



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Our whole school collective worship this week, led by Year 4, offered the children the opportunity to celebrate languages and cultures, within Europe and beyond. We learnt how to make the sign of the cross in French and broadened our cultural capital. Taking the trouble to learn another language shows that we care about being able to communicate with others and that we are thinking of others. It shows also that we like a challenge and that we are keen to always keep learning. Learning a language can help us to achieve what Pope Francis asks of us by celebrating the uniqueness of the many cultures and languages that connect us as a human 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.

#HELLO YELLOW – WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2023

Today's 'Stand Out and Show Up' theme has been a great success. All the yellow clothing and accessories really brightened up our day! By wearing yellow and raising funds for Young Minds, we are showing young people that we are with them. We are showing them that they matter and deserve the support they need, when they need it, no matter what. Thank you to all those who brought a £1 donation for the Mental Health charity Healthy Young Minds. We have collected a wonderful **£115** but if you forgot today, please bring your £1 into school on Monday. The money raised will go towards training a Young Minds parents' helpline advisor to be on the end of the phone to provide information and support to parents and carers.



ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB



Our September book club recommendations were a huge success with lots of children being keen to read the suggested texts. Copies were shared around school and some pupils bought or borrowed their own copy of the books to read at home. This week, we shared new recommendations for the month ahead, please find attached our October Book Club. Happy reading!

LIVING STREETS – TRAVEL TRACKER

St Mary's has been selected to take part in the Living Streets Travel Tracker for another year. The walk to school challenge for Rec-Y6 pupils is delivered by Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking, to help as many children as possible experience the benefits of walking to school. If they travel actively (walk/wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride) at least once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge linked to this year's theme of the British Nature Walk. Please remind your children as they are coming into school what method of travel they have used to ensure the correct pupils are receiving badges. *Park and Stride is parking at least 10 minutes away from school, preferably in one of the local car parks such as Brabyns, Etherow, the*



Memorial Park or the Midland. Last year's badges can be kept at home somewhere safe, ready to make room for our new badges.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2024



The deadline for Year 6 parents/carers to apply for a secondary school place for September 2024 is **Tuesday 31 October 2023**. Stockport Council coordinates the admissions process and details of how to apply can be found [here](#).

JANUARY 2024 NURSERY INTAKE

If your child turned or will be turning three between 1 September 2023 and 31 December 2023 they are eligible for our Nursery January early intake. We are able to offer a limited number of places to these children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 December 2020. The deadline for Nursery 2024 early intake applications is **31 October 2023**. Please follow link below [Apply for a maintained nursery place - Stockport Council](#) For any further information or to come and have a look around our Nursery please contact the office.

COFFEE AND CAKE GATHERING

Mrs Norburn and Mrs Bradbury are very much looking forward to hosting their first coffee and cake gathering of the school year from **1:15pm until 2:15pm on Friday 20th October**. They will be joined on this occasion by services from Stockport who are able to offer support to our school community and families with funding and courses. Mrs McSwity will also join us as our ELSA (Emotional Literacy support assistant) and staff who lead our Nurture Group will be with us to say hello. All professionals will be available for informal chats throughout the afternoon.



OCTOBER - BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month takes place every year in October across the world. The month presents an opportunity for children to learn more about Black History through lessons. It is also a time to celebrate the contribution that black people have made over the centuries in shaping the dynamic and diverse country we have today. Although Black History Month only happens once a year, the teaching of Black History doesn't begin and end there. Our curriculum supports children learning about it all year round not only in history but also in PSHE, Geography, PSHE and RE.

WELLSPRING – FOOD COLLECTION

Thank you for the tremendous support you have shown in supporting our harvest collection this year. We are nearing the end of the donation period and it would be wonderful to have a big push for items over the weekend. 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. This year, The Wellspring's Harvest Festival has 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. Wellspring's [Wishlist can be accessed here](#). **The last day for donations is Tuesday 17th October**. Thank you for your support.



SPORT AMBASSADORS TRAINING



On Tuesday, St Mary's along with Ludworth, Nevill Road and Prospect Vale Primary Schools joined together with the Stockport Sports SHAPES Alliance to train a group of Young Sports Ambassadors at Aquinas College. Eight pupils from Year 5 had a great time learning different games and activities which they can lead at lunchtime for other pupils. The team will work closely with Miss Poole, Mrs Ashton and Mrs McGuiness to support with Sport in school, run playtime activities and competitions.

CROSS COUNTRY NEWS



A final reminder that 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>

PTA NEWS

Next Wednesday, **18 October**, is the Sponsored Bounce. Please send in your child's permission slip by Tuesday if you want them to take part. Unfortunately, if we don't receive a permission slip your child they won't be able to participate on health and safety grounds. We're holding this fun event and asking each child to get sponsorship for how many bounces they can achieve in 1 minute! The funds are being raised specifically for their classroom's wish list items. The PTA are asking all sponsorship money to be paid via Go Fund Me, so that they can track it easier and benefit from being able to claim GiftAid. As ever, thanks so much for your support! Further details here: [Fundraiser by St Mary's PTA : Sponsored Bounce \(gofundme.com\)](#). On Friday 3 November will be the Sparkle Disco. Tickets will be available soon via the [PTA website](#).

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> |
| 17 October | Harvest Collection for Wellspring closes. Wishlist here. |
| 18 October | PTA Sponsored Bounce. (Please see above.) |
| 18 October | Cross Country competition at Marple Hall. 3:45pm – 5:15pm. |
| 20 October | Coffee and Cake with Mrs Norburn/Bradbury 1:15pm – 2:15pm in the hall. |
| 20 October | Celebration Assembly at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome. |
| 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 Nursery place applications. |
| 31 October | Closing date for Secondary School applications. |
| 31 October | NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Programme (Y1 – Y6). |
| 31 October | Booking for Parents Evening will open at 8:30am. |
| 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. |
| 11 November | St Mary's Parish Christmas Fair, New Mills 10:30am – 1:00pm. All welcome. |
| 15 November | CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching Workshops KS2. |
| 15 November | Prospective new parents open morning 10:00am – 11:30am. |
| 15 and 22 November | Parents' Evenings. (Booking available from 31 October.) 3:45pm - 6:45pm. |
| 21 November | Prospective new parents open afternoon. 1:30pm – 3:00pm. |
| 22 November | Year 4 to attend 10:00am parish Mass at St Mary's. Parents welcome. |
| 26 November | Parish Ambassadors updates to Holy Spirit and St Mary's parishes. |
| 28 November | Online Safety Talk/workshop for parents. 6:00pm – 7:00pm. |
| 29 November | Year 5 to attend 10:00am parish Mass at St Mary's. Parents welcome. |
| 29 November | Nasal flu vaccinations (YR – Y6). |
| 2 December | Marple Winter Wonderland 1:00pm – 6:00pm. |
| 4 December | Advent Service – 2:30pm in school. All welcome. |
| 5 December | Y3 to sing at St George's Church Carol Concert at 7:30pm. All welcome. |
| 8 December | PTA Christmas Fair. 3:30pm – 5:30pm. All welcome |
| 13 December | EYFS Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm. All welcome |
| 20 December | Y1 and Y2 Nativity. 10:00am and 2:00pm. All welcome. |
| 22 December | Carol Concert. 1:30pm. All welcome. School closes for the Christmas break. |

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