



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **The Power of Homework**

Homework often gets a bad reputation from pupils, but it plays a far more meaningful role in learning than we realise. When pupils complete their homework consistently, they build skills and habits that support them throughout school and well into adulthood.

Homework isn't just another task — it's a tool that strengthens learning, builds confidence, and helps pupils grow academically and personally. Completing it regularly sets pupils up for success in the classroom and beyond.

**Pupils feel more confident to tackle new learning when they understand current learning.**

**If your child is struggling with their homework, please speak with your child's class teacher. School is here to support you.**

It is the **responsibility** of all the community to maintain a supportive environment for everyone. 😊

### **Values**

- St Mary's Christian Values for the **spring term** are **wisdom, responsibility and honesty.**
- 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,

### **The Power of Homework: Why Homework Is Worth the Effort**

#### ✓ **Reinforces Classroom Learning**

Homework gives pupils a chance to revisit what they learned during the day. This extra practice strengthens understanding and helps new knowledge stick.

#### ✓ **Builds Responsibility and Independence**

Completing homework teaches pupils how to manage their time, organise their work, and take ownership of their learning. These are life skills that benefit them far beyond school.

#### ✓ **Prepares Pupils for What Comes Next**

Teachers often design homework to introduce or preview upcoming lessons. When pupils complete it, they arrive in class ready to participate and confident in the material.

#### ✓ **Encourages Problem-Solving**

Working through tasks at home encourages pupils to think critically, try different strategies, and persevere when something feels challenging.

#### ✓ **Helps Teachers Support Pupils Better**

Homework gives teachers insight into how well pupils understand the material. When homework is completed, teachers can identify where extra help or clarification might be needed.

#### **How to Make Homework More Manageable**

- Create a quiet, organised workspace
- Break tasks into smaller steps
- Use a planner or checklist
- Ask for help early when something is unclear
- Take short breaks to stay focused

**If your child is struggling with their homework, please speak with your child's class teacher. School is here to support you.**

## Parent News Section 2,

### Raising Money for Charity-NSPCC Number Day

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 6 February 2026.**

Everything the **NSPCC** does protects children today and prevents abuse tomorrow.

**The NSPCC need our support more than ever.**

By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as **Childline** – the helpline that’s always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern.

**Half a million children a year suffer abuse or neglect in the UK. That means 7 children in a classroom experience abuse before they turn 18.**

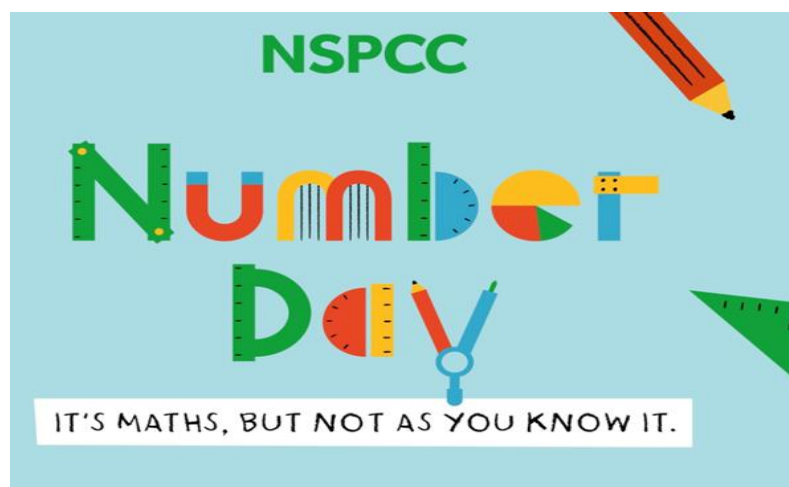
**NSPCC Number Day** makes maths meaningful and is a great way to make numbers fun and bring about a **positive, ‘can-do’** attitude towards mathematics.

We will be having a fun day of maths activities and are encouraging your children to **dress up in a number related costume.**

This could be a sports shirt with a number on or something more creative like a human calculator, a dice or even a domino. We would like everyone to take part in this exciting event.

We are asking for a **voluntary contribution** of £1 which can be paid via Parent Pay.

**Ms J Rockett** (Maths Lead, Year 6 Lead, Y6 Rowan class teacher)



## Parent News Section 3,

### 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](mailto:officestaff@stmarys.slough.sch.uk)
- Well done to **six** classes who achieved **96%** or more attendance last week!
- Well done to: **Ash, Sycamore, Oak, Hazel, Elm and Willow** classes!!
- **Special well done to Elm class who achieved 96%+ every week so far this term! Will it continue till half term?**



**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	75.2%
Nursery PM	86.2%
0Poppy	82.3%
0Bluebell	94.0%
0Daffodil	92.7%
1Damson	94.4%
1Cherry	91.4%
1Apple	88.3%
2Pear	92.3%
2Plum	92.0%
2Peach	92.0%
<b>3Ash</b>	<b>99.0%</b>
<b>3Sycamore</b>	<b>97.9%</b>
3Juniper	90.0%
4Larch	87.0%
4Beech	95.0%
<b>4Oak</b>	<b>97.7%</b>
<b>5Hazel</b>	<b>99.0%</b>
5Alder	93.8%
<b>5Elm</b>	<b>96.0%</b>
<b>6Willow</b>	<b>96.0%</b>
6Maple	95.0%
6Rowan	92.0%

**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 😊

## Year R News, Section 1

Our focus book at the moment is '**Handa's Surprise**', a delightful story set in Kenya. We have been creative with designing and constructing baskets using Lego, drawing fruit and African animals and using masks to retell the story. We have been writing a simple sentence about Handa using our phonic knowledge to help spell the words.

We have thoroughly enjoyed singing along to the Kenyan song **Jambo Bwana** in Swahili. 'Jambo' is 'Hello' in English. Dancing and pretending to play drums added to the fun. A link to this joyful song is on our website so you can sing along at home too.

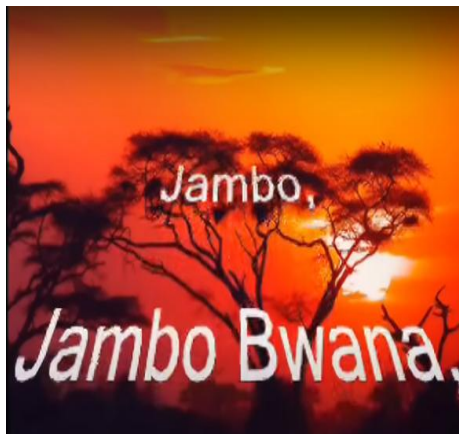
<https://www.stmarys.slough.sch.uk/reception-year/>

In our maths lessons we have been learning about **pairs**, **even** and **odd** numbers and **doubling** objects and numbers.

How many **pairs** of socks do you have at home?

Have you an **even number** or have any got lost in the wash so you have an **odd number** of socks?!

### Reception Team



## Year 3 News, Section 1

### PE

Year 3 are having a fabulous time working with Athena Angels to develop their gymnastic skills! This week, the children enjoyed learning circle rolls, which involved sitting in a saddle position and holding their ankles while keeping their legs straight. All the children gave it their best shot and had lots of fun along the way!

**Mrs Williams** (Science Lead, Year 3 Lead and Y3 Ash class teacher)

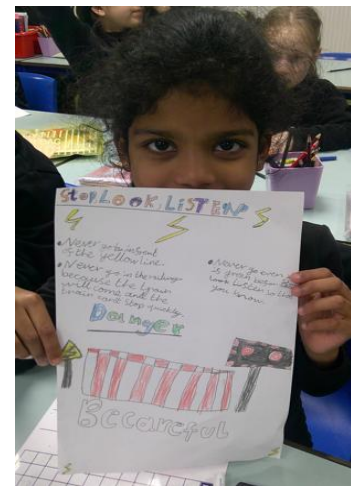
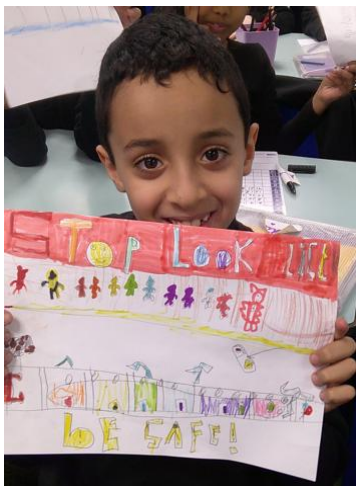


## Year 3 News, Section 2

### PHSE: Keeping Safe

In Ash Class, we understand the dangers associated with railways. We created informative posters to share important tips on how to stay safe around trains. Together, we can make a difference and keep everyone safe!

**Mrs Williams** (Science Lead, Year 3 Lead and Y3 Ash class teacher)



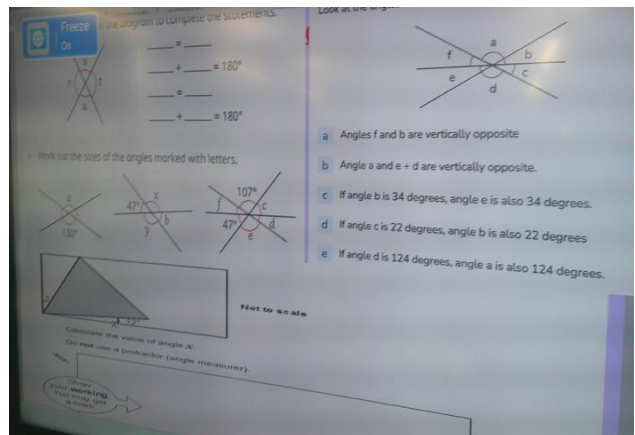
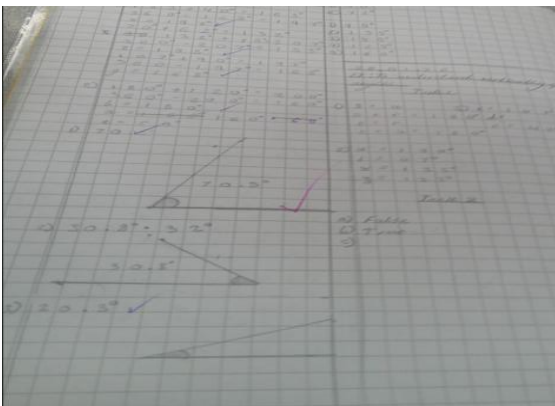
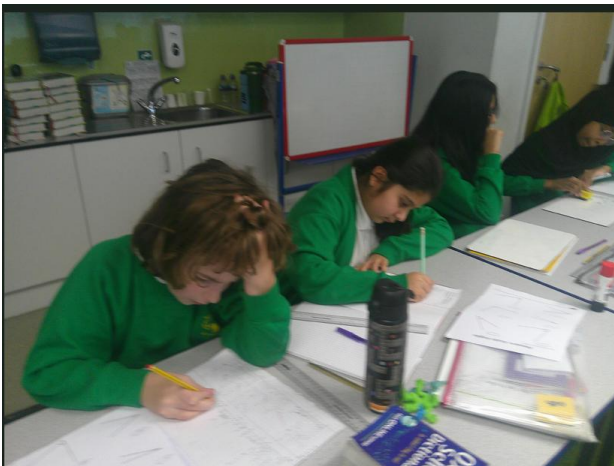
# Year 6 News, Section 1

## Working Hard in Maths and Reading

Year 6 have been very engaged this term. In maths Ms Rockett's group are learning about angles and how to work out unknown angles that are not to scale.

In reading, we have been practising our inference and sequencing skills.

**Ms Rockett** (Maths Lead, Year 6 Lead and Y6 Rowan class teacher)



## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:music.service@slough.gov.uk)



## 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](#).

### Spring Term

02.02.2026	Trip: Y4 to Synagogue- Beech class and 15 children from Oak class
02.02.2026	YR Shopping Trip experience to Slough High Street
04.02.2026	St Mary's School Choir Participating in 'Young Voices' Performance at Wembley Arena
02.02.2026	Maths Week
05.02.2026	Assembly: Y5 Alder Class at 3pm
06.02.2026	Number Day
06.02.2026	Assembly: Y5 Hazel Class at 8.50am
11.02.2026	Parent Information Meeting- Y1: Phonics Screening Check 8.30am
12.02.2026	Parent Information Meeting- Y4: Multiplication Test at 8.30am
12.02.2026	Assembly: Y3 Ash Class at 3pm
12.02.2026	Trip: Y1 to Windsor Castle
13.02.2026	Lunar New Year Celebration for Nursery, Reception, Y3 and Y4
13.02.2026	<b>Last day of Spring Term 1</b>

### Half Term Holiday

23.02.2026	<b>First Day of Spring Term 2</b>
24.02.2026	Trip: Y2 Eton College
24.02.2026	Workshop: Y6 History 'World War 2' experience at St Mary's school
02.03.2026	Reading Week
05.03.2026	World Book Day
05.03.2026	Assembly: Y5 Elm Class at 3pm
06.03.2026	Assembly: Y3 Juniper Class at 8.50am
09.03.2026	Parent Information Meeting- Y1: Phonics at 8.30am and 2.45pm
12.03.2026	Assembly: Y2 Peach Class at 3pm
13.03.2025	Assembly: Y4 Oak Class at 8.50am
16.03.2026	EYFS Natural World 'Living Eggs' experience at St Mary's school
17.03.2026	Workshop: Y3 History 'Stone Age' experience at St Mary's school
18.03.2026	Trip: Y2 to Whipsnade Zoo
23.03.2026	Easter Performance at St Laurence's Church for morning Nursery Parents at 9.30am
23.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 1 for Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y6
24.03.2026	Easter Performance at St Laurence's Church for afternoon Nursery Parents at 2.00pm
24.03.2026	Trip: Y6 to Imperial War Museum
24.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 1 for Y3, Y4 and Y5
25.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 2 for Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y6
26.03.2026	Easter Performance at St Mary's Church for Y3 and Y4 Parents at 9.30am
26.03.2026	Parent Consultation Day 2 for Y3, Y4 and Y5
27.03.2026	Nursery and Reception Easter Egg Hunt
27.03.2026	Reception, Y1 and Y1 Easter Bonnet Parade
27.03.2026	<b>Last Day of Spring Term 2</b>

**Easter Holiday**

13.04.2026	<b>First Day of Summer Term 1 for Children</b>
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