



Dear Parents and Carers,



- We wish everyone a very happy, relaxing and reenergising **half term** holiday break, **Monday 27th October -Friday 31st October.**

Thank you to our whole school community! 😊

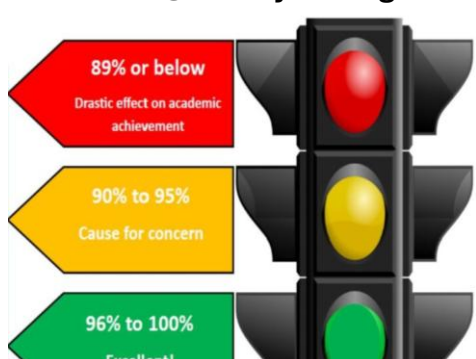
Values

- 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.

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	74.6%
0Poppy	82.9%
0Bluebell	83.9%
0Daffodil	94.0%
1Damson	93.0%
1Cherry	93.7%
1Apple	90.7%
2Pear	97.0%
2Plum	91.4%
2Peach	97.2%
3Ash	97.0%
3Sycamore	95.3%
3Juniper	84.7%
4Larch	95.5%
4Beech	89.7%
4Oak	96.0%
5Hazel	94.0%
5Alder	92.4%
5Elm	88.0%
6Willow	92.0%
6Maple	92.3%
6Rowan	86.6%

Average across the school: 92.4%

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 had a very busy week in Reception! We have enjoyed learning all about **Diwali**.

We had lots of fun creating **divas, rangoli patterns** and **fireworks**. Mrs Abid was using her artistic skills again, to help us design rangoli patterns using chalk in our outside area. We used different wooden shapes for rangoli patterns inside although we were concentrating on them too much to get a photo – instead a photo of a creative way 2 children came up with of linking some of the wooden blocks to create a long line. This also helped our finger muscles get stronger as it was fiddly.

Did you know using our fingers for fun activities like this helps with our handwriting because it strengthens our finger muscles. Using construction kits like Lego, climbing on climbing frames, colouring with crayons or pencils and squeezing playdough also helps. So, do try to do some of these activities at home too. 😊

Happy Diwali and Half Term Everyone!

The Reception Team



Reception News, section 2

Parent Workshop

We would like to invite you to a **Reception Parent Workshop** all about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum.

The workshop will give an insight into:

- How your child learns through **direct teaching** and **Continuous Provision**.
- The **key areas** of learning in Reception.
- How you can **support** their development at home.
- There will be an opportunity to **ask questions** also.

Workshop details

- Date: 3/11/2025
- Time: 2.45 pm
- Location: Yew Hall

We hope you can join us for this informative session.

Working together helps ensure your child gets the very best start to their school journey. 😊

We look forward to seeing you there!

Reception team

KS1 News (Y1 and Y2), section 1

Year 1 and 2 have enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate and learn about **Diwali** last week. The children participated in **Diwali dancing**, creating **Diya lamps** and **Rangoli patterns**.

KS1 enjoyed dressing in cultural, celebration and brightly coloured clothes to share in the Diwali celebrations.

The children especially enjoyed wearing their wonderful outfits when they shared all they had learned and created during our **Diwali Celebration Assembly**. 😊

Happy Diwali and Half Term Everyone!

The KS1 Team



KS1 News (Y1 and Y2), section 2

Happy Diwali and Half Term Everyone! 😊

The KS1 Team



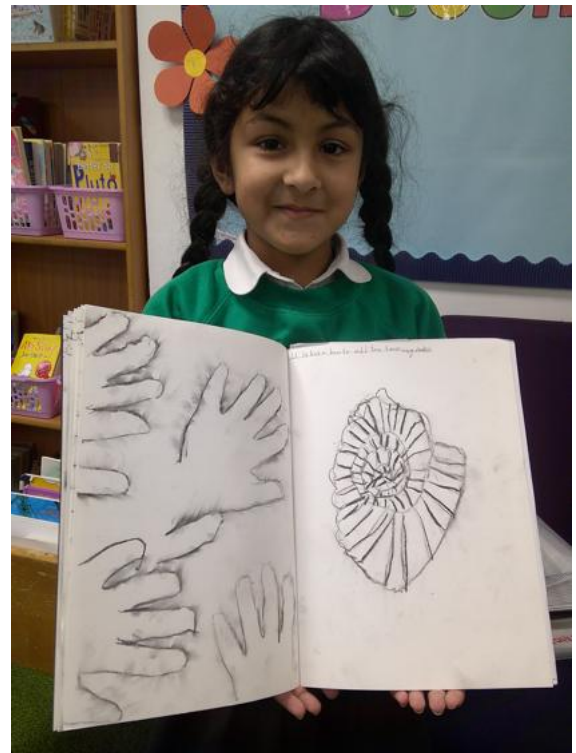
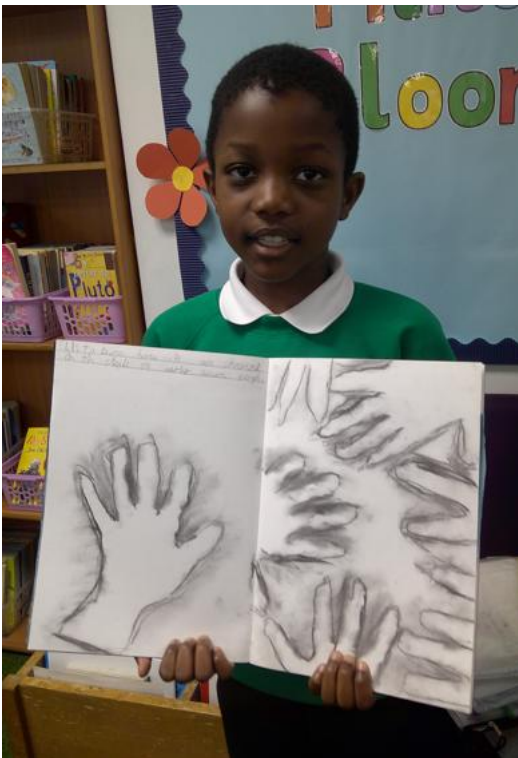
Year 3 News

This week in Year 3 art, the children learned that cave people used **charcoal** for creating **artwork** around **30,000 years ago**.

After some fun experimenting, they drew around their hands and smudged the lines outwards, creating their own pieces inspired by **ancient cave art**.

It was messy, but fun! 😊

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



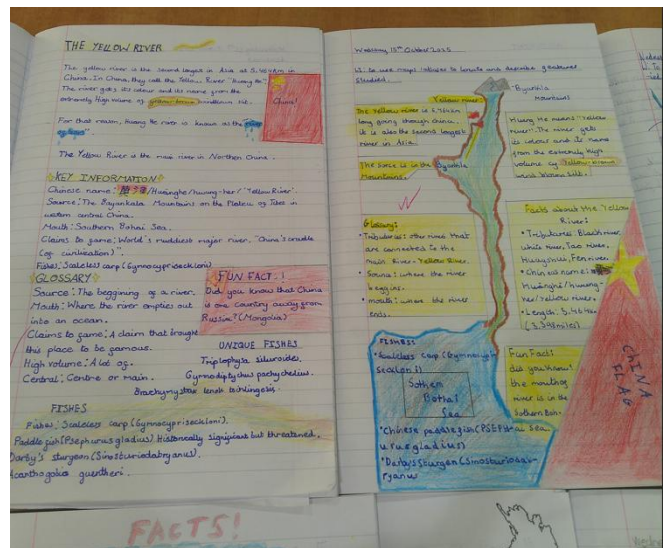
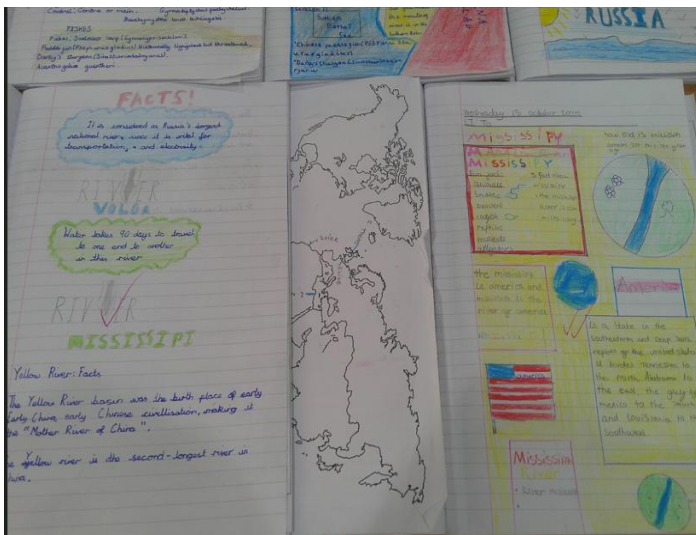
Year 6 News

Year 6 Geography and Science Learning

Year 6 have had a fantastic week this week celebrating **Spanish Week**. We learnt about the **history of Spain**, created paintings in the style of **Joan Miro** and made **posters persuading tourists** to go to different regions in Spain.

In Geography, we researched our topic on **rivers** and wrote facts on a river of our choice.

Miss Rockett (Maths Lead, Y6 Lead and Y6 Rowan Class teacher)



Spanish Corner, section 1

Spanish Corner - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)

¡Hola amigos!

We just had at St Mary's the most fantastic week of all things Spanish. There was music, history, art, food, maths and many interesting facts about Spain and its culture. The children were engaged throughout and produced several art pieces which will form part of the school website Spanish Gallery in the next few days.

See a little preview of some moments from this celebration:

Year 3: The children learnt some facts about Spanish culture. They also learnt about the different types of folk music from Spain, including Flamenco, and made their own instruments (castanets). Then they learnt about the most famous Spanish dish: la paella and made one too – only not to eat! Finally, they learnt about the architect Antonio Gaudí and made a mosaic style artwork in the shape of a lizard.



Year 4: The children learnt some facts about Spanish culture. They also learnt about counting system of the ancient Mayan civilization in Mexico and did some math using this system. They made their own maracas, ready to use for singing and dancing 'La Bamba' (a popular Mexican song). Finally, they learnt about Picasso and made a portrait in his style.



Spanish Corner, section 2

Year 5:

The children learnt about the different festivals of Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. They also learnt about ancient South American civilizations and did some research on those countries that speak this language. Finally, they learnt about 'The Day of the Dead' festival in Mexico and made their own sugar skulls (but on clay).



Year 6:

The children learnt about Spanish history and geography. They did some research exploring the 17 Autonomic Regions of Spain and, finally, they learnt about a Spanish painter, named Joan Miró, and produce an artwork in his style. The big surprise was a flamenco workshop which taught them some great moves and hand clapping techniques. It was fun!



Muchas gracias 😊

Mrs Aguilar (Spanish Specialist Teacher)

Sports at St Mary's

Netball

The girls put in a shift this week at our **year 5 and 6 netball tournament**.

We arrived and started with some warmup drills then it was onto a tough 5 game stint!

The girls all showed amazing enthusiasm and brilliant sportsmanship within these games.

The team had an excellent time and were very pleased with their performance.

Well done girls, you did us proud!

Miss O'Brien, Mrs Meher and Mr Bignall



Parent News

Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings

- You will receive an **email invite** to book a slot for the parents' consultation evening on **20th October at 5pm.**
- Bookings will end on **3rd November at 9am.**
- We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.
- Thank you! 😊

Ms McMahon (First Aid & Pupil Welfare Lead)

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**

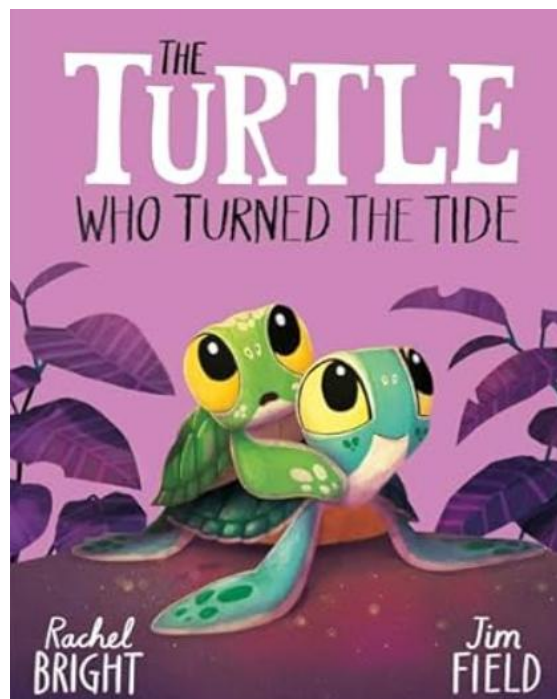
Here's what you need to know:

- **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)



A Musical Adventure at St Mary's Church

FREE children's 🎵 event!

What are you doing on the **first Monday** of the **half term** holidays?

Come to our **interactive music concert** for children on **Monday 27th October**

Booking is necessary, places are limited: <http://trybooking.com/uk/FFMI>



The Dionysus Ensemble
presents

A Musical Adventure

2pm, Monday 27th October 2025
St Mary's Church, Church St, Slough, SL1 1PJ

**Interactive children's concert with bite sized music,
listen, sing & dance!**

FREE entry
Advised ages 0-8
Booking necessary, spaces are limited



St Mary's Church
Slough Cultural Revival
Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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

03.11.2025	First Day of Autumn Term 2 for Children
06.11.2025	Y6 Trip to Eton College
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
09.12.2025	Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day for Reception and KS1 (Y1 & Y2)
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