



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 21: 16th February 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Year 2 led us in a beautiful and reflective collective worship this week. The theme was 'thankfulness' and linked to their current RE topic. They helped us to remember that despite any issues we might be facing and the troubles of the world we read about or watch in the news, there is so much to be thankful for, especially in the nature around us that God has given us to look after – we are his stewards of creation.

Year 2 reminded us that Jesus gives himself to us each day at Mass in Holy Communion and we are grateful for this

greatest gift of all. Thank you Year 2 for helping us to remember that it is good to stop and thank God for all that we have. A reminder that Lent starts next Wednesday. Ash Wednesday Masses are at 10:00am at St Mary's. Holy Spirit will have two Masses: a vigil Mass at 6:30pm (Tuesday) and 10:00am (Wednesday). When we return from the half term break, the children will attend the parish Mass at St Mary's on a rota basis each Wednesday at 10:00am until the Easter break. All are welcome. Please see the diary on page 3 for class dates.

WEDNESDAY WORD

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

PTA NEWS

On Wednesday we had our sponsored bounce event. The children and adults had a fantastic time (see the photographic evidence)! As you can see Mrs Bradbury and Mrs McCubbin are hard at work bringing counting to life for our Nursery children! A HUGE thank you to our PTA volunteers for their valued effort, time and enthusiastic counting. The children had a ball! Special thanks to Graham from Castle Kingdom for giving us the castle free of charge - he is really lovely, so if you need a bouncy castle please support him.

We are raising money for the class wish lists - so you can either send cash in or donate online via [this link](#). Thank you for all of your support which further supports the educational opportunities and experiences of the St Mary's children. The next event will be the World Book Day fancy dress disco on Friday 3rd March. Tickets will shortly be available to purchase. Mrs Tognarelli will post an update on the PTA Facebook page and WhatsApp group when they go on sale.

COFFEE AND CAKE WITH MRS BRADBURY

We had a cosy turnout this afternoon. We were joined by Sally Wilkinson from Primary Jigsaw, Helen Barr the Educational Psychologist and Honor Furey, Autism Intervention Worker with the Stockport Autism Team. Mrs Norburn, our new SENDCo, also met with parents and had the opportunity to introduce herself. We offer these informal meet and greets each half term for a cup of tea/coffee and a slice of cake (kindly donated by Mr Gee) to strengthen our links and support within the community. The next meeting will be **Friday 24th March at 1:30pm**. All are welcome.

INSET DAY – FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2023

A reminder that we have an INSET day tomorrow, where we will link with schools across the Trust for a Teaching and Learning conference. School will be closed to all pupils. Children will therefore finish for the February half term today.



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St Ralph Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

MUSIC CELEBRATION CONCERT

On Tuesday, our talented instrumentalists from Years 4 and 5 (recorder and ukulele) along with our newly formed school choir showcased some of the excellent learning in music that occurs at St Mary's. The children played music from around the world including Polynesia and North America and the choir shared some pieces, sung in parts that they have been rehearsing. The choir will be performing at Stockport Town Hall next term – watch this space for details. Thank you to our gifted music teacher, Mrs Tennant, for her creativity and hard work.

LAST FEW PLACES REMAINING!

We are delighted to announce that we will be running a KS1 Multi Skills after school club from Tuesday 28th February to Tuesday 28th March. Children from Y1 and Y2 are welcome to attend. The clubs will run from straight after school until 4.15pm and the cost for the clubs will be £30 for the term (x5 sessions). Please click [this link](#) to sign up and register your child.

WELLBEING GARDEN UPDATE



The well-being garden has been in full use this week with the children using the books and colouring materials stored in the new shed in their break times. A huge thanks to our wonderful gardening volunteers Tracey, Cath, Jim and Chris for putting the shed together and their tireless work with our gardening projects. We will be holding a task day to work on the planting up of the garden and other tasks on **Sunday 5th March** in the morning. Further task days will then take place on the last Sunday of every month, ALL welcome for community fun and treats to keep us going!

THURSDAY 2ND MARCH 2023 IS WORLD BOOK DAY



We are really looking forward to celebrating World Book Day at St Mary's. On the day we are inviting children to dress in their pyjamas/onesies and to bring in their favourite bedtime story to share (teddy bears are optional!) We have lots of exciting events planned throughout the day and also the week, including our PTA disco and a special peg competition – please see details below. Book vouchers will also be sent home in the near future.

PEG CHARACTER COMPETITION

In celebration of World Book Day, we would like you to get creative and decorate a peg to look like your favourite book character. How you do this is your choice! You can paint your peg, make clothes from paper, card or fabric and use any other props to bring your peg to life. Once your peg character is complete, please bring your entry to school on **Wednesday 1st March 2023**. The winners will be announced during assembly on **Friday 3rd March 2023**. We are really looking forward to another great day of celebrating all that is wonderful and magical about books with you.



WOW BADGE DESIGN COMPETITION – FINAL CALL FOR ENTRIES



A final call for badge designs over the half term break... 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 27th 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. Further details can be found on the badge design information sheet.

NEU (NATIONAL EDUCATION UNION) INDUSTRIAL ACTION – TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2023

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 28th 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.

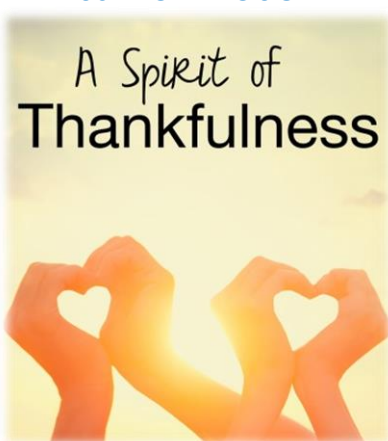
PARENTS EVENINGS

The Lent term parents evenings will take place on **Wednesday 8th March** and **Tuesday 14th March** from 3:50pm with the last appointment at 6:50pm. Appointments are ten minute slots and give you the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher discuss their progress, look at their books and celebrate their many achievements. As last term, appointments are to be booked online and will be available to book after the half term break.

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>
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.
1 March	YR and Y6 attend the Lenten parish Mass in church at 10:00am. All welcome!
3 March	World Book Day and PTA Fancy Dress Disco (5:00 – 6:00pm or 6:00 – 7:00pm).
6 March	Y1 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
8 March	Nursery and Y5 attend the parish Mass in church at 10:00am. All welcome!
8 March	World Maths Day Parents' Evening (3:45 – 7:00pm) Booking details to follow.
13 March	Y6 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
14 March	Parents' Evening (3:45 – 7:00pm) Booking details to follow after half term.
15 March	Y3 and Y4 attend the Lenten parish Mass in church at 10:00am. All welcome!
17 March	Mothers' Day Assembly led by Reception (10:00am in the hall). All welcome!
21-24 March	Y6 residential visit to PGL Boreatton Park, Shropshire.
22 March	Y1 and Y2 attend the Lenten parish Mass in church at 10:00am. All welcome!
29 March	Holy Week & Easter Production (10:00am and 2:00pm). All welcome!
27 -31 March	Stations of the Cross led by Year 5 (9:05am each day in the hall.)
31 March	Celebration Assembly (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
31 March	School closes for the Easter break.
17 April	School reopens following the Easter break.

A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER



You might like to discuss these questions with your children to reflect on our theme of thankfulness:

*Do you complain and blame others or do you stay positive and thankful for the good things (the blessings) in your life?
Have you ever felt so grateful for something that you would give almost anything in order to thank the person who had been generous towards you?*

For Jesus, God's amazing gift to the world, we give you thanks and praise. For all that Jesus has done for us, we give you thanks and praise. For giving us all we that we have, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

**Wishing you all a restful half term break. See you all on Monday 27th February.
Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.**