



Dear Parents and Carers,

- **Scooters**-Thank you to parents who **support** the school to keep all children **safe** by ensuring their child does not ride their scooter when on the school playground. It's super that children **walk** sensibly **alongside** their **scooter** instead, preventing unfortunate collisions from taking place on the playground.
- **Behaviour**-Thank you to parents who **actively support** the school's **Behaviour Policy** by reinforcing **expectations of good behaviour** at St Mary's.
- **Healthy Snacks**-Thank you to parents who provide a **healthy snack** for their child to enjoy at break time. Snacks of pieces of **fruit** provide bursts of much needed **energy** and **refreshment**. Snacks of crisps, sweets and chocolate provide unhealthy sugar rushes.
- **P-T-P Meetings**-Please keep a look out for the email communication about bookings for **Parent-Teacher-Pupil meetings** taking place **after half term**. We look forward to meeting parents to discuss how your child is settling into the new academic year.

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	91.4%
Nursery PM	77.7%
0Poppy	89.7%
0Bluebell	90.7%
<b>0Daffodil</b>	<b>98.0%</b>
<b>1Damson</b>	<b>98.7%</b>
1Cherry	89.0%
1Apple	94.0%
2Pear	94.3%
2Plum	90.0%
2Peach	95.3%
<b>3Ash</b>	<b>97.0%</b>
<b>3Sycamore</b>	<b>96.7%</b>
3Juniper	93.3%
<b>4Larch</b>	<b>97.4%</b>
4Beech	93.8%
<b>4Oak</b>	<b>97.0%</b>
<b>5Hazel</b>	<b>93.3%</b>
5Alder	92.4%
5Elm	95.7%
6Willow	92.3%
6Maple	96.7%
6Rowan	91.0%

**Average across the school: 93.7%**

**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

In Reception we had lots of fun with our book **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. We helped make porridge and most of us enjoyed tasting it - was it **too hot, too cold** or **just right**? There was cooking going on in the mud kitchen too – maybe something for the bears to replace their eaten porridge? We even had a key for the cottage made from **Stickle Bricks** – but was it for Goldilocks to get in, or for the bears to keep Goldilocks out?!

We were all very proud of the children during our **Harvest Celebration** at St. Mary's Church. Father Scott talked to us about being **thankful** for our food at Harvest time. We were very thankful to everyone who helped keep us all safe on our way to and from the church and all those who came to the special assembly too.

### Reception Team



## Year 1 News

Year 1 had an amazing time on Wednesday at **Odds Farm**! The children were extremely well behaved and enjoyed the activities thoroughly. The children went on a **tractor ride**, fed **sheep** and **goats** and even saw a **cow** being milked! We have had many comments from staff and parents about how much the children enjoyed this trip.

Thank you to everyone that volunteered. 😊

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



## Year 3 News

In **history** this week, Ash Class were amazed to discover that **Stone Age** people crafted **jewellery** from **bones** and **teeth**. Inspired by this, they created their own stylish necklaces using **salt dough**.

What talented jewellery makers we have in Year 3!

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



# Spanish News

## 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, 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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) 😊



## 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> November at 9am**.
- We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.
- Thank you! 😊

### Flu Immunisations

- Flu immunisations will take place on **20th October** in school.
- If you have not already done so, please fill in the **consent form** before **19<sup>th</sup> October**.
- Thank you! 😊

### School Photographs

- School photographs will take place in school on **22<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- During the next 2 weeks **Reception** and **KS1 Classes** will be celebrating **Harvest at St. Mary's Church**.
- 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
- Tinned fruit

- 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.**

## 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



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)



Find out what parents  
say about Rocksteady →

## 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](mailto:music.service@slough.gov.uk)



## 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**

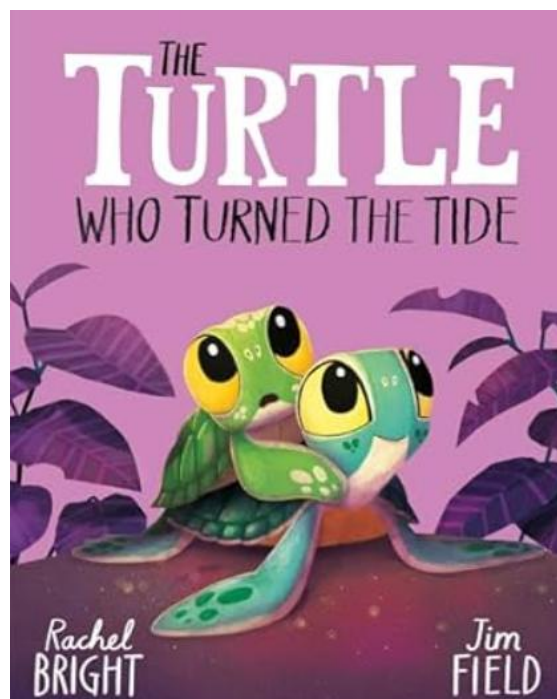
#### **Here's what you need to know:**

- **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)



## Events at St Mary's

### Have your say – Parent Carer Survey



Our school is taking part in **PINS**, a national project to improve how schools support neurodivergent children and young people.

We are asking **all parents and carers** to take part in a short survey – whether or not your child has SEND. It takes **less than 5 minutes** and will help shape future training and support.

**Take the survey here:**

<https://pins.brighterfuturestogether.org.uk/parent-carer-forums-in-pins/parent-carer-surveys/>

- The survey is open until **Monday 13 October at 11:59pm**.
- If you have more than one child at this school, you can complete the survey once for each child.
- If you want to learn more about PINS, our local Parent Carer Forum is hosting a short webinar for parents and carers on **Friday 3 October, 12:00 - 12:45**.
- Registration is required, please book via

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/zAYzq-wvTWKSJm-mghEKpw>

**Thank you for helping us make a difference for all children and young people.**

## 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](#).

15.10.2025	KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Harvest Festival Performance at St Mary's Church at 9.30am
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

<b>03.11.2025</b>	<b>First Day of Autumn Term 2 for Children</b>
06.11.2025	YR Trip to Herschel Park
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
<a href="#">26.11.2025</a>	<a href="#">Y2 Eton College Workshop at St Mary's School</a>
26.11.2025	Y3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum
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

<a href="#">05.01.2026</a>	<a href="#">INSET for Staff</a>
<b>06.01.2026</b>	<b>First Day of Spring Term 1 for Children</b>