



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome all our children and families back for the Autumn Term and hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer break. As we begin an exciting new school year together, we look forward to learning, growing and achieving through our shared values of **love, respect and peace**. By showing love in our actions, treating one another with respect and promoting peace in our community, we can help every child flourish and reach their full potential. We are excited for the opportunities, experiences and successes that this term will bring.



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)

Parent News, Section 1

Macmillan Coffee Morning at St Mary's



We are hosting a **Macmillan coffee morning** and cordially invite you to join us for a cup of refreshing tea and slice of delicious cake!

- Date: Friday 25th September 2026
- Time: 8.30am-10am
- Venue: Yew Hall

There will be an opportunity to participate in a **prize raffle draw!**

Thank you to **Mrs Brown** (HR Manager) and **Mrs Grange** (School Business Manager) who are hosting the event, ably supported by St Mary's staff.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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

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

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
- **Congratulations to Plum class who achieved 96.6% attendance in the first week of the 2026/27 autumn term!**



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.

Strong Attendance



We want all children to have the opportunity to participate in celebrations for strong attendance at St Mary's.

Children who achieve **96%-100% each term** and flourish in their school attendance will receive a **special certificate** and participate in an **exclusive special treat** 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.

Watch this space for details of the exciting autumn term 2026 'strong attendance celebration event' that only children with 96%+ attendance are invited to attend!



Attendance for last week

Nursery AM	No data%
Nursery PM	No data%
0Poppy	No data%
0Bluebell	No data%
0Daffodil	No data%
1Damson	92.5%
1Cherry	89.2%
1Apple	95.4%
2Pear	92.0%
2Plum	96.6%
2Peach	87.8%
3Ash	82.2%
3Sycamore	90.2%
3Juniper	78.2%
4Larch	92.2%
4Beech	92.2%
4Oak	85.7%
5Hazel	88.9%
5Alder	92.0%
5Elm	83.3%
6Willow	90.8%
6Maple	79.1%
6Rowan	91.1%

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 😊

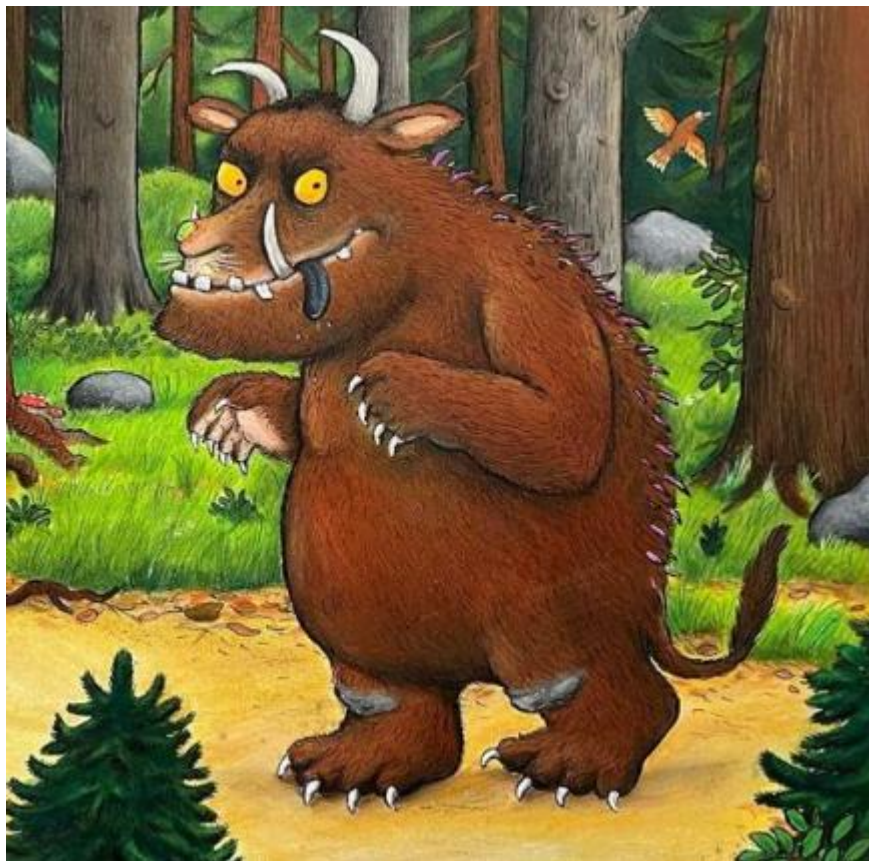
Dive into A Great Story at St Mary's!

Reading Recommendations

***The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson**

This week's book recommendation ***The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson**, is a much-loved story that continues to delight children of all ages. Through its memorable rhymes, engaging characters and exciting woodland adventure, the book encourages imagination, confidence and a love of reading. Families can enjoy reading the story together while discussing themes such as courage, friendship and clever thinking. We hope you enjoy sharing this wonderful story at home and discovering why it remains a favourite with generations of young readers.

Happy reading!



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 9am-6pm, local rate)
rocksteadymusicschool.com



**Find out what parents
say about Rocksteady** ➔

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Music at Slough Borough Council



SLOUGH
MUSIC
SERVICE



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

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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](#).

Autumn Term 1, 2026

02.09.2026

First Day of Autumn Term 1, 2026 for Children

07.09.2026

Meet the Phase Lead & Teacher for Y5 and Y6 at 2pm in Yew Hall.

08.09.2026

Meet the Phase Lead & Teacher for Y3 and Y4 at 2pm in Yew Hall.

09.09.2026

Meet the Phase Lead & Teacher for Y1 and Y2 at 2pm in Yew Hall.

25.09.2026

Macmillan Coffee Morning, 8.30-10am in Yew Hall

15.10.2026

Annual Optional Flu Vaccine Delivered by Berkshire Immunisation Team for Nursery-Y6

23.10.2026

Last day of Autumn Term 1

Half Term Holiday

02.11.2026

INSET for Staff

03.11.2026

First Day of Autumn 2 Term for Children

09.11.2026

Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings for EYFS (Nursery & Reception) and KS1 (Y1 & Y2)

10.11.2026

Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings for KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)

11.11.2026

Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings for EYFS (Nursery & Reception) and KS1 (Y1 & Y2)

12.11.2026

Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings for KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) Parents

08.12.2026

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day for Reception and KS1 (Y1 & Y2)

09.12.2026

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day for KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)

10.12.2026

Christmas Concert for Reception Parents at 2.30pm

11.12.2026

Christmas Jumper Day for Nursery

15.12.2026

Christmas Party for LKS2 (Y3 & Y4)

16.12.2026

Christmas Concert for Y2 Parents at 9am

16.12.2026

Christmas Concert for Y3 Parents at 2.30pm

16.12.2026

Christmas Party for Y1 and Y2

17.12.2026

Christmas Concert for Y1 Parents at 9am

17.12.2026

Christmas Concert for Y4 Parents at 2.30pm

17.12.2025

Christmas Party for Nursery, Reception, Y5 and Y6

18.12.2025

Last Day of Autumn Term 2 at 1.30pm

Christmas Holiday

04.01.2027

INSET for Staff

05.01.2027

First Day of Spring Term 1 for Children