



Dear Parents and Carers,

- **Birthdays**-It has been delightful to see children dressed up proudly in their **own clothes** when **celebrating** their **birthday** last week!
- **Gifts**-Thank you to parents who **gifted** their child's **class a book** in celebration of the birthday. A polite reminder that the school **does not accept** gifts of sweets/cake/chocolate.
- **Trips**-Thank you to **parents** who have signed up as **parent volunteers** on their child's school **trip**. We appreciate parental support on these days very much!
- **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.

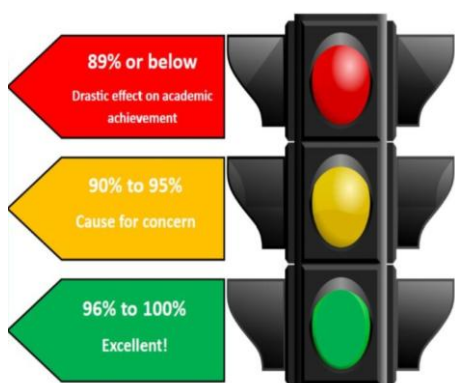
Thank you to our whole school community! 😊

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	90.5%
Nursery PM	89.9%
0Poppy	93.2%
0Bluebell	95.1%
0Daffodil	93.9%
1Damson	82.7%
1Cherry	94.7%
1Apple	92.0%
2Pear	95.7%
2Plum	92.3%
2Peach	93.2%
3Ash	97.0%
3Sycamore	98.0%
3Juniper	95.9%
4Larch	98.4%
4Beech	94.5%
4Oak	96.7%
5Hazel	96.7%
5Alder	95.2%
5Elm	94.0%
6Willow	94.0%
6Maple	94.6%
6Rowan	93.9%

Average across the school: 94.2%

96% or more is the target.

Classes with 100% attendance for the week earn a collective reward!

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

Year 3 and Origami Club News

In **science**, Year 3 have been busy uncovering the **properties** of different **rocks**, including slate, granite, marble, sandstone, limestone and chalk. They tested hardness, buoyancy, and permeability, and discovered that chalk is the softest rock and the only one that lets water pass through.

In other news for Year 3, this week in **Origami Club**, the children got creative making their own samurai helmets and jumping frogs! It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm and teamwork. Well done Year 3 for enjoying a practical week of learning!

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

Mrs Hussain (Y3 Team member and LTS Co-Lead)



Year 4 News

In English this week we have been reading and discussing a book called 'The Wolf's Story'. It tells the story of Little Red Riding Hood but from the Wolf's perspective. We created freeze frames of different scenes from this book to show our understanding of the characters' feelings. We retold the story through facial expressions and body language.

In Art Club this week we painted our clay creations! We designed any array of fruity drinks coasters and some other 3d animals and objects too!

Have a look at a collection of some of the final results!

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



Year 6 News

Let There Be Light!

This week, our classroom was transformed into a **dazzling laboratory of light and discovery!** The children took part in an exciting science experiment exploring how mirrors reflect light and uncovering the secrets behind the **Law of Reflection**.

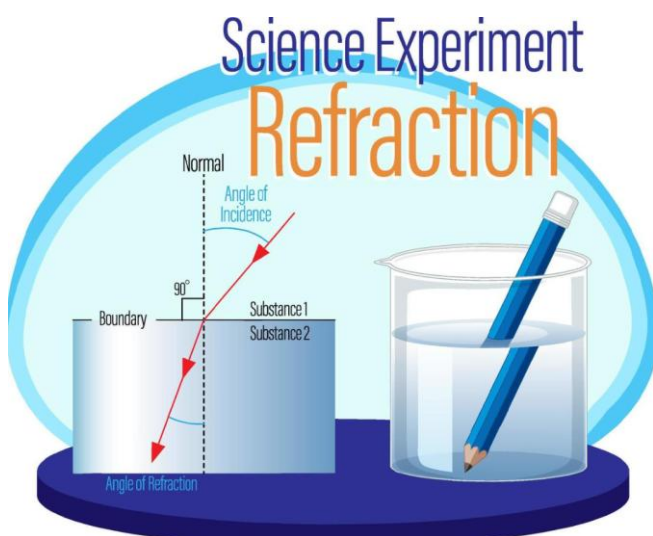
Using torches, mirrors, and a whole lot of curiosity, our budding scientists investigated how **light travels** and **bounces off surfaces**. They learned that the angle at which light hits a mirror (the **angle of incidence**) is exactly equal to the angle at which it reflects (the **angle of reflection**)—a principle that sparked plenty of “aha!” moments.

To bring the concept to life, the children created their own **mirror mazes** and tried to direct beams of light to hit specific targets. There was laughter, teamwork, and a real sense of wonder as they watched their predictions come true. Some even managed to bounce light around corners—just like secret agents!

We're so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic Year 6 were throughout the experiment. Their questions, observations, and excitement made it a truly memorable learning experience.

Stay tuned for more scientific adventures coming soon!

Year 6 Team



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
Slough Cultural Revival
Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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 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 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



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**

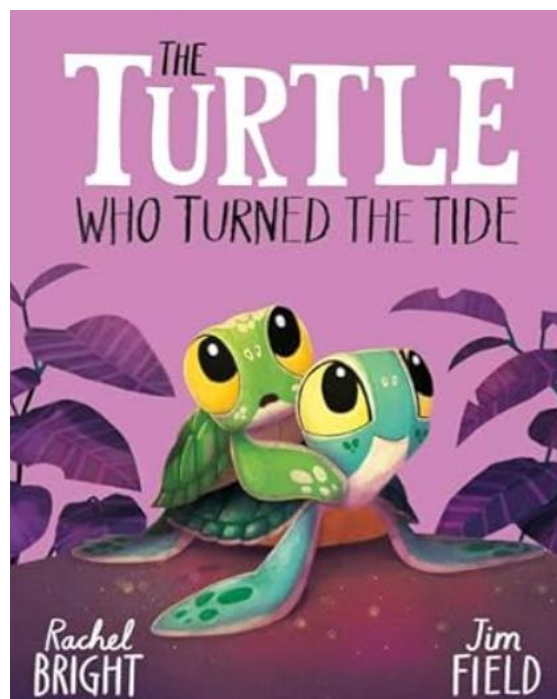
Here's what you need to know:

- **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

Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)



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](#).

08.10.2025	Y1 Trip to Odds Farm
09.10.2025	Reception Harvest Festival Performance at St Mary's Church at 9.30am
10.10.2025	Maths Parent Workshop for KS2 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6) Parents at 8.35am
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

03.11.2025	First Day of Autumn Term 2 for Children
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
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

05.01.2026	INSET for Staff
06.01.2026	First Day of Spring Term 1 for Children