



# 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 18: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week in collective worship, the children of Year 3 led us in a fabulous celebration of Chinese New Year and linking this to the themes of Pope Francis' encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti' (all brothers and sisters). The children reminded us of our responsibility through Catholic Social Teaching to care for each other as sisters and brothers in God's family and also to recognise the importance of diversity and the richness of other cultures and religions across the world. Well done and thank you Year 3 for reminding us of Jesus'

commandment to 'love one another' and challenged us to put others' needs before our own. More information on the Pope's encyclical can be found [here](#). Year 4 will lead our whole school worship on Monday afternoon (30<sup>th</sup> January) at 2:30pm in the hall. All are welcome to join us!

## WEDNESDAY WORD

[Here is the link](#) to this week's Wednesday Word.

## NEU (NATIONAL EDUCATION UNION) INDUSTRIAL ACTION – WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

As communicated yesterday, after considering the staffing options and the health and safety implications, we have decided that school will be open to all classes and all children should attend school as normal on the 1<sup>st</sup> February. Please be mindful that arrangements could change at the very last moment however; as colleagues do have the legal right to change their plans in these circumstances or wait until the day of action, before deciding and acting on it. Any changes will be communicated to parents via email up to and including the morning of the industrial action.



## WOW Badge Design Competition

Next week, your child will be bringing home a badge design template sheet. This year's theme, *The British Nature Walk*, aims to bring pupils closer to the nature found across Britain! Children's designs could show the nature in our local area. Think animals or insects found in urban or rural areas, vibrant flowers or mighty trees, lakes, rivers, canals or coastlines. Children could draw a special memory of nature from a recent holiday around Britain or from a different season. Entries to be handed to your child's class teacher, who will pass them on to Mr Nish. These designs will then be sent to the company and they'll turn each winning entry into

more than 300,000 badges, to be awarded to WOW pupils who walk, scoot or cycle to school across the UK next academic year. Deadline for entries – **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**. Top Tips: • Be big, bold and colourful! • Diversity and originality are key to standing out from the crowd! • WOW badges are only 3cm, so simple designs without small details in them work best! • Trademarks or logos will not qualify for the competition.

## NSPCC NUMBER DAY



We will be taking part in the NSPCC Number Day on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**. We will be having a fun filled day of maths activities and games and raising money to support the work of the NSPCC such as Childline. **We are asking the children to come into school that day wearing an item of clothing with a number, shape or pattern on it and donate £1 to the NSPCC.**



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Company No 7937154



St Ralph  
Sherwin

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Please see the names of the class charities selected this year. It is wonderful to see the children living out our SANCTA value of 'support' through their acts of charity, reaching out and making a difference to so many worthy causes. Thank you for all of your support and generosity.

## Reception: The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

Year 2: CAFOD

## Year 4: SCOPE

Year 6: RSPCA



The St Mary's PTA have exciting events planned for the children this term. The first event will be the *Sponsored Bounce* taking place on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February**, during the school day. Each class has produced a wish list and will be fundraising to try and reach their target to purchase items from the list to further enrich the curriculum or playtimes in school. A letter and sponsor form with further details from the PTA has been sent home with the children today. Thank you for your support!

The PTA AGM will be held on **Wednesday 8th February from 6:45pm – 8:00pm** in the school hall. We look forward to welcoming as many parents as possible to this important meeting where reports from the PTA committee will be shared and plans for future events explored. Please see the attached PTA newsletter for more details. For information: The Family Camp has now been booked and will take place from 7-9 July at Rowter Farm in Castleton. Further details to follow.

YEAR  
1 Phonics

We are inviting all Year 1 parents to a meeting on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 5:30pm** regarding the teaching of phonics in Year 1 and the phonics screening check that children in Year will undertake in June. This is the opportunity to build on the knowledge you gained at the Reception phonics meeting you attended last year to support your child's reading and the opportunity to understand how the Year 1 Phonics Check works and will be administered at

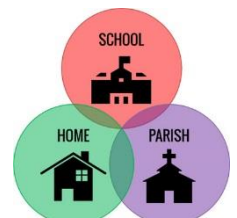
St Mary's. The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes and will take place in the Year 1 classroom.

We are inviting all Year 2 parents to a meeting on **Wednesday 1st February at 5.30pm**. The meeting will take place in the Year 2 classroom and will last approximately 30 minutes. During the meeting we will discuss the national assessments (SATs) which at the end of KS1 the children will take to evaluate their progress as they move into KS2. We will discuss the papers which the children will be sitting in May and look at some practical ways in which you can support your child at home.

Last Saturday, on a cold and frosty January morning, St Mary's were strongly represented at Woodbank Park and had great successes! Lucy in Y4 came 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the event and Isaac in Y5 came 6<sup>th</sup>. The children's perseverance and resilience is paying dividends and St Mary's continue to go from strength to strength with each event. Congratulations to all! The final of the six cross country events at Woodbank Park will be on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 10:15am.**

We are looking to appoint two parish ambassadors at St Mary's, Marple Bridge and two parish ambassadors at Holy Spirit, Marple. The selected pupils will represent the school for our parish communities. The role will involve attending Mass and making announcements to the parishioners regarding school events and achievements, as well as attending parish events such as carol concerts, First Holy Communion celebrations etc. The appointment will run until July 2024. Pupils

of any age are welcome to apply for the role. Pupils should apply by writing no more than 200 words explaining why they would like to take on the role of parish ambassador, stating which parish they would like to represent. Applications should be sent into the school office by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**.



## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 6<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

The theme of this year's week is 'let's connect'. St Mary's will be participating through a range of different learning opportunities and activities. If you would like to know more about the theme for the week please click [here](#) for information.



## STOCKPORT FAMILY CHALLENGE

This week you received a flier to advertise Stockport's Family Challenge for 2023. We have successfully participated in similar events before the pandemic and our families were celebrated for their participation and received some fantastic prizes! The attachments explain how to take part in the challenge, and you can sign up by clicking the link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBpamJbfKO5Vh3BdbL5NFZtJ-4QnK7pnq\\_NKrZK73XgsbXoQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBpamJbfKO5Vh3BdbL5NFZtJ-4QnK7pnq_NKrZK73XgsbXoQ/viewform). Please speak to Miss Poole if you require any further clarification. Good luck!

## FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

There are places available for the St Mary's Holiday Club which will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the February half term break at school. Please complete the attached booking form and return it to the school office if you would like to reserve a place for your child/ren. For further information please contact Mrs Major.

## THE MONTH AHEAD...KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
	<i>Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary.</i>
30 January	Y4 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Y1 Phonics Screening Check and Y2 SATs meeting for parents (5.30-6.00pm).
3 February	NSPCC Number Day. £1 donation to NSPCC for children dressed as a number or wearing clothing with a number on it.
3 February	Closing date for Parish Ambassador roles.
6 February	Y6 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
6-12 February	Children's Mental Health Week. (Please click <a href="#">here</a> for information.)
7 February	Online safety day.
8 February	Y6 PGL and SATs meeting for parents (5:30pm – 6:30pm)
8 February	PTA AGM (6:45pm – 8:00pm) in the hall. All welcome!
13 February	Y2 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
14 February	Music concert (2:15pm in the hall). All welcome!
15 February	PTA Sponsored Bounce! (Please see letter and sponsor form.)
16 February	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury. All welcome (1:30pm – 2:45pm)
16 February	School closes to children for the half term break.
17 February	INSET Day for staff – school closed for children.
18 February	Cross country at Woodbank Park (10:15am for a 10:30am start)
21-23 February	Half Term Holiday Club (please see booking form) if of interest.
27 February	School reopens after the half term break. Closing date for WOW badge design competition.

## A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER



The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity.

— Pope Francis, 'Fratelli Tutti':  
On Fraternity and Social Friendship

'Let us dream then, as a single human family... as children of the same earth which is our common home...each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.' Pope Francis.

Heavenly Father, we pray for those in our school family who are sick, particularly Ada as she recovers from surgery. We also pray for medical professionals who care for the sick. Grant them wisdom, skill and patience and keep them safe. Amen.

**Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.  
Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.**