



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Easter to Pentecost

The Journey from the Resurrection of Jesus to the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit



The feast of Pentecost falls on Sunday 28 May. We are strengthening our learning about this important Feast Day, the birthday of the Church, in our RE lessons and times of worship. Pentecost is about witness and this is the theme of our RE work at present. The children have been learning that to be a witness involves two things. The first is seeing something happen that you remember and that has an effect on you. The second is telling others about what you have seen. The children have been learning that the first disciples were witness to the resurrection and we too can be witness to Christ when we recognise Him at work in our world. The children have been set the mission of how will they tell others what you have seen so that the Good News continues to be heard?

I would love to decorate our entrance area with paintings, pictures and models about the Holy Spirit and the theme of Pentecost. Over the next couple of weeks/weekends why not create your own artwork to add to our display?

Good luck to all the children who are making their Holy Communion tomorrow at Holy Spirit Church with Father Bill at 12:30pm. We hope you have a wonderful celebration as you receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the very first time.

WEDNESDAY WORD

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



ROSARY CLUB

Each school day from 12:50 until 1:00pm for the remainder of May, children from Year 2 through to Year 6 are invited to pray a decade of the rosary with Mr Nish in the 'Holy Hub'. Rosary beads are optional. Each day we will pray a decade of the rosary focusing each week on a particular mystery: luminous, joyful, sorrowful and glorious. Further details of how to pray the rosary are available [here](#).

YEAR 2 CLASS CHARITY UPDATE

Year 2 have raised a brilliant **£232** for their class charity CAFOD. It is a fantastic amount which will go such a long way in supporting and making a difference for others. The money was raised through their coin mosaic collection and 200km Lent run. Through the CAFOD World Gifts, the children have bought lots of items including chickens, school starter packs, emergency shelters and water for a family! Thank you to our families for their generosity.

CORONATION TREE PLANTING AND TIME CAPSULE



We rounded off our wonderful coronation celebrations this week by planting an oak tree sapling in honour of King Charles III. King Charles has a deep concern and connection with the environment and care for our planet, so the children thought planting a tree that grows with his reign and beyond was a fitting gesture. We have also buried a time capsule filled with photographs, activities and copies of work completed as part of our coronation celebrations. Hopefully the St Mary's children and staff of 2073 will find our work and activities of great interest. Thank you Mr Percy for your help with the digging!



YEAR 6 SATs



Huge congratulations to our Year 6 children who have been amazing this week, as they sat tests in Grammar and Punctuation, Spelling, Reading, Arithmetic and Maths Reasoning. It is always a marathon week! The children took everything in their stride and have enjoyed some calming and enjoyable enrichment opportunities to balance the concentration and application needed during the SATs. We are all very proud of you, Year 6! Thank you also to our amazing staff and governors who helped administer and observe the tests and help the week run very smoothly.

ATTENDANCE

At St Mary's we feel that, if learners are to get the greatest benefit from their education in school, it is important that they have good attendance and arrive punctually. The attendance over this week is below. Congratulations to **Y3** and **Y4** who have both achieved **100%**. Our school target is 97%. **This week all classes have hit or exceeded our school target.** Amazing attendance everybody!

Weekly Attendance	
Rec	98.9%
Y1	97.8%
Y2	98.3%
Y3	100%
Y4	100%
Y5	98.3%
Y6	97.2%
Overall	98.7%

YEAR 5 BRAZIL TOPIC - FAVELAS



As part of their RE, geography DT, and PSHE work, Year 5 have linked lots of key knowledge to support them in their understanding and how we are all connected as a global family. Despite the heavens opening at several points on Wednesday, they had a fabulous day building their favelas. The children worked brilliantly together, demonstrating superb teamwork skills and most importantly, having bucket-loads of fun! They immersed themselves into the spirit of 'self-help', just like to people of Rocinha we have been learning about. Building their own shelters on our school field using 'found' items encouraged the children to use their

resourcefulness as well as developing a deeper understanding of the difficulties faced by people moving from the countryside into a Brazilian urban area.

Herbie writes: 'On Wednesday 10 May 2023, we (Year 5) went onto the field to build Brazilian favelas. We built the favelas to get a better idea of how the Brazilians in Rocinha built theirs. Despite all the rain, we all successfully built our favelas. We all got very muddy but we all shared, worked hard together and had lots of fun! [More information is available here](#). The photograph shows one of the favelas Y5 built after 24 hours – the heavy rain has damaged it considerably. Many of our sisters and brothers live in shelters like this. Let's work together to make a change.

BAG 2 SCHOOL THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donations for our Bag 2 School campaign. The bags were collected yesterday and the van driver was most impressed with our efforts. Your contributions help promote REUSE of clothes and shoes to benefit those who rely on 2nd hand clothes as their sole option for good quality items and build a sustainable future by using our resources to further the circular economy. **In total, this collection raised a fantastic £209.** We will look to have the next collection in the new school year... after your summer clearout.



WARMER WEATHER ON THE HORIZON?!



As summer approaches, we are hoping to enjoy some lovely weather soon... When the weather does finally arrive, we would be grateful of your support to ensure that our children remain safe in the hotter weather. We will encourage children to use shaded areas and restrict physical activity on particularly hot days. We will also spend some time talking to the children about 'Sun Safety' as part of our PSHE work in school. In addition, children will be encouraged to drink plenty and to wear hats. Your support would be appreciated

with the following:

- Talking to your child about the importance of sun protection at home and teaching them to apply sun-cream carefully.
- Sending your child to school with a sun hat/cap (named).
- Applying sun-cream to your child before school (8-hour sun creams can be readily purchased).
- Sending your child into school with a named water bottle.

If your child's skin burns very easily, you may send sun cream into school with your child for them to apply themselves as staff do not routinely apply sun cream for children. This should be clearly labelled with your child's name and will be kept in their own school bag.

THE AUTISM SHOW

Please review the attached information for the Autism Show running on the 7th and 8th July at Manchester Central. Also running in June in London and Birmingham. The show is a great opportunity if you are looking for information and direction pre or post diagnosis, facing daily challenges or are approaching significant transition points. For further information and to book advance tickets please visit: www.autismshow.co.uk.



TERM DATES 2023 – 2024

The finalised term dates with confirmed INSET dates for the 2023-2024 school year have been published and are available on the [school website](#). The Trust inset day in February has changed, this is a decision beyond our control. Please ensure that you check the dates and make a note of the change.

A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER



If we can spare any time to read the bible, we will be able to read the accounts of the first witnesses to Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Through these accounts, we can encounter God and learn about discipleship. The more we read about the early church, the more we learn how to be *missionary disciples* to the world.

On Saturday at 12:30pm at Holy Spirit Church, we look forward to the first of two special Masses during which children from St Mary's will celebrate First Holy Communion. This gives us the opportunity to support them with our witness and prayer. Let us be reminded: The Eucharist makes the Parish and the Parish makes the Eucharist. Loving God, the early church lived to

share their wealth with the neediest people in society. Let us try to live like them every day of our lives. Amen.

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>
13 May	First Holy Communion – Holy Spirit Catholic Church at 12:30pm
16 May	Eurovision Choir Extravaganza: 7:00pm – 8:30pm at Stockport Town Hall.
19 May	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn (from 1:30pm in the hall).
20 May	First Holy Communion – St Mary's Catholic Church, New Mills at 12:00pm
15 May	Year 2 SATs start (see Y2 newsletter for further details)
22 May	Y6 Canal visit.
22 May	Y4 Collective Worship (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
23 May	Y6 Chemistry with cabbages.
26 May	Y2 SATs end.

26 May	Celebration Assembly (2:30pm in the hall). All welcome!
26 May	School closes for the half term break.
12 June	School reopens following the half term break.
12-16 June	Y1 Phonics Screening Checks.
12-16 June	Y4 Multiplication Checks.
15 June	Y4 visit to the Museum of Science and Industry.
15 June	Y5/6 mixed 7-a-side football tournament.
20 June	Y2 visit to Bramhall Park – legacy walk.
21 June	Reception visit to the Sea Life Centre.
28 June	New EYFS parents intake meeting (6:00 – 7:00pm) in the hall.
30 June	Y3 Going Forth Mass (First Holy Communicants) at 10:00am in St Mary's Church. Parents of Y3 are welcome to attend!

**Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and prayers for our First Holy Communicants at Holy Spirit.
Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.**