



Dear Parents and Carers,

- We wish all members of our school community celebrating **Diwali** a very '**Happy Diwali!**' We hope that you have a super time with friends and family when celebrating the **Festival of Lights** this week.
- We wish everyone a very happy, relaxing and reenergising **half term** holiday break, **Monday 27th October -Friday 31st October. Happy half term and happy Halloween!**
- **School Uniform**-Thank you to parents who **support** the school's **Uniform Policy**.
- **School Uniform-Stud earrings** are part of the **Uniform Policy** and keep children **safe** by reducing the risk of accidental injury. Hooped earrings are not in the Uniform Policy.
- **PE Kit- Black trainers** must only be worn on **PE days**.

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	88.5%
Nursery PM	85.4%
0Poppy	88.7%
0Bluebell	89.6%
0Daffodil	99.3%
1Damson	92.3%
1Cherry	81.7%
1Apple	92.0%
2Pear	96.0%
2Plum	91.1%
2Peach	96.6%
3Ash	97.0%
3Sycamore	93.7%
3Juniper	85.0%
4Larch	98.1%
4Beech	92.8%
4Oak	97.0%
5Hazel	94.0%
5Alder	91.4%
5Elm	93.3%
6Willow	94.3%
6Maple	95.0%
6Rowan	85.7%

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

'**Hair Love**' is our focus book in Reception at the moment. A heartwarming story about a father and daughter who work together to create a perfect hairstyle for a special day. They show our values of **perseverance** and **love**.

We have had lots of fun creating **hair salons** and **hairdryers** from construction kits, we drew our own faces and hair, talked about our hairstyles and wrote the initial letters to describe them. Thank you to Mrs Abid who used her artistic skills to design different hairstyles using chalk in our outside area.

Do talk about your and others' **hair styles**.

Can you spot different **colours** and **lengths** of hair, how about **plaits, ponytails, curls** or **coils**?

Reception Team



Phonics News for Year 1 and Year 2 Parents

Thank you to all parents who have logged into the new online **Oxford Owl e-book** system. 😊

We would like to celebrate the pupil engagement for each class last week!

Year 1:

- Apple Class 10 children
- **Cherry Class 20 children**
- Damson Class 16 children

Year 2:

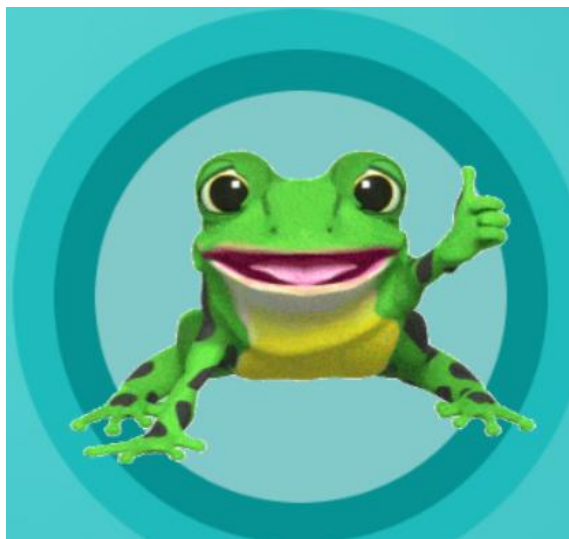
- Peach Class 14 children
- Pear Class 12 children
- Plum Class 16 children

Well done to **Cherry Class** who had the most engagement last week!

Let's see which class **wins** this week...

Remember to check your child's **Oxford Owl log in every Wednesday!** 😊

Miss Jenkins (Phonics Lead, Y1 Damson Class teacher)



Diwali News in EYFS and KS1

On **Tuesday the 21st October** Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are celebrating **Diwali**. In celebration of this, all children are invited to wear **cultural or colourful clothes**.

They can come in to school wearing their special clothes.

If your child's class has PE this day, please bring their PE kits in, just on this one occasion. Thank you for your co-operation. 😊

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



KS1 (Y1 and Y2) News

This week **Year 1** and **Year 2** performed their Harvest Festival assembly at **St. Mary's Church**.

The children's hard work came to fruition with spectacular **singing, acting** and **narrating**.

Thank you to all friends and family who joined in support of their child and the important message around Harvest and helping others. 😊

Also, this week **Year 2** completed their **DT project** for this half term. They designed and created their very own **Harvest basket** with a **lever** to move the delicious produce in and out of the basket.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead, Y2 Peach Class teacher)



Year 3 News

In **history** this week, Ash Class had a fantastic time creating cave paintings! Using tea bags for a textured background, we experimented with charcoal and colouring pencils to bring our prehistoric scenes to life.

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



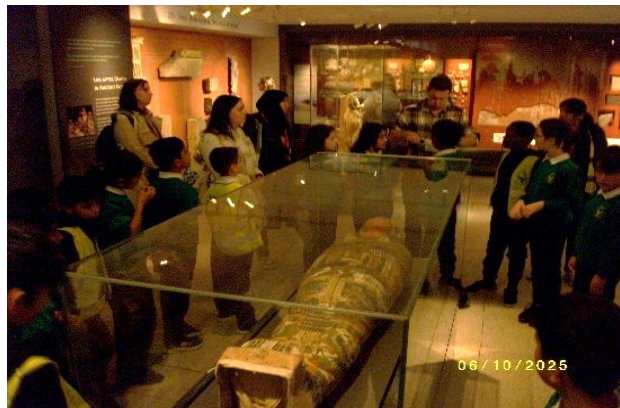
Year 4 News section 1

Trip to Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

On Monday 6th October, Year 4 visited the **Ashmolean Museum** in **Oxford** to learn more about **Ancient Egyptians**. The children learned about how the Egyptians **lived** and what they **believed** would happen after they **died** from the expert guides that worked with each class. It was a very informative trip and the children **represented St Mary's exceptionally well** throughout the visit. Thank you to the parent helpers that accompanied us on the trip. 😊

Mr Plumley

(Trip Organiser, Deputy DSL for Online Safety, Computing Lead, Y4 Lead, Y4 Larch Class teacher)



Year 4 News section 2

Year 4 Pupil hoping to inspire others

Last Saturday, 11th October, I went to do a race at a place called **Great Ormand Street Hospital**. We had to run **5 kilometres** for **charity** while also having fun. It was about 1 hour to get there. It was really exhausting as it took an hour to run the 5K. It was a really fun experience. I finished last out of my family and my mum was the first.

Sarah (Year 4 Larch Class)



Year 5 News, section 1

Year 5 Science (forces investigation)

Year 5 have had a lot of fun this week taking their **science investigation** outdoors. Our budding scientists have been investigating how the **shape of an object** can alter the **speed at which it falls**.

This **outdoor learning** has deepened children's understanding of gravity and air resistance. For more information on our topic of learning (**forces**), check out the video link below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvr3nrd/articles/zxw6gdm>

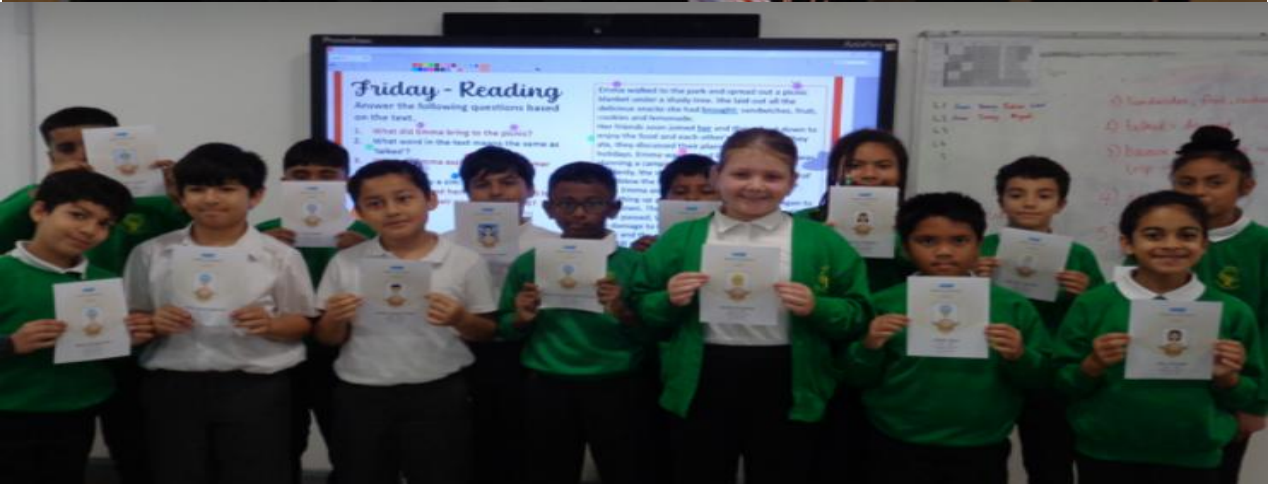


Year 5 News, section 2

Year 5 Homework Shout Out

Mr Ali, Ms Deans and Mrs Rajaan would like to give a HUGE shout out to these children for their effort and achievement on the **Mathletics** and **Reading Eggspress** website.

Each week, we hold **in-class celebration** to celebrate the children's achievements.



Year 5 News, section 3

Reading Eggspress ,Mathletics and TTRS websites:

Just a reminder to all parents, your children should now have received their log ins for the **Mathletics/Reading Eggspress** websites.

It is important that you take the time to familiarise yourself with the websites so you know what work your child is being assigned.

If your child does not have the correct log in detail, please do contact the **class teacher** or **Mr Ali** on [hazel@stmarys.slough.sch.uk](mailto: hazel@stmarys.slough.sch.uk).

Mr Ali

(Deputy DSL-Prevent, Homework Lead, Humanities Lead, Y5 Lead and Y5 Hazel Class teacher)



Spanish News, section 1

Spanish Corner - KS2 (Years 3 to 6)



¡Hola amigos!

I would like to share with you some very exciting news!

This year, for the first time, St Mary's is going all out to celebrate the language and the culture of Spain and of the other 20 countries where this language is also spoken.

This celebration of all things Spanish will take place between Tuesday, 21st and Thursday, 23rd of October.

There are going to be many *fascinating, formative* and *fun* activities where the children will be able to learn about the cultural aspects behind the language they are studying at St Mary's.

The children will explore history, geography, ancient civilisations, food, art, mathematics, traditions and music.

We hope that this will be the first of many such celebrations and that our young learners will be even more motivated to apply themselves in their language learning journey.

Watch out this space for pictures of the best moments of the **Spanish Celebration**.

Muchas gracias, / Many thanks,

Mrs Aguilar (Spanish Lead) 😊



Spanish News, section 2

Hola! As part of Spanish Week, Taylor Shaw Catering are serving a special Spanish themed menu on Tuesday 21st October. Don't forget to place your order!

**Food Around
The World**

Tuesday 21st October

Menu

Chicken & Vegetable Paella
Or
Mediterranean Vegetable Paella

Served with
Vegetables

Jacket Potatoes will be available

For Dessert

Natillas

Natillas is a wonderfully smooth and creamy Spanish custard, just the right level of sweet with a gentle cinnamon and citrus flavour

Let's go to
SPAIN!

EAT SMART

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! 😊

School Photographs

- School photographs will take place in school on **22nd October.**
- Full **uniform** and a lovely **smile** are requested please!
- Thank you 😊

Ms McMahon (First Aid & Pupil Welfare Lead)

Parent News

Parent/Carer Information

Important Safeguarding Notice: Children's "Spy" Books

- We want to make you aware of a recent issue affecting some popular children's books by Andrew Cope, including the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Cats*, and *Spy Pups* series.
- Some editions of these books include a printed web address at the back. This link used to go to the author's website, but the domain is no longer under his control. It has since been taken over by another party and now leads to inappropriate adult content.
- The publisher, Puffin, has paused sales and distribution of the books and is working with schools, libraries, and retailers to remove copies from circulation. They have stressed that the website has no connection to the author or publisher.

What this means for you

- If your child has any *Spy Dog*, *Spy Cat* or *Spy Pups* books at home, please check the back for website links and make sure they do not try to visit the site.
- It is safe for children to continue reading the stories themselves — the concern is only with the outdated link.
- We recommend talking with your child about the importance of not following web addresses in books without checking with an adult first.

Ms Whatley (Designated Safeguarding 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**

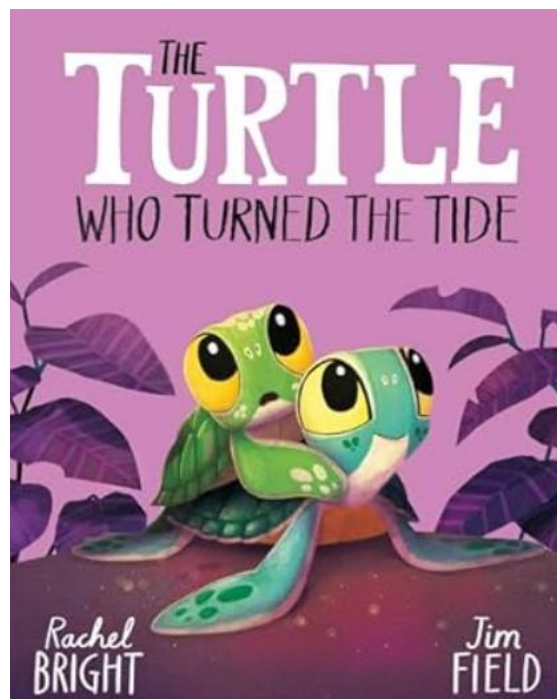
Here's what you need to know:

- **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
St Mary
St Catherine
St Peter
CHALVEY

SLOUGH CULTURAL REVIVAL

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

LOTTERY FUNDED

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](#).

20.10.2025	Annual Optional Flu Vaccine Delivered by Berkshire Immunisation Team for Nursery-Y6
22.10.2025	Individual Children's Photographs for Nursery-Y6
23.10.2025	Spanish Celebration Day for KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)
24.10.2025	Last Day of Autumn 1 Term

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