



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Macmillan Coffee Morning at St Mary's

We were delighted to welcome families, friends and members of our school community to our **Macmillan Coffee Morning**, which was a tremendous success. Thanks to the generosity and support of everyone involved, we raised **over £300** for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event was made even more enjoyable by the wonderful selection of delicious cakes and biscuits that were kindly donated. Guests also took part in a fun coffee-themed quiz, with one lucky parent taking home the winner's prize-a **fresh cream and fruit cake!**

Congratulations Mrs L and family!

We were particularly pleased to welcome our Vice Chair of Governors, **Ms Welsh**, who joined us for the morning and helped celebrate the spirit of community that made the event so special.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who attended, donated, contributed refreshments, and supported the event in any way. Special thanks go to **Mrs Brown and Mrs Grange** for their hard work and dedication in organising and running the coffee morning. Thanks also to **Mr Fuller** who acted as quiz master, and all the St Mary's staff whose efforts helped make the event both enjoyable and successful.

Together, we have raised valuable funds for an important cause while enjoying a wonderful opportunity to come together as a 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**)

Parent News, Section 1

Macmillan Coffee Morning at St Mary's



Parent News, Section 2



Harvest at St Mary's

This Harvest please help us help others by donating food and other items people need. Harvest gifts will be shared between our local community and '**Slough Foodbank**', which helps provide emergency food to local people in need.

<https://slough.foodbank.org.uk>

It would be wonderful if you could donate what you can so that local people in crisis don't go hungry.

Please make sure all food **is unopened, non-perishable, (NOT fresh)**, with as long best before dates as possible and undamaged.

Harvest gifts can be brought into class or the front office from **1st October**.

Together we can help others in our community flourish. Many thanks in advance.



Parent News, Section 3

ELSA at St Mary's

As part of St. Mary's commitment to helping children learn, grow, flourish and achieve, we are proud to offer pupils ELSA support. ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant and is usually a member of school staff, who has completed specialist training and is regularly supervised by an educational psychologist to ensure best practice and safety.

What is emotional literacy?

- Understanding and coping with the feelings about ourselves and others.
- Developing high self-esteem and positive interactions with others.
- Being emotionally literate helps children focus better on their learning.

Some of the areas the ELSA may work on:

- Recognising emotions.
- Self-esteem.
- Social skills.
- Friendship skills.
- Anger management.
- Loss and bereavement.

How does the ELSA work?

- A regular slot during the school week for 30-45 minutes.
- Sessions can be individual or in small groups and tailored to the child's individual needs.
- Sessions are fun and might include role-play, puppets, board games, art and craft and stories.
- They include time to talk.
- A pupil's progress will be reviewed on a half-termly basis.

As a parent/carer, how can you help?

- By informing the class teacher if there are any issues that may be affecting your child.
- Please feel welcome to contact your child's teacher or the ELSA if you have any questions.



Parent News, Section 4

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.

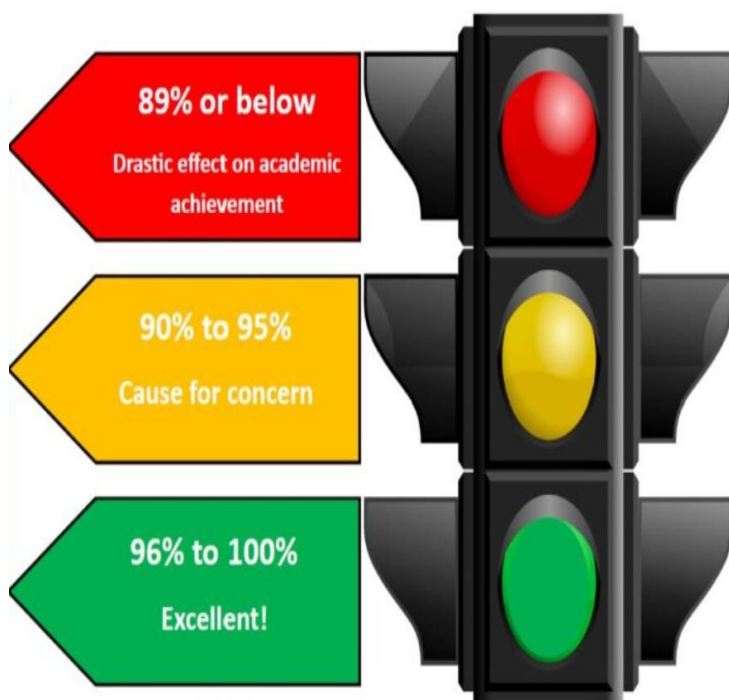
Thank you for helping the school to always keep your children safe.



Parent News, Section 5

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 confirmation 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.

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	85%
Nursery PM	94%
0Poppy	91%
0Bluebell	95%
0Daffodil	90%
1Damson	93%
1Cherry	94%
1Apple	94%
2Pear	93%
2Plum	98%
2Peach	93%
3Ash	89%
3Sycamore	94%
3Juniper	96%
4Larch	96%
4Beech	98%
4Oak	94%
5Hazel	96%
5Alder	96%
5Elm	92%
6Willow	95%
6Maple	94%
6Rowan	97%

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 😊

Science Club at St Mary's!

This week in Science Club, pupils explored static electricity using balloons and colourful butterfly pictures. They rubbed the balloons on their hair and clothes to create a static charge, then watched with excitement as the butterflies moved and jumped towards the balloons without being touched! This fun investigation helped them understand how static electricity can create forces that attract lightweight objects.



Chess Club at St Mary's!

Our afterschool chess club is taking place on Thursday afternoons each week. Chess is a fantastic game to build problem solving skills and reasoning. If you would like to find out more about the game, check out the link: [How to Play Chess: Chess Rules for Beginners | ChessKid](#)



First Aid Club-Primary Survey at St Mary's!

This week, the group focused on the **Primary Survey**, a simple but important way to assess an emergency safely. The children learned how to remember the steps **Danger, Response, Shout, Airway, Breathing and Circulation (DRS ABC)** and practised how to check for dangers, see if a casualty is responsive, know when to call for help and placing the casualty into the recovery position. Through the practical activities and discussion, the children developed confident understanding of how they can help keep themselves and others safe in an emergency. We were very impressed with their enthusiasm and maturity during the session!



Sewing Club at St Mary's!

This week the children were practising a different type of stitch to sew buttons onto fabric.



Marvellous Meals in Minutes Club at St Mary's!

It was lovely to see so many smiley faces this week, excited and ready to make another delicious treat! As always, there was lots of chopping before we combined the cucumber, sweetcorn, red pepper, tomatoes, pasta and mayonnaise to create a tasty salad. The children developed confidence with safe food preparation and enjoyed sharing their ideas. Ushasie: 'My mummy and daddy are always surprised by what I make. They really liked the pizzas!'



Acrylic Painting Club at St Mary's!

Acrylic Art Club started this week. The children have been learning how to hold a brush correctly and how to blend. They really enjoyed creating their sunset skies.



Sewing Club at St Mary's!

In last week's Sewing Club, the children were learning how to sew buttons onto fabric. They did a great job! At this rate, they will be designing costumes soon!



Nursery News at St Mary's!

Name recognition

To support the children in recognising their names, the children have been tracing their names with glue and putting glitter on them to make an engaging way to identify the letters of their name. This also supported our fine motor skills and handling of different one-handed tools.

The children are also completing daily self-registration to give the children a purposeful reason to identify the letters of their name.



Outdoor play

The children are now more confident with the rules of the playground and how to play safely with the different items we have. They have been engaging with the equipment to support their gross motor skills and handling of large construction.

Stay and Play information

It was lovely to have more parents join us for Stay and Play this week. It is a weekly event, running every Wednesday. The timings are:

- Morning- 8:30am-9am
- Afternoon 12:20pm-12:50pm.

Security

We appreciate that you wish to capture the moments of your child enjoying the Nursery, but to comply with our safeguarding we ask that parents keep their mobiles phones on silent and put away. Not all children in our room have permission for photos and to ensure the safety of everyone we cannot have phones out. Please support us with this by keeping your phone in a bag or pocket. Thank you.

Reception News at St Mary's!

In Reception we are continuing to focus on our book **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. The children have enjoyed using different construction kits to make chairs for Baby Bear's broken chair. Paper was cut up to create some porridge - 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 drew our own houses and used natural objects such as leaves to stick onto them.

Do talk about things that are **too hot/cold too sweet/sour too hard/soft etc.**

Please remember to label EVERYTHING! There are still **too** many water bottles without name labels. Many thanks!

Reception Department



Year 1 News at St Mary's!

In Year 1 we have been learning about the language of equal to (the same), more than, less than (fewer) in our maths lessons. We played a game with dice and dominos working out if the spots on our dominos were the same amount, fewer or more than those thrown on the dice. We then used different resources to help consolidate our learning.

For the last 3 weeks our focus book in English has been the Little Red Hen; can your children retell you the story at home? Hopefully they are more helpful to you than the Little Red Hen's friends!

We are continuing our learning in RE (Religious Education) about the Christian story of Creation we discovered amazing natural creations in our outside area and used play dough or Blu Tack to make our own creations. A heart was made for our value of LOVE.

Year 1 Department



Year 2 News at St Mary's!

Music in Year 2

This week, Year 2 enjoyed their first music lesson with a specialist music teacher and were excited to begin learning the recorder. The children were taught how to hold the recorder correctly and learned the importance of good posture when playing. They listened carefully, followed instructions well, and are looking forward to developing their musical skills in future lessons.

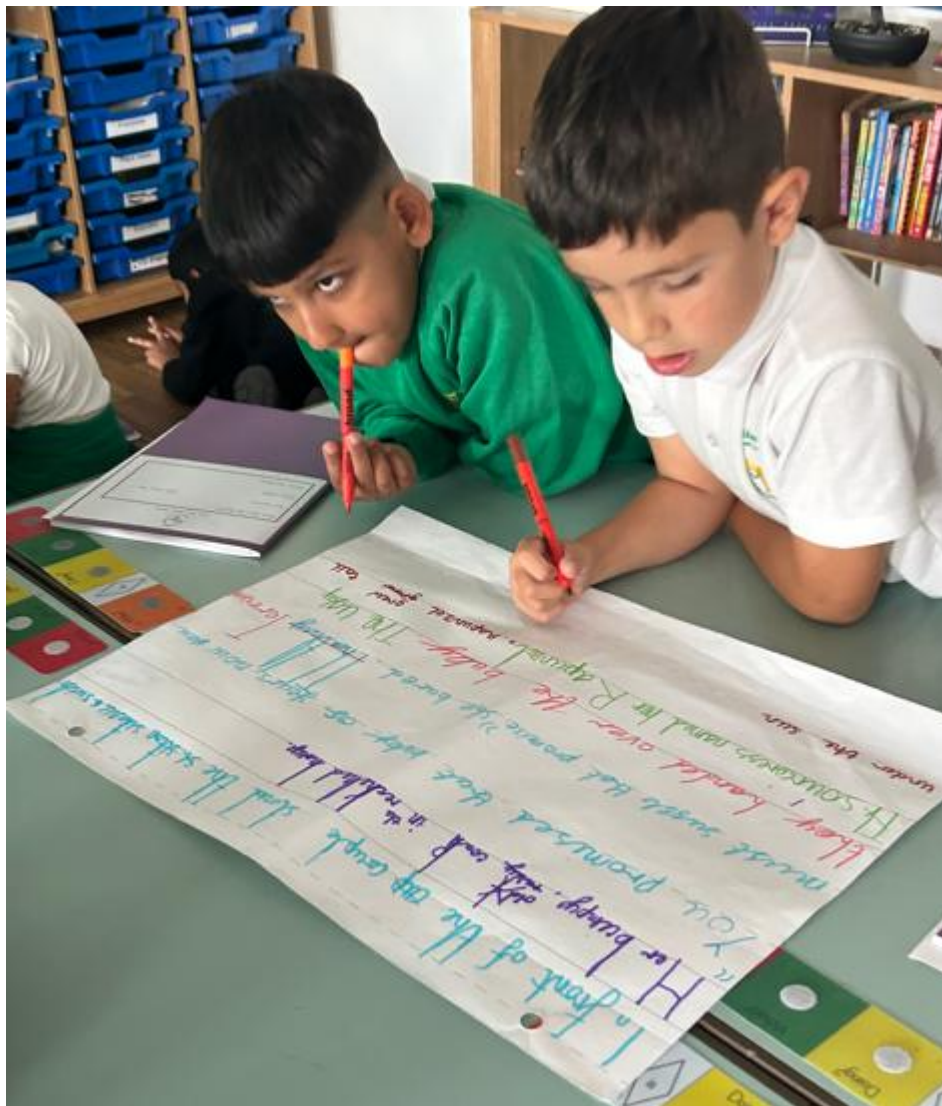
Year 2 Department



Year 3 News at St Mary's!

In English, Year 3 worked collaboratively together to write a character description. They have been reading the story of Rapunzel and using their knowledge of how adjectives describe a noun, they teamed up to write a description of the wicked sorceress. The children previously were creating spine poems to describe the sorceress so this week they used all their previous ideas and put them into written prose. There was a lot of discussion, collaboration and critical thinking as they thought carefully about how to combine all their different ideas.

Year 3 Department



Year 4 News at St Mary's!

This week, Year 4 explored their science topic on the digestive system. As part of their learning, they carried out an exciting experiment to recreate the digestive process and gain a better understanding of how food travels through the body. The children thoroughly enjoyed this hands-on activity and were fascinated to see the digestive system in action.

Year 4 Department



Year 5 News at St Mary's!

This week have been learning and refining our Football Skills. We were developing our ball control by practising dribbling in partners and passing with accuracy.

Year 5 Department



Year 6 News at St Mary's!

For outdoor PE, year 6 have been practising sideways passing and catching balls whilst moving. The children have enjoyed making their own games based on the rules for rugby.

Year 6 Department



Dive into A Great Story at St Mary's!

Reading Recommendations

Hari Kumar Superstar – Sneak Peek! ☀️

There's no book review today, but we're excited to share a short snippet from Hari Kumar Superstar by Rashmi Sirdeshpande! Get a little taste of the fun, friendship and drama before the full book arrives.

Don't forget to order your own copy using the link so you can get it signed when Rashmi Sirdeshpande comes to visit us!

[Rashmi Sirdeshpande- 28th September - Chiltern Bookshops](#)

Happy reading!

Page 1 sneak peek!



being all loud and crashing you back to reality? Yeah, well, Auntie Pooja's voice can do that.



She's not *actually* my aunty. She's basically Mum's best mate's dentist's dog's previous owner's neighbour. Or something like that. And our neighbour, come to think of it. So, that makes her an AUNTY. And she didn't pop over today for the chai, I can tell you that.

You know when you're having the most **EPIC** daydream in the history of epic daydreams and you're *just* getting to the best bit, and someone goes and RUINS it by

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** ➔

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

28.09.2026	Rashmi Sirdeshpande, author of 'Hari Kumar' book series visiting KS2
30.09.2026	Y6 Trip 2 for 45 children: Henley River & Rowing-Geography
30.09.2026	Y5 Trip to Butser Farm-History (Anglo Saxons)
02.10.2026	Rotary Club presentation of personal Dictionaries to all Y5 pupils
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	Individual Pupil Photo Day
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
16.11.2026	Y3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum-History (Stone Ages)
02.12.2026	Y4 Trip to Ashmolean Museum-History (Ancient Egyptians)
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