



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

- It was a busy week at St Mary's last week, starting off with the Y6 trip to the Henley River and Rowing Museum and ending with the Macmillan Coffee Morning.
- Thank you to **Mrs Brown** and **Mrs Grange** for organising the event, and all other members of the St Mary's team who helped on the day. Thank you also to the families who joined us, and those who supported by donating and purchasing cakes.
- Some of the exciting events taking place this week have seen the children participating in art and craft and Zumba clubs, and Y2 starting recorder lessons with a specialist music teacher, whilst parents have joined us to learn a thing or two about the art of phonics!

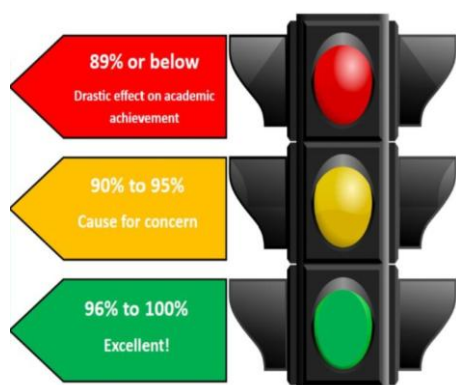
Thank you to our whole school community! 😊

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	92.5%
Nursery PM	82.8%
0Poppy	97.4%
0Bluebell	84.3%
0Daffodil	95.2%
1Damson	94.3%
1Cherry	94.7%
1Apple	93.3%
2Pear	97.0%
2Plum	99.3%
2Peach	93.2%
3Ash	92.2%
3Sycamore	98.7%
3Juniper	96.5%
4Larch	95.0%
4Beech	93.8%
4Oak	94.8%
5Hazel	99.3%
5Alder	90.0%
5Elm	95.2%
6Willow	94.6%
6Maple	93.1%
6Rowan	90.3%

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 😊

Phonics and Learning to Read Parent Workshop

Thank you to all the parents that attended the 'Learning to Read' workshop on Monday 22/09/2025 morning. It was great to see so many parents eager to help support their child on their reading journey. Keep an eye out on your e-mails for information about the next workshop! We look forward to seeing you there.

Miss Jenkins (Phonics Lead, Y1 Damson Class teacher)



Reception News

Reception children are continuing to explore our **indoor** and **outdoor learning areas** and have been enjoying trying out different activities. Our book for this week has been **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**.

Do look out for things that you can order into sizes such large medium and small bowls/ cups/tins/ boxes or leaves/conkers when you are out enjoying the autumn sunshine.

Mr Bignell (PE Lead) was impressed how most of the children are wearing the correct PE kit to school on Reception's PE day. Please remember **PE for Reception** is on a **Wednesday** and do **label ALL** items of clothing and shoes including the PE kit and coats. Have a look at the **photo** of the children learning how to balance whilst wearing **correct PE kit**!

Please label water bottles and bags too!

Many thanks in advance!

Reception Team



Year 2 News

Thank you to all the parents who supported their child's learning during Remote Learning last week, as a team and a school we truly appreciate it.

This week, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning new songs all about **Harvest!** It is the season of generosity, and we cannot wait to bless you with our **Harvest Festival** assembly in a few weeks' time.

Please continue to practise the songs at home - **practise makes perfect!** The songs can be found on the Year 2 page on the school website.

In other news, **Music with Mr Michael** has commenced and the children are super excited to learn how to play the recorder this year.

Mrs Peterson (Y2 Lead, Y2 Peach Class teacher)



Year 6 News

Trip to Henley River and Rowing Museum

Year 6 had an amazing time at the **Henley River and Rowing Museum** this week. We were **extremely lucky** that the museum stayed open for us as sadly, we were the last school to have the opportunity to visit it due to its closure.

During the trip, the children were able to tour the galleries which showcased interesting rowing artefacts from the **Olympic games**. We also learnt many facts about the **history of Henley**. We then had a practical workshop where the children could learn about **permeable materials** and **erosion**.

Finishing off the trip, the children had a **guided river walk** along the River Thames. They thoroughly enjoyed the day!

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



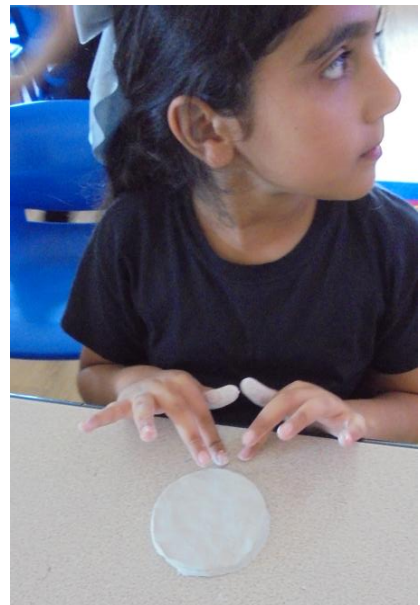
Art and Craft Club

In craft club this week we have used **air dry clay** to create coasters and other miniature sculptures!

The children were very innovative and used water bottles to roll and rulers to cut.

We will be painting them next week once they are dry, so watch this space!

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



Homework at St Mary's

All children at St Mary's have access to the **Reading Eggs** homework website. It is a fantastic way to develop your child's reading skills through:

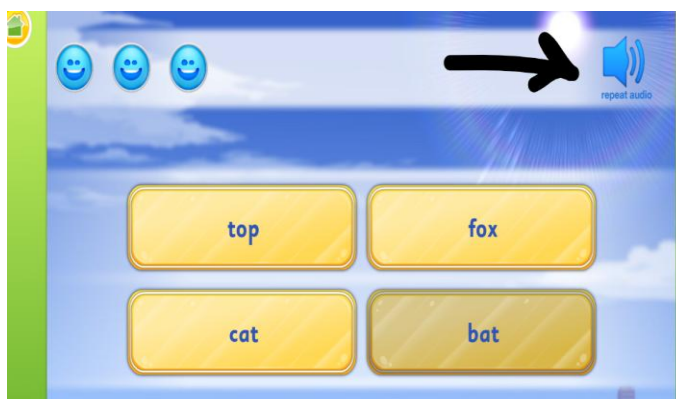
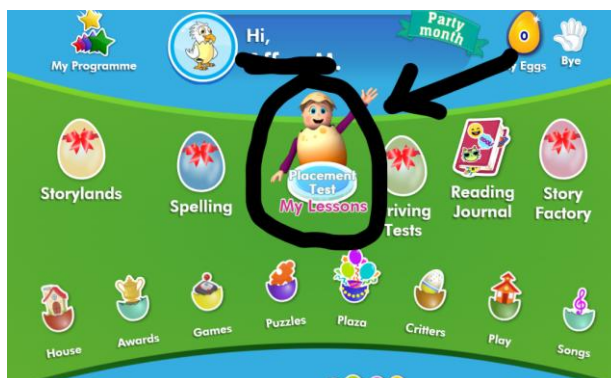
- Teaching vocabulary
- teaching reading skills
- Giving your child exposure to different question styles
- Exposing your child to a range of different texts.

We are asking all parents to check that their child is logging in and completing their weekly homework tasks on the website.

Please see the guidance below for your child's year group guide on which section to access:

KS1 (Years 1 and 2)

Reading Eggs

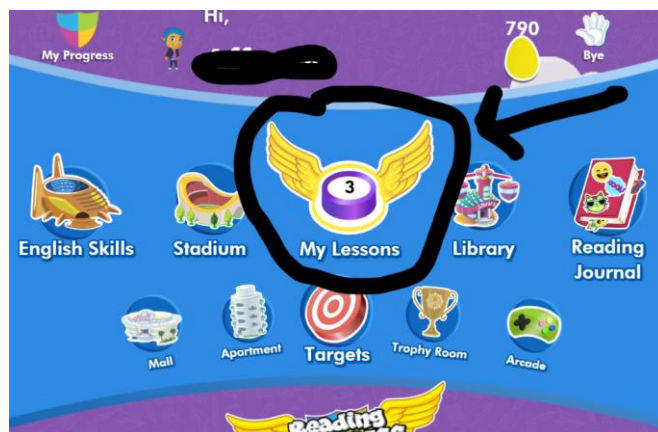
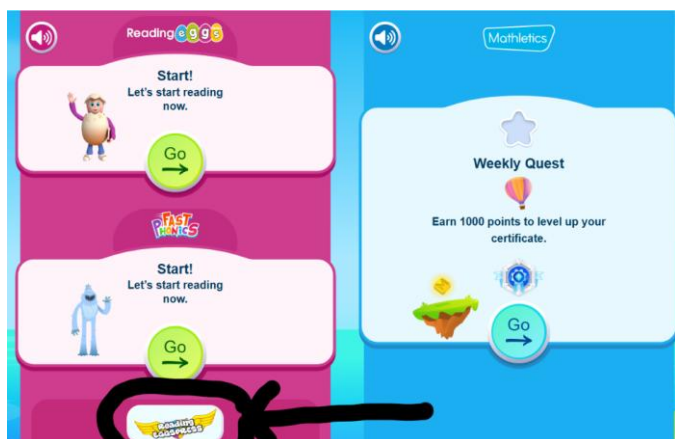


Homework at St Mary's

Please see the guidance below for your child's year group guide on which section to access:

KS2 s (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Reading Eggspress



Events at St Mary's

Online Safety & Homework Parent Information Meeting

Mr Plumley and Mr Ali are running an Online Safety and Parent Info Meeting this Friday.

During the presentation, we will be sharing key information on how keep your child safe online and the homework expectations we have for children at St Mary's.

All parents are invited to attend.

Key Information:

- Date: Friday 3rd October 2025
- Time: 8:35am-9:05am.
- Venue: Yew Hall

Mr Plumley (DDSL Online Safety, Computing Lead, Y4 Lead, Larch Class teacher)

Mr Ali (DDSL Prevent, Humanities Co-Lead, Y5 Lead, Hazel Class teacher)



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**

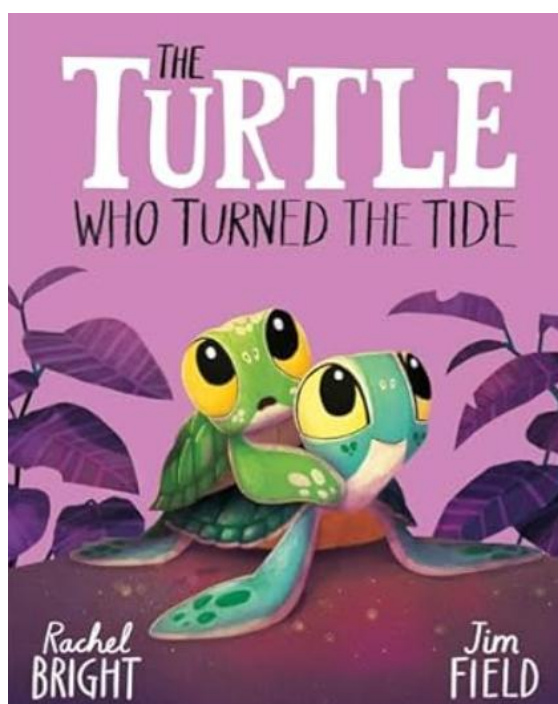
Here's what you need to know:

- **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.

Events at St Mary's

Family Smart Start Pilot

Take Part in the Family Smart Start Pilot – Supporting Your Child's First Smartphone

We're pleased to let you know that St Mary's is taking part in a national pilot project called **Family Smart Start**, a new initiative from **SWGfL** (a leading online safety charity) and the Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI). This pilot is designed to help families through a key moment: when a child receives their first smartphone.

What is Family Smart Start?

Family Smart Start is a free, guided experience that takes you through everything you need to know about how to ensure your child's first smart phone is protected with key safety features and helps you to have important conversations with your child. It includes:

- A **physical 'Family Smart Start Kit'**, which you can collect from school
- A link to our dedicated microsite: **<https://familysmartstart.com/>**
- Helpful tools to support you in setting up your child's phone safely
- Conversation starters, tips, and a family agreement to help you talk about digital responsibility together

It's not just about technology; it's about starting a shared conversation that sets clear expectations and builds trust around your child's phone use.

What's involved in the pilot?

1. **Pick up a Family Smart Start box from school** (while supplies last): between **14 July and 30 September 2025**.
2. **Unbox the phone together** at home using the materials provided.
3. Visit the **website www.familysmartstart.com** to explore extra tools, advice, & guides.
4. Complete a short online feedback **survey** to tell **SWGfL** about your experience.

Please note: By picking up a box, you are agreeing to take part in the pilot and complete the feedback survey. This is essential for us to understand what works and how we can improve it.

Why your feedback matters

This project is currently funded by not-for-profit charity SWGfL. We are providing these boxes at no cost to schools or families. Your honest feedback will directly shape the future of Family Smart Start, helping us build something that can truly support parents and children with this important digital milestone.

Warm regards,

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](#).

01.10.2025	Rocksteady 1:1 private music lesson commences for pupils signed up for this
03.10.2025	Online Safety and Homework Expectations Parent Meeting at 8.35am
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