycamore	96.7%
3Juniper	88.0%
4Larch	94.5%
4Beech	86.8%
4Oak	94.2%
5Hazel	94.3%
5Alder	98.6%
5Elm	94.0%
6Willow	94.0%
6Maple	92.7%
6Rowan	90.7%

Average across the school: 93.1%

96% or more is the target.

Classes with 100% attendance for the week earn a collective reward!
No classes have eared the reward so far this term.

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

Reception News, section 1

We have been learning all about **Autumn** in Reception. Our focus book is a **non-fiction** book about the season.

While exploring our school environment we hunted for signs of autumn. We spotted trees with **yellow, brown and orange leaves**, some trees were still green - these are **evergreen** trees, and some trees were bare - all the leaves had fallen off!

A homework task was to go on an **Autumn Walk**, collect natural items and create a piece of art. Well done Reception parents for helping your children create such wonderful artworks.

In **maths** we have been learning about **2D shapes** - while you are out and about do look out for circles, triangles squares and rectangles. How many can you spot?

The Reception Team



Year 3 News

As part of our science topic 'Rocks', the children had a brilliant time digging to explore soil and what it is made of. They were amazed to find stones, leaves, twigs, and plenty of wriggly worms! This is what science is all about – hands-on learning!

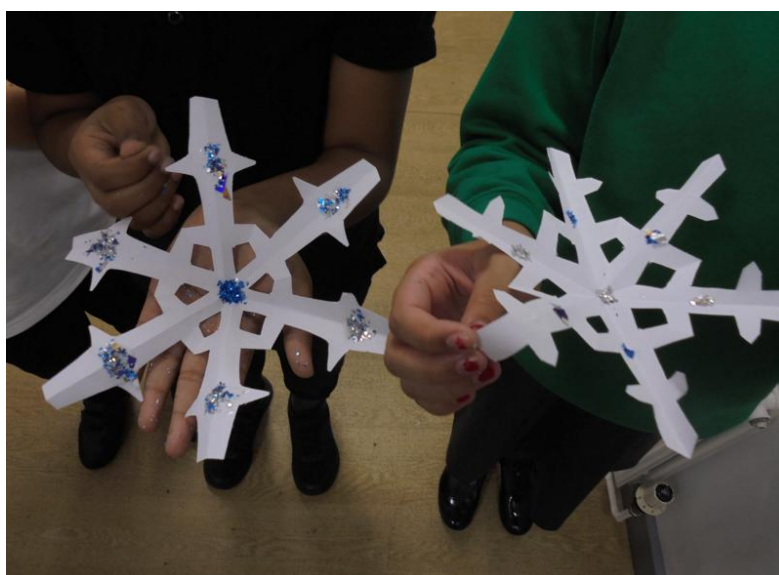
Mrs Williams (Science Lead, Y3 Lead, Y3 Ash Class teacher)



Art and Craft Club News

In Art and Craft club this week we folded some white paper, drew on some ornate patterns, then cut them to make beautiful, wintery snowflakes. To add a special sparkle, we sprinkled some glitter at the end!

Miss Cresto (Art & DT Co- Lead, and Y4 Beech Class teacher)



Rail Safety Awareness at St Mary's

Travelling by train can be a fantastic experience! However, we recognise the railway is a dangerous place, especially if used incorrectly.

With the earlier darker evenings now and many of our children living near the Railway Station or the level-crossing in Datchet, we feel it is very important to raise awareness of rail safety.

As in previous years, the children will once again learn about spotting the hazards and staying safe whilst travelling or being close to the railway lines.

Let's be sure to travel **safely**.

- When on a station platform, always hold your child's hand or get them to hold a safe alternative such as part of your clothing, an older sibling's hand or pushchair.
- Talk about the yellow line and why we must stay behind it.
- Talk about the different safety features, such as signs and lines; why these safety features are there; and how they keep us safe.

Please use the QR code for more information from the Rail Safety Programme.

Thank you.

Mrs Fogarty (PSHE Lead and Safety Awareness Lead)



THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.

SCAN ME

"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

DON'T LET YOUR

The banner features a blue background with a yellow lightning bolt logo on the left containing the letters 'RSF'. Below the logo is the text 'Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com'. On the right, it states 'The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over 3 million young people on the dangers of the railways.' In the center is a large QR code with 'SCAN ME' written below it. On the bottom right is a photo of a young boy with the quote 'I implore you to listen to Harrison's story'. At the bottom left, there are two overlapping photos of railway tracks, one showing a train in the distance. The text 'DON'T LET YOUR' is partially visible at the bottom.

Harvest at St Mary's

- The word '**harvest**' comes from the old English word 'haerfest', which means autumn.
- In the UK harvest is **celebrated** in the **autumn** as that is when farmers collect most crops from their fields.
- **Harvest** is an important time for **farmers and communities**.
- **Harvest** is the final process after all the hard work of **caring for their crops** as they mature.
- **Harvest** is not just about gathering food, it is also about **celebrating creation, giving thanks**, and **sharing with others**.
- One of our values is **Love**. Harvest is a time to share some **love** by helping others in need.



- Please help us help others by **donating** food and other items.
- Some of our **harvest gifts** will be delivered to our neighbours, including Hanover Close, and some will go to The Slough Foodbank'. <https://slough.foodbank.org.uk/>
- Foodbank helps provide emergency food to local people in need. The demands on the food bank are as strong as ever.
- It would be lovely if you donate an item or more from the shopping list below, so that local people in crisis don't go hungry.
- Please make sure all food is **unopened, non-perishable (not fresh)**, in the '**sell-by**' date, and **undamaged**.
- Harvest gifts can be brought into **class** or into the **front office** from **Monday 13th October** until **Friday 14th November**.

- Tinned baked beans
- Tinned or packets of soup
- Tinned tuna
- Tinned meals
- Tinned vegetables (e.g. sweetcorn)
- Tinned custard/rice pudding
- Packets of rice or pasta
- Long-life cooking sauces

- Long-life sponge puddings
- Biscuits
- Tea & coffee (small sizes)
- Long-life fruit juice
- Long-life milk
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Toilet rolls
- Washing-up liquid

Together we can help others in our community flourish.

Events at St Mary's

Exciting Storytelling Event at St Mary's!

We're thrilled to announce a special storytelling session for **KS1** with the amazing **Liz Fost!**

Liz is a wonderful storyteller who brings books to life with her fun, energy, and imagination. This time, she'll be sharing the beautiful story:

***The Turtle Who Turned the Tide* by Rachel Bright**

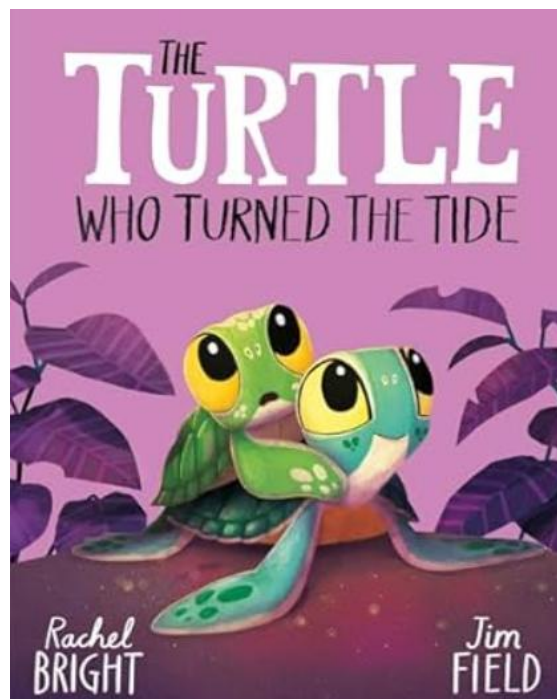
Here's what you need to know:

- **Liz Fost** will be performing a live storytelling session in school.
- This will happen during the school day on the **25th of November**.
- This book teaches about **friendship, courage, and protecting our oceans**.
- **This event is for Reception-Year 2**

Want your own copy of the book?

- Price: **£12.99**
- A pre-order letter will be sent out soon with all the details. Watch out for further details!

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



Rags2Riches4Schools News

We are taking part in the **Rags2Riches4Schools** clothing collection to raise funds for our school and help families around the world access affordable clothing.

Do you have clothes in your wardrobe that you no longer wear? **Let's give them a new life!**

What they collect	What they don't collect
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clean, good quality, dry reusable clothing● Adults, children's & babies clothing● Paired shoes and footwear● Jewellery and accessories● Belts and Handbags	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Poor quality items such as dirty, wet, ripped or soiled clothing● Uniform or sports kits● Socks● Pillows● Duvets● Curtains● Books or CD's or bric-a-brac

STOP & THINK – *Would you pass it on to a friend to wear?* If not, it's not suitable to donate.

Even one item makes a difference, and don't forget to ask your friends, grandparents and neighbours to join in!

Please bring your donations to school by: 26th November 2025

Did you know?

Every bag we fill helps reduce textile waste going to landfill. Clothes are sent to Europe, Africa and beyond, where they are resold at affordable prices, giving them a second life and helping families in need.

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts! 😊



An invitation to . . .

**SANTA'S
SPECIAL**



SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

ST LAURENCE'S

(Upton Court Road, Slough SL3 7LS)

11^{AM} - 2.30^{PM}



**Food, Cakes, Craft,
Decorations, Gifts,
Raffle and much
more . . .**

www.saint-laurence.com

Parking in Upton Court Road Car Park

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 Windsor Music Centre



Windsor Music Centre HAVE A GO

Come and try an instrument for free and learn about lessons at our music centres, schools and other opportunities we offer!

WINDSOR MUSIC CENTRE

Dedworth Middle School, Smith's Lane, Windsor SL4 5PE

Tuesday 21 October

Guitar 5.30-6.00pm | 6.00-6.30pm

Thursday 13 November

Woodwind/Oboe 5.00-5.30pm | 5.30-6.00pm

Saturday 15 November

Drum Kit 11.00-11.30am | 11.30am-12.00pm

Brass 12.00-12.30pm | 12.30-1.00pm



**CLICK HERE OR
SCAN TO BOOK**

www.berksmusictrust.org.uk

0118 901 2370

admissions@berksmusictrust.org.uk

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

10.11.2025	Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings for EYFS (Nursery & Reception) and KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Parents
11.11.2025	Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings for KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) Parents
12.11.2025	Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings for EYFS (Nursery & Reception) and KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Parents
14.11.2025	Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings for KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) Parents
17.11.2025	Phonics Parent Workshop for KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Parents at 8.35am
19.11.2025	Phonics Parent Workshop for Reception Parents at 2.45pm
20.11.2025	Reading Parent Workshop for LKS2 (Y3 & Y4) Parents at 8.35am
26.11.2025	Y2 Eton College Workshop at St Mary's School
26.11.2025	Y3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
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