



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome back the children and staff to onsite teaching and learning after an unexpected closure of the school building for three days last week. Thank you for your support and understanding during the period of remote learning. We recognise the unique challenges that many families faced when learning shifted away from the classroom, and we greatly appreciated your efforts to keep your children engaged and supported at home. Many parents wrote in to say how helpful the teaching staff were and shared that they appreciated the speed of response when queries were raised by parents and carers.

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!



Reception News

We are extremely proud of how our new Reception children are settling in. They have been enjoying exploring their new surroundings and trying out different activities. Reception staff were also impressed how well they did with their online learning at home when, very sadly, we couldn't be in school. We have already had a PE lesson and have been continuing with our phonics learning – many remembered the sounds taught in St Mary's Nursery which was great to see!

Here is a link to an information video about the phonics scheme we use (we don't use the writing booklets just the reading resources)

<https://www.stmarys.slough.sch.uk/read-write-inc-phonics-parent-information/>

Phonics is an extremely important area of learning so we hope you will support and encourage your children at home to learn the SOUNDS of the letters.

Many thanks in advance! 😊

Reception Team



Events at St Mary's

Macmillan Coffee Morning



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

- Date: Friday 26th September 2025
- Time: 8.50am-10am
- Venue: Yew Hall

Donations of cakes and biscuits are more than welcome!

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!

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](#).

22.09.2025	Phonics Parent Workshop for KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Parents at 8.50am
24.09.2025	Re-scheduled: Y6 Trip to Henly River and Rowing Museum (45 children)
25.09.2025	Y6 Trip to Henly River and Rowing Museum (45 children)
26.09.2025	Macmillan Coffee Morning at 8.50am
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 8.50am
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 8.50am
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 YR-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 8.50am
19.11.2025	Phonics Parent Workshop for Reception Parents at 2.45pm
20.11.2025	Reading Parent Workshop for LKS2 (Y3 & Y4) Parents at 8.50am
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