



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wishing Mrs Allwood a Wonderful Maternity Leave

As Mrs Allwood prepares to begin her maternity leave, we would like to take this opportunity to wish her every happiness as she prepares to welcome her new baby.

Mrs Allwood is a valued member of our school community, and we are incredibly grateful for the care, dedication and commitment she has shown to our children and families. We know that her warmth, kindness and enthusiasm will be greatly missed during her time away.

On behalf of all the staff, governors, children and parents at St Mary's, we send Mrs Allwood our very best wishes for a happy and healthy maternity leave. We hope she enjoys this special time with her growing family and look forward to hearing her wonderful news in the months ahead.

Congratulations, Mrs Allwood, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the future!

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)

Goodbye and Good Luck Mrs Allwood from Year 2!

As our wonderful teacher, Mrs Allwood prepares to begin her maternity leave, the children created heartfelt notes and messages filled with love and good wishes. We wish her a happy and exciting new chapter and look forward to meeting the newest addition to her family!



Parent News, Section 1



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 2

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 3

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.

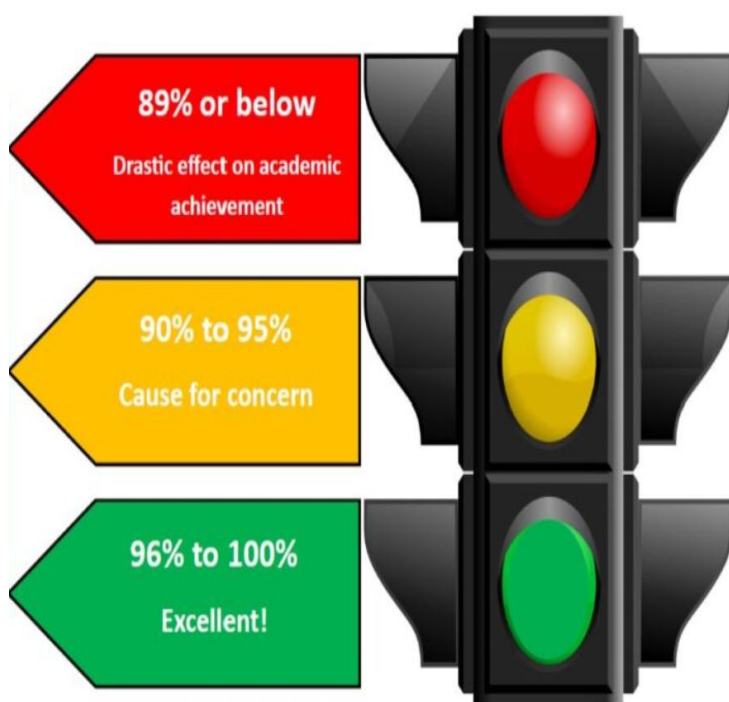
Thank you for helping the school to always keep your children safe.



Parent News, Section 4

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



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	94%
Nursery PM	93%
0Poppy	87%
0Bluebell	93%
0Daffodil	90%
1Damson	91%
1Cherry	97%
1Apple	94%
2Pear	93]4%
2Plum	99%
2Peach	94%
3Ash	89%
3Sycamore	93%
3Juniper	95%
4Larch	93%
4Beech	95%
4Oak	93%
5Hazel	95%
5Alder	99%
5Elm	95%
6Willow	95%
6Maple	94%
6Rowan	96%

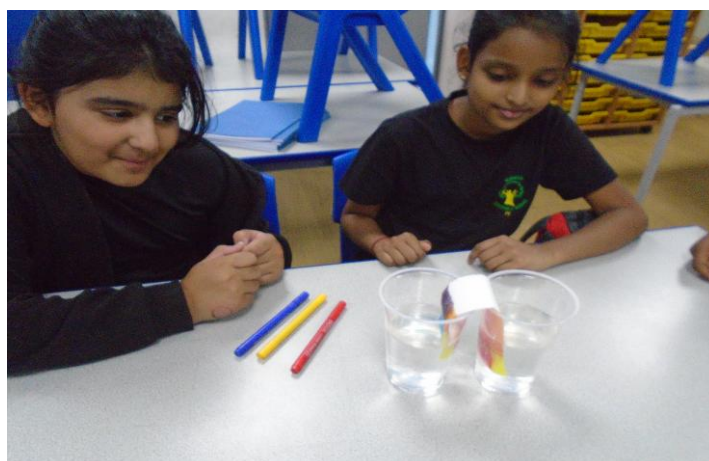
96% or more is the target.

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!

Our Science Club had great fun creating a colourful Walking Rainbow using cups, water, and paper towels. The children observed how water moved between the cups through capillary action, mixing the colours to form a beautiful rainbow. This exciting hands-on investigation helped pupils develop their scientific observation skills while learning about how water travels through different materials.



Nursery News at St Mary's!

Mark Making

In Nursery we are working on our mark making inside and outside. We are encouraging the children to hold their writing tools in a comfortable hand and using the pincer grip. The children are enjoying making marks and talking about what they are doing!



Mud Kitchen

In our mud kitchen, the children have begun to talk more about the foods they enjoy and eat at home. We have had children using the pots, pans and containers to make 'coffee', 'porridge', 'pizza' and 'cake', with the children talking about who they see cooking at home. They have been using their imaginations to support their play, and they are learning to share the kitchen space.



Reception News at St Mary's!

In Reception we have been having lots of fun with our book **Goldilocks and the Three Bears**. We helped make porridge and most of us enjoyed tasting it - was it **too hot, too cold** or **just right**? The children have also been very, very busy preparing for their Harvest assembly this week and have done an excellent job of remembering all the words to the songs. You have probably been hearing them singing the songs at home too! They even got stuck in with painting a big, red combine harvester. Go team Reception!

Please do remember to come along to the Harvest assembly next week (**Thursday 8th September 2026**) at St Mary's church, starting at **9:30am** prompt.

Reception Department



Year 1 News at St Mary's!

In Year 1 we have been learning about seasonal changes in Autumn. We were nature detectives and explored outside to see which leaves we could find. Some trees are called evergreen trees; these trees do not lose their leaves in the autumn; they will look green all year around. Other trees are deciduous trees; this means that they lose their leaves each year in autumn. As you walk to and from school do look out for the different types of trees and other signs of autumn.

A member of Year 1 helped Mrs Khan with her plant. She found the soil was very dry so helped water it. Some more science learning in action – the plant would not survive let alone FLOURISH without water. She was awarded a special Head Teacher's award sticker for her help.

Some classes made the most of the lovely autumn sunshine and brought reading into our outside area. Please remember to encourage your children to read at home EVERY day – it is a very important life skill to master. Reading will enable us all to LEARN, GROW, ACHIEVE and FLOURISH!

Year 1 Department



Year 2 News at St Mary's!

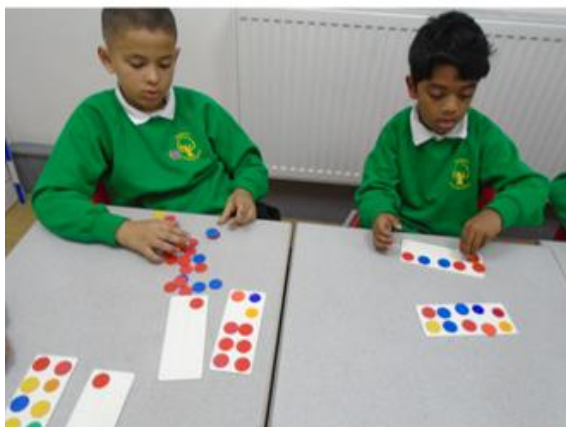
Maths

In our Year 2 Maths lessons, children used practical manipulatives such as counters, cubes, and number lines to develop a secure understanding of key mathematical concepts and build confidence in their learning. These hands-on activities helped pupils visualise their thinking and explain their reasoning. Alongside this, our Maths Ambassadors proudly presented additional work on multiplication tables, showcasing their enthusiasm and mathematical knowledge.

RE

During our RE lesson on kindness, Year 2 pupils explored what it means to show kindness to others through discussion and reflection. The children worked collaboratively to create and perform freeze frames, demonstrating different acts of kindness in school and everyday life. This engaging activity encouraged pupils to develop empathy, understand positive relationships, and express their ideas creatively.

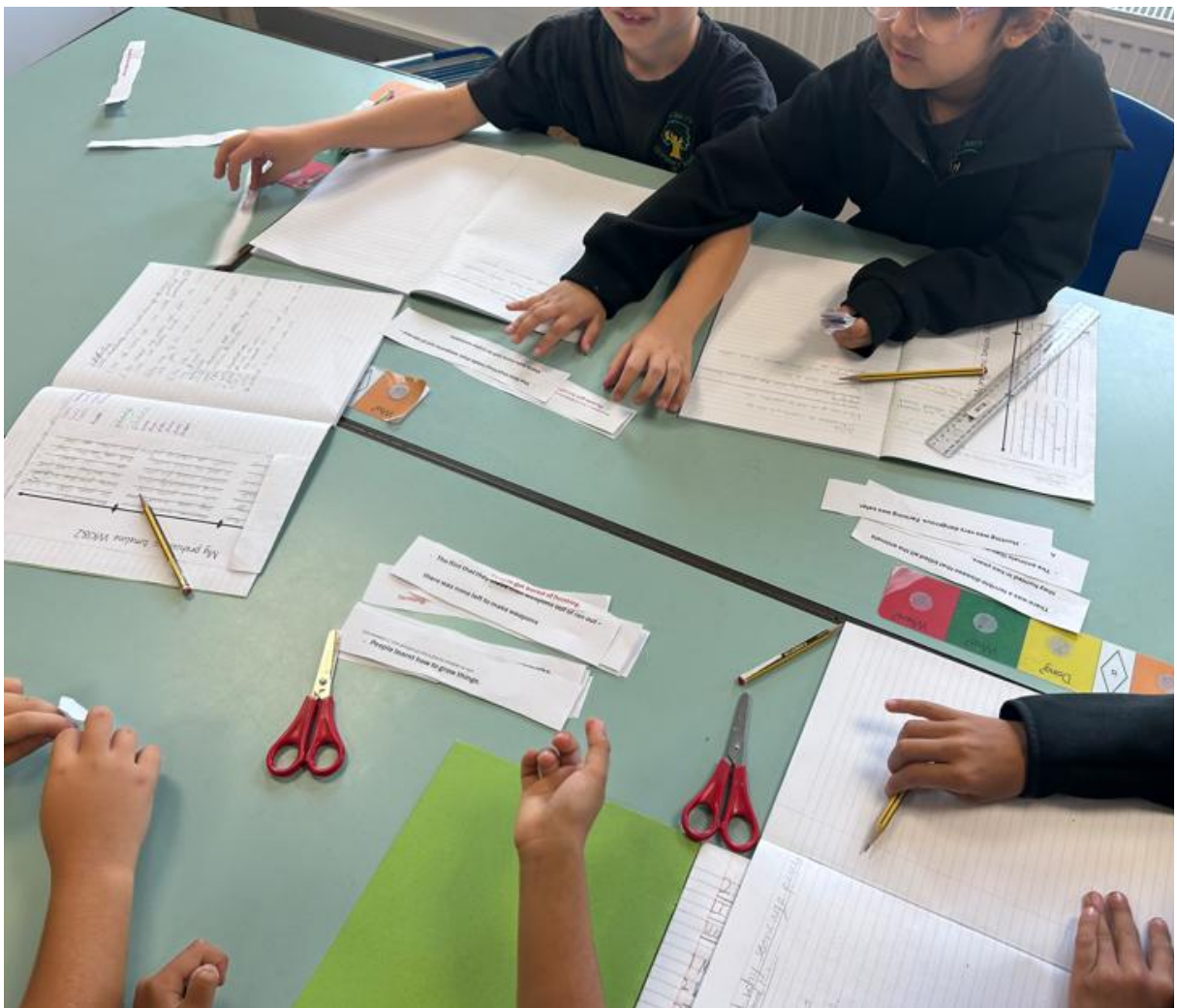
Year 2 Department



Year 3 News at St Mary's!

In History, the children utilised their oracy skills and acted as historians as they had to make predictions on why the lifestyle of early humans changed. Using their pre-existing knowledge, the children discussed and organised statements into plausible reasons for the change in lifestyle and not plausible reasons. They were very skilled at using sentence stems to practice speaking in full sentences as well as using the information from their book to expand on their reasonings.

Year 3 Department



Year 4 News at St Mary's!

In art in Year 4 the children are learning about tone, texture and proportion to create realistic and expressive drawings and collages..

Year 4 Department



Year 5 News at St Mary's!

Butser Farm Trip

We had an amazing visit to Butser Farm. The children were fantastic and were complimented on their resilience and behaviour. They learnt about Anglo-Saxon houses, created jewellery and became archaeologists! They even learned how to spin wool.

Year 5 Department



Year 5 News at St Mary's!

Butser Farm Trip



Year 5 News at St Mary's!

Butser Farm Trip



Year 5 News at St Mary's!

Rotary Club Visit

Year 5 had a special visit today from the Rotary Club. They kindly gave each child an illustrated dictionary which will help to improve their vocabulary. The children were delighted with their gift. J in Alder class said afterwards, "This dictionary will really improve my writing and reading. I can't wait to use it at home."



Dive into A Great Story at St Mary's!

Reading Recommendations

We were delighted to welcome **author Rashmi Sirdeshpande** to our school for an exciting and inspiring author visit! She shared insights into her creative writing process and introduced us to her new book, **Hari Kumar**. The children thoroughly enjoyed this entertaining and engaging session, learning more about how authors bring their stories to life and discovering the inspiration behind her latest book. Thank you to **Miss Martins** for arranging this exciting guest speaker.



Staying on theme of our author visit, the book we are recommending this week is another one of **Rashmi Sirdeshpande's**! This time a much more thought-provoking book. **Dadaji's Paintbrush** is about Dadaji who learnt to paint through his grandfather as a boy. After this Grandad sadly passes away, Dadaji stops painting. This is a beautiful book about loss and grief which really touches the heart!



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

07.10.2026	Onsite Petting Farm for Y1
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