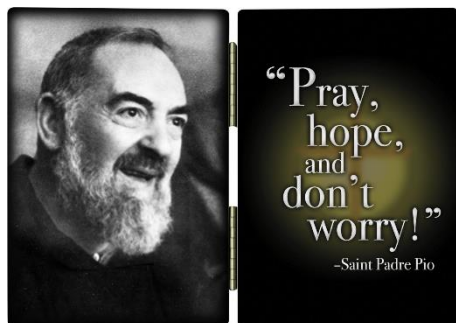




RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Congratulations to Year 5 who led our first class led worship of the school year on Monday. They celebrated the Feast of St Padre Pio and reflected on what it means to be holy and strive to be a saint. They helped us to reflect on Padre Pio's motto of 'pray, hope and don't worry' through prayer, song and word with fantastic ukulele playing. The 'do not worry donuts' helped secure this message to our long term memories! Year 5 set us the mission of taking part in a 'Sitting like a Saint' mindfulness session led by Padre Pio. The children have thoroughly enjoyed this mission.

A reminder that next Monday, **2 October**, at **2:00pm** Fr Bill will be celebrating Mass in school to mark the start of the school year. You are all warmly invited to attend and we look forward to celebrating Mass as a whole school family.

WEDNESDAY WORD

The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word with your children.

SPECIAL FRIENDS ASSEMBLY

It is one of the great traditions at St Mary's that we match our Reception and Year 6 children together as 'Special Friends'. Through Special Friends, Reception children are encouraged to feel confident around other and older children, helping them to feel settled and happy in their new environment. Their Year 6 friend becomes another friendly face at school, someone to look out for, someone whom they feel is precious to them. Year Six children see having a Special Friend as a privilege - and one they take very seriously. They have been looking forward to this throughout the previous year, or even longer! This morning we celebrated this wonderful assembly where the children were paired together. Opportunities arise throughout the year for Reception and Y6 pupils to play together and get together for special events (such as a picnic in the summer). Congratulation to our new Special Friends!



CROSS COUNTRY NEWS



There will be no cross-country club after school on **Wednesday 18 October**. This is due to a KS2 cross-country competition taking place at Marple Hall High School, 3:45pm till 5:15pm. We are inviting all our cross-country club and Woodbank park pupils to attend this competition. On arrival, Mrs Ashton will meet the children and support the pupils at the competition. We ask that parents remain at the competition and stay with their child. Please complete the form on the attached link if your child is able to attend. <https://forms.office.com/e/AkAf2UxesL>



RECEPTION PHONICS EVENING



On **Tuesday 3 October** from 5:30-6:30pm there will be a phonics information evening for parents/carers of children in our Reception class. At St Mary's we use a Department for Education validated phonics scheme called 'Twinkl Phonics'. At the meeting Miss Poole (our phonics Leader), Mrs Bradbury (EYFS Leader) and Mrs Finney (Reception Teacher) we will share with you what phonics is, how it helps your child with their early reading and writing and provide a range of ideas for activities and resources you can use to support your child at home. There will be an information meeting for Year 1 parents later in the term.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 2023

Next **Friday, 6 October**, we are asking that children come dressed in green and donate £1 in aid of Family Fast Day. As you know, CAFOD is a fabulous charity that supports and reaches out to people who are affected by poverty. This year the theme is the 'world food crisis' and we think it is important that we get involved and show our support where we can. You can watch a short video about this year's campaign [here](#).



Fast, pray and give

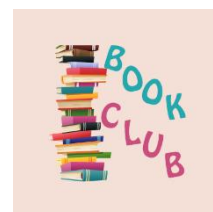
WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2023



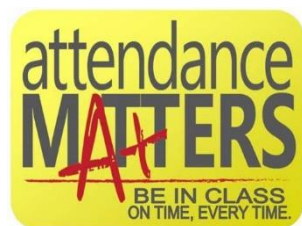
The following Friday (**13 October 2022**) we will be celebrating World Mental Health Day at St Mary's and we are asking all children to wear an **item of yellow** with their uniform and to donate £1, which will form part of our contribution to the Healthy Young Minds organisation. This is a wonderful charity which does so much to support children and young adults. During that week, the children will have a special focus on mental health as part of their learning.

INTRODUCING ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB

This year, we are excited to announce that we have started a 'book club'. Classes will have time every few weeks to discuss favourite authors and books and listen to book recommendations, which we hope will help our pupils to choose books to read independently, discover new authors and share a love of reading. We have attached our September book recommendations to this newsletter, which you may like to share and discuss together at home over the weekend.



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 the month of September is below. Our school target is 97%. Congratulations everyone on your amazing efforts this month. As a school we have achieved a fantastic **97.9%** attendance. Nationally, attendance currently stands at 94%, so well done St Mary's for our strong attendance.

September 2023 Attendance	
Rec	99.5 %
Y1	98.3 %
Y2	99.0 %
Y3	97.0 %
Y4	96.7 %
Y5	98.3 %
Y6	96.8%
Overall	97.9 %

GARDENING UPDATE – WORKING PARTY – SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER

We would be grateful of any help (parents, grandparents, children) this Sunday 10:00am – 1:00pm, whether for the whole session or an hour fitting around other plans.

Please bring pruning saws/loppers and gloves for tree pruning and path laying - we're aiming to do those jobs that the children can't do themselves during Wednesday gardening. Child helpers will have the opportunity to make a wildflower pot to take home!

The photograph shows the entrance beds expertly tidied and replanted by year 3 this week. Well done Year 3!



WELLSPRING – HARVEST COLLECTION 2023



One of our SANCTA values is 'support'. As a school family we feel it is important that we give thanks and support our local community. Therefore, during Harvesttime we ask our families to bring in donations for The Wellspring, Stockport, so that we can share what we have with homeless or less fortunate people in our town. This year, The Wellspring's

Harvest Festival has again been created with an eco-theme and so we can help our children understand that we should all be looking to make changes where possible to protect their future and the future of the planet.

Their '[Wish List](#)' includes products with the eco idea in mind and contains: sugar, coffee, cordial, biscuits, crisps, tinned meat, cereal, butter, pasta sauces and tinned tomatoes. Each class will have a large bag to collect in donations from **Tuesday 3rd October until Tuesday 17th October**, so if you are able to, please send your child/children into school with items from the '[Wish List](#)'.

THE MONTH (OR SO) 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. (New events added in bold.)</i>
1 October	Gardening Working Party. 10:00am – 1:00pm. All welcome.
2 October	Start of Term Mass in school at 2:00pm. All welcome.
3 October	Reception Phonics Parents Meeting 5:30pm – 6:30pm.
3 October	Y6 Indoor Athletics Transition Event 10:00am – 12:30pm.
3-17 October	Harvest Collection for Wellspring. Wishlist here.
4 October	Year 2 to attend 10:00am parish Mass at St Mary's. Parents welcome.
6 October	CAFOD Family Fast Day – Wear something green - £1 donation.
9 October	Year 4 Collective Worship at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
11 October	Year 3 to attend 10:00am parish Mass at St Mary's. Parents welcome.
11 October	Y5 Young Sports Leaders at Aquinas 9:30am-11:30am.
13 October	World Mental Health Day. (Wear an item of yellow with their uniform - £1 donation to Healthy Young Minds).
18 October	PTA Sponsored Bounce. (Details to follow.)
18 October	Cross Country competition at Marple Hall. 3:45pm – 5:15pm.
20 October	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury 2pm in the hall.
20 October	School closes for the October half term break.
30 October	School reopens following the October half term break.
31 October	Closing date for Secondary School applications.
31 October	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Programme (Y1 – Y6).
1 November	All Saints' Day Mass. 10:00am in school. All welcome.
1 November	PTA Meeting via Zoom at 7:00pm. All welcome.
3 November	PTA Sparkle Disco.
8 November	CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching Workshops KS1.
8 November	UKS2 Mixed Football at Marple Hall 3:30pm – 5:30pm,
15 November	CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching Workshops KS2.
15 and 22 November	Parents' Evenings. (Booking details to follow in October). 3:45pm - 6:45pm.
22 November	Year 4 to attend 10:00am parish Mass at St Mary's. Parents welcome.
29 November	Year 5 to attend 10:00am parish Mass at St Mary's. Parents welcome.

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