



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Harvest Festival Donations



As we prepare to celebrate Harvest Festival, we are inviting families to donate non-perishable food items and household essentials to support those in our local community who may be experiencing hardship. Donations can be brought into school over the coming days and will be shared through local charities and community organisations.

We would like to thank everyone who has already contributed. Your generosity and kindness are greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to those in need. Harvest Festival is a wonderful opportunity for our children to reflect on gratitude, compassion and helping others, and we are grateful for your continued support.

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



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.



Football Try-outs, Section 2

A huge **thank you to all of the boys who attended the recent football try-outs**. Their enthusiasm, effort and sportsmanship were fantastic to see.

We would like to invite **girls in Years 5 and 6** to attend our upcoming **football and netball try-outs**, which will take place before school from **8:25am to 9:00am**.

Your child may already have received a letter about the trials, but if not, please do not worry; they are still very welcome to attend.

Children should arrive at school wearing their **PE kit** and bring their school uniform to change into afterwards, unless they have PE that day and can stay in their kit.

These sessions will be used to help select our school teams for the year ahead, making this an exciting opportunity for pupils to showcase their skills and become part of the sporting enrichment opportunities at **St Mary's**.

 **Football Try-Outs:** Wednesday 14th

 **Netball Try-Outs:** Friday 16th

We look forward to seeing lots of girls taking part and wish everyone the very best of luck! 😊

Miss O'Brien and Mr Appleton

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.

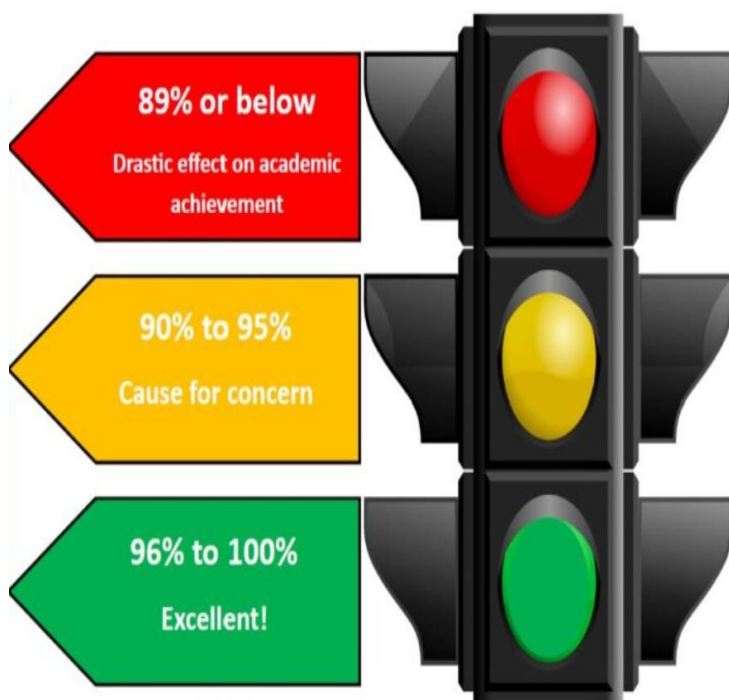
Thank you for helping the school to always keep your children safe.



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 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	100%
Nursery PM	94%
0Poppy	88%
0Bluebell	89%
0Daffodil	93%
1Damson	89%
1Cherry	96%
1Apple	92%
2Pear	99%
2Plum	95%
2Peach	94%
3Ash	89%
3Sycamore	93%
3Juniper	96%
4Larch	98%
4Beech	97%
4Oak	93%
5Hazel	95%
5Alder	99%
5Elm	94%
6Willow	99%
6Maple	93%
6Rowan	99%

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, pupils enjoyed the exciting *Dancing Raisins* experiment, where raisins appeared to move up and down in a fizzy drink. The children observed how bubbles attached to the raisins, lifting them to the surface before they sank back down again. This fun hands-on investigation helped pupils explore the effects of gases and buoyancy in a memorable and engaging way.



First Aid Club at St Mary's!

This week, the group explored one of the most important skills of all – knowing when to call for emergency help or if a situation can be handled safely without.

Through different scenarios they categorised as emergency or non-emergency and explained their reasons. They discovered that quick thinking and calm action can make a big difference. The children also discussed why making unnecessary 999 calls significantly impacts emergency services.

Through role play, our young first aiders practised using **LIONEL** – the easy-to-remember steps when making an emergency call: **L**ocation, **I**ncident, **O**ther services, **N**umber of people involved, **E**xtent of injuries, **L**ocation again (to confirm).



Marvellous Meals in Minutes Club at St Mary's!

Over the last two weeks, Key Stage 1 have been very busy making yet more delicious treats. We made fairy sandwiches layered with jam and lots of sprinkles; they looked very pretty and tasted amazing. Last week, we created a layered granola pot with strawberries, blueberries, natural yoghurt and granola – these would be great for breakfast!



Nursery News at St Mary's!

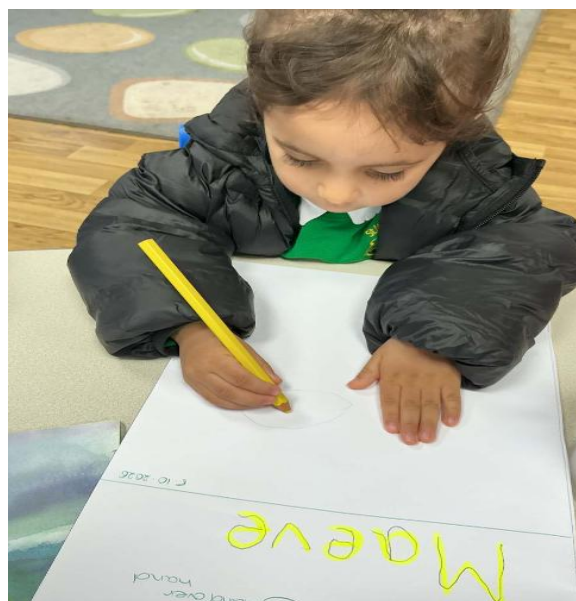
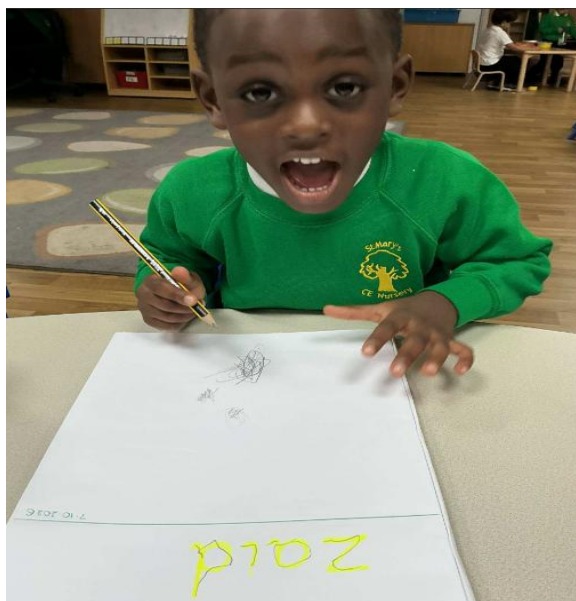
Cutting Skills

In Nursery we were making ducks to link to our story 'Come on, Daisy'. The children started by doing painted handprints, and once they were dry the children attempted to use the scissors to cut out their own handprint. The children worked very hard to do this and some children were successful in cutting out their own handprint!



Mark Making

In English, the children looked at the story 'Come on, Daisy'. In our special books, the children attempted to draw their own picture of Daisy. The children are working very hard to hold their pencils with the correct grip and this is developing as the weeks progress. The children are gaining confidence with making marks and telling adults what their marks mean.



Reception News at St Mary's!

It's been a full-on week for our little learners down in Reception. From daily rehearsals for our **Harvest assembly** and making repeating patterns in Maths, to going completely hair crazy for our book of the week **Hair Love**. The children have had a blast! They even opened up their own hair salons in the classrooms and tried different styles, learning and embracing different hair textures such as **curls**, **coils**, **kinks** and **straight**. Some children got very creative in Maths, creating their own repeating pattern snakes and we had a variety of patterns from each child, showing just how much they had learnt.

Great job Reception!

Reception Department



Year 1 News at St Mary's!

The highlight of our week in Year 1 was the visit from Farmer Sue, Farmer Steve and Farmer Alex who brought their chickens, ducks, sheep, goats, donkey, pony, rabbits, tortoise and guinea pigs (Marshmallow, Oreo and Kevin). Despite the weather we had a wonderful time and learnt a lot. Did you know the shell of a tortoise is made of the same material as our fingernails?!

This term we have been learning about **pulse** in music, we have had fun keeping a steady pulse and clapping out the syllables in our names. Maybe you could try this out at home.

We have also been talking about the crops that grow on farms and have been singing the song Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley Grow.

Here is a link to a version of the song for you to join in with. We used our arms and hands to stretch up like the crops growing – exercising our fingers, hands and arms help improve our handwriting too!

https://youtu.be/2BoOBYy_ScY?si=qyhPyK8e77lOEyFk

Year 1 Department



Year 2 News at St Mary's!

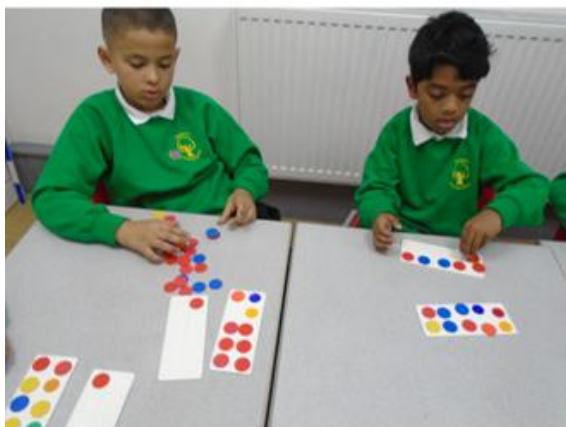
Maths

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!

This week, the children headed into our polytunnel to collect different soil samples and investigate how soil is made. They carefully observed and compared the samples, noticing that soils can vary in colour depending on the amount of organic matter they contain. It was a fantastic hands-on opportunity to develop their scientific observation skills and get stuck into some real-life science!

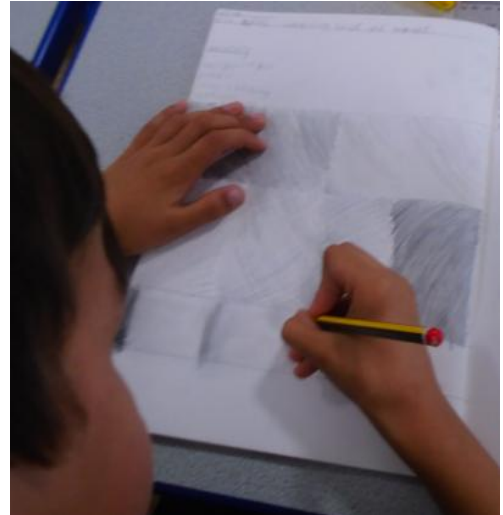
Year 3 Department



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 6 News at St Mary's!

Year 6 Trip to Henley-On-Thames

On Tuesday 23rd and Tuesday 30th September, Year 6 pupils and staff went to Henley-On-Thames to learn more about Rivers, which is the children's current Geography topic. The day's activities were led by Henley River and Rowing Museum and began as soon as the children stepped off the coach. Once we had arrived, the children were split into two groups – one group did a river walk while the other group did some indoor activities.

River Walk

The children walked alongside the river and stopped at various points to discuss the river's features. Features identified were: meander, tributary, confluence, flood plain, weir and lock. In previous years the river has been in flood during this trip, however due to the hot summer this year was the first time that the Year 6 pupils were able to actually walk on the flood plain instead of seeing it under water. The excitement didn't stop there, while over by the lock the children got to see it in action and the groups on the 30th September had the added privilege of actually operating the lock.



Year 6 News at St Mary's!

Indoor Activities

Inside the local bowls club the children were split into 5 groups and took turns exploring different parts of river life through hands on learning activities. The activities included being museum curators and working out what different items were used for, investigating how the ground acts differently near rivers and how rivers are formed through erosion, transportation and deposition. After lunch some of the children got to dress up to help explain different jobs people had connected to the river as well as retelling the story of Wind in the Willows which takes its inspiration from the river.



Half Term News

A vibrant, cartoon-style poster for 'SUPERHERO FEST 2026'. The background is a deep blue space filled with stars, planets (including a large orange ringed planet and a blue planet), and a rocket ship. In the center, an astronaut in a white suit with a red cape and a red 'K' on the chest stands on a grey, cratered planet surface, with yellow and orange rays emanating from behind. The title 'SUPERHERO FEST 2026' is written in large, bold, stylized letters with a blue outline and a yellow star in the 'O'. Below the title, the date 'SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER' is written in large, bold, blue letters with a yellow outline. Underneath the date, the time '5PM - 6:30PM' is written in white on a pink rectangular background, and the location 'BRAYWICK LEISURE CENTRE' is written in white on a red rectangular background. At the bottom, there are four icons with corresponding text: a game controller for 'Superhero Training Camp (games, crafts + more!)', a yellow ticket for 'Tokens for stalls (5 incl with each ticket, extra available)', a musical note for 'A high-energy Praise Party', and a cup of juice for 'Refreshments will be available'. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner. At the very bottom, a yellow banner contains the text 'TICKETS £7 PER CHILD (ADULTS FREE)' and a dark blue banner contains the website 'www.kcionline.org/superherofest'.

Half Term News at The Curve

CURVE VENUE
OCTOBER HALF TERM

The Shivers

This high-octane action-comedy opens the door for grown-ups and children to talk about misinformation, fake news and keeping safe online.

Ages 6-11 years

Thursday 29 October 11.30am



The Elves and The Shoemaker

Age guidance: 3+ years

A beautifully crafted set and puppets, sublime music and a comic mouse make this show a magical must-see.

Friday 30 October 11.30am



CURVE VENUE
The Curve, William Street,
Slough, SL1 1XY

 curvevenue.uk
 01753 303 035

www.slough.gov.uk
Slough
Borough Council
 ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Rags to Riches

officestaff@stmarys.slough.sch.uk

Raise funds by collecting reusable clothes



Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

WE ACCEPT CLEAN, GOOD QUALITY, DRY, REUSABLE CLOTHING

- ☒ Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing
- ☒ Jewellery and Accessories
- ☒ Paired Shoes and Footwear
- ☒ Belts and Handbags

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website
www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk

WE DO NOT ACCEPT

POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS
DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED
CLOTHES.
PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS,
BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM

Please use the clothing bag provided.
You can also use any additional bag if required.

Collection Date:

9th November 2026

Please remember - NO UNIFORM



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 8am-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

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
17.12.2026	Christmas Party for Nursery, Reception, Y5 and Y6
18.12.2026	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