



# St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

St Mary's Parish: <http://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/>

Holy Spirit Parish: <https://www.holyspiritmarple.com/>

**Bulletin Number 15: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021**

## WITH VERY BEST WISHES

Season's greetings to you all and I hope the final bulletin of 2021 finds you well. Where has this year gone? It certainly has been another interesting one and one that we have approached with great energy and enthusiasm as a school community, and I am incredibly proud of all the children and their positivity and resilience. They have certainly risen to the challenge! It really is a privilege to be part of such a vibrant and caring place.

As we get ready to break up, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to you. Thank you for your support and for all your help in keeping your children in school and flourishing. We are very grateful of this and fully appreciate the excellent relationships we have.

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the staff. Without them St Mary's wouldn't be the special school that it is. They show love, care and commitment at every opportunity and give the best of themselves for the children. Thank you.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

In this most special of weeks we have spent time being still and of appreciating all the wonders of this time of year. The gospel this week reminds us of Mary and Elizabeth's love and joy at seeing one another. We listened to how even though Mary had many of her own preparations to make for the birth of Jesus, she went out of her way to visit Elizabeth. We can all make time to visit and show our love for others.

## ADORATION WITH FATHER BILL

On Friday 17th, Father Bill came into school to lead us in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Each class enjoyed this special time of encounter with Jesus, reflecting with music, prayer and silence in his presence in the form of the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance. Linked to Gaudete Sunday and the third week of Advent, our theme was 'rejoice' and it was lovely to hear joyful song and praise echoing through the corridors on this special day. As ever, we are grateful to Father Bill for supporting and guiding the children in this important worship opportunity.

## A SPECIAL JOURNEY STARTS

Congratulations to a number of First Holy Communion candidates who last Wednesday, made their first confession at Holy Spirit, Church. Well done everyone!

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY'S AND HOLY SPIRIT

Please see specific timings below for both Churches.

**St Mary's** - Fri 24th December: New Mills Vigil 6pm Carols 5.30pm and Marple Bridge Vigil 8.30pm Carols 8.00pm.

Sat 25th December: New Mills 9am and Marple Bridge 10.45am.

Sun 26th December: New Mills 9.30am and Marple Bridge 12noon.



**DIOCESE OF  
NOTTINGHAM**

**St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy**

Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR

[headteacher@mmb.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@mmb.srscmat.co.uk)

Company No 7937154



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

**Holy Spirit** - Fri 24th December: Vigil Mass of Christmas 8pm.

Sat 25th December: Family Mass of Christmas Day 9.30am.

Sun 26th December: Mass 9.30am.

### **CAROLS AT HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH**

Many thanks to the children who performed on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021. They were brilliant and provided much festive cheer for all.

### **EYFS AND KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITIES**

We were treated to two fabulous nativity performances last week and it was a privilege to be in attendance. The children were wonderful and were a real credit to themselves. They sang beautifully, remembered all their lines and looked like they were having a great time. It was just what we all needed and a feel-good tonic for us all. In our busy and ever changing lives, coming together for these performances allowed us to reconnect, take time to be still and to celebrate and wonder at the true meaning of Christmas.

### **WEDNESDAY WORD**

Here is the link to this week's Wednesday Word:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/openness?pid=MTA101634&v=39.20>

### **THANK YOU**

Christmas dinner was just the best! The children had a great time with their friends and it was lovely to see 'Special Friends' enjoying a meal together. Many thanks to all who made it happen. Extra special thanks to the kitchen staff; it was beautiful.

### **EDUCATION SUPPORT FUND POLICY**

This is an initiative by the St Ralph Sherwin Trust and is designed to provide financial assistance for pupils who might otherwise miss out on important aspects of their education/school experiences and is intended to support those most in need. If you would like further details and to find out about the application process, then please contact the school office. Applications will be treated in the upmost confidence.

### **GARDENING WORKING PARTY**

**Help needed!! We have the following project in mind. Installation of the two water bowsers and connection to the school roof drainage system**

In order to support the fantastic Gardening groups which are running across the school the team would like to install an eco-friendly way of collecting and using water. We are now in the final stages of organising and installing this vital resource, but we need a team of helpers to lend a hand. We are proposing a working party day on a Sunday after Christmas. Alongside the installation of the water bowsers we also need to re-site some raised beds to provide easier access to them for children. If you are interested in lending a hand, please can you let Mrs Bradbury know and we can find a convenient date to complete this exciting project! Thank you in advance for your continued support.

### **YEAR 6 SLAM POETRY**

Year 6 have been working on writing their own poems and then they performed their poems brilliantly at the Slam Poetry competition on Monday. The panel of judges and Year 5 were amazed at the standard of writing, their flair and performance skills. Well done to everybody involved.

### **REACHING OUT**

Year 6 have also been writing to some of our local care homes this week and some pupils have walked up to deliver the letters and a Christmas CD with songs from our trust schools. This is a brilliant opportunity for our children to connect with members of the local community and to spread a little happiness.

### **CHRISTMAS ART CHALLENGE**

From any packaging waste that you accumulate over the Christmas period we would like you to create a piece of artwork that conveys a message about our environment and waste. **Please see the attached flyer for examples and for further details.** Deadline: 3.00pm Friday January 14th 2022. Bring into school or email a picture: ethompson@mmb.srscmat.co.uk

### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CAMPS**

Courtesy of UK Sports, they are delighted to confirm their Christmas holiday camps are only a few weeks away:

**Venues:-** Chapel en le Frith Leisure Centre, SK23 0TQ and Hazel Grove Sports Centre, SK7 5JX

**Camps Include:-** Soccer Camp and Multisport Camp

**For further information re: dates, timings and costings, please refer to the attached flyer.**

### **HOUSE POINT WINNERS**

Please see below the final points for this term.

Red - 4866

Yellow - 4913

Blue - 5088

Green - 5075

This means **BLUE** house group are the winners and they have enjoyed an afternoon of sports and party games with juice and snacks with Miss Evans. Congratulations!

### **EARRINGS**

No jewellery should be worn in school, including earrings. If your child has newly pierced ears, please let us know; ears should be covered with tape each day and, after the 6 week period, earrings removed for school in the usual pattern.

### **PARKING ON LOWRY DRIVE**

We ask politely that you do not park on Lowry Drive. We are noticing more and more cars using the road which is causing problems for all and is becoming a health and safety concern. We appreciate how busy pick up and drop off times are, particularly at this time of year, but we really would value your support with this request. Many thanks in advance.

### **QUICK REMINDER**

Today is the last day of school before we break up and we return back on Thursday 6th January 2022.

### **A FINAL THOUGHT**

**Wishing you all a fabulous and blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.**

*Mr Paul Ackers and Miss Alice Poole*