



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Thank you to Dan, our new Chaplain, who led us in a prayerful and reflective collective worship this week focusing on October – the month of the holy Rosary. We have been set the mission by Bishop Patrick to pray one decade of the rosary each weekday during October. Why not try this over the half term break. You can track your progress using this [chart](#). You could also use [this video](#) to help support your children. The Rosary draws its mysteries from the New Testament and is centered on the major events of the Incarnation and Redemption with each decade referring to an event in the life of Jesus and Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary give us 'thumbnails' of the life of Christ and his Mother. The Joyful Mysteries are taken mostly from Saint Luke's Gospel in the New Testament. They involve the joyful events of Jesus' childhood. The

Luminous Mysteries bring a deeper understanding to the public life of Jesus. They fill in the blanks between the childhood of Jesus and His suffering and death on the cross. The Sorrowful Mysteries remind us of how much Jesus loves us. They recall how He suffered and died just for us. The Glorious Mysteries tell us what happened after Jesus died - His Resurrection, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the love Jesus had for his Mother. This month the children have had the opportunity to focus on these mysteries in our optional Monday lunchtime Rosary Club and they have also received a set of Rosary beads courtesy of the Catenian Rosary Group to support their mission.

## WEDNESDAY WORD

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

## WELLSPRING – THANK YOU

Thank you for all the kind food donations for The Wellspring. The response this year has been amazing. We have been sent the following lovely message from them:

*'Thank you, Saint Mary's, for your kind donations of food to The Wellspring. We really appreciate your kindness. The cost-of-living crisis is affecting everyone, leading to fewer financial and practical donations at a time when demand is higher than ever, with more people needing to access our services locally. Your generosity will help make it possible for us to ensure that people have the support they need to prevent them from being homeless; that people who do become homeless are helped to secure safe accommodation with the support they need to make a new home; and that no one has to sleep rough.'*



## OPEN EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS/CARERS



There will be an **open morning from 10:00am – 11:30am on Wednesday 15 November** and an **open afternoon from 1:30pm – 3:00pm on Tuesday 21 November 2022** for prospective parents/carers who are considering sending their children to St Mary's in September 2024. If you are in this position, or know of families who are, please spread the word. At both events prospective parents/carers will have the opportunity to visit our wonderful school, meet some of our amazing children and staff and see St Mary's in action.



## SPONSORED BOUNCE AND SPARKLE DISCO

The children had a fantastic bounce day on Wednesday. We are very grateful to all our parent volunteers for the intense counting that went on! Thank you to all those who have paid in sponsorship money so far to the GoFundMe page. Please pay in any outstanding monies by the first week back after half term break. The PTA want to get the wish list items ordered asap! If you have yet to donate [the link is here](#). We are hugely grateful to Graham from CastleKingdom who very kindly donated the bouncy castle for us to use. Please have a look at his site if you need a bouncy castle for an event <https://www.castlekingdomstockport.co.uk/>. His number is 07826516765.



Tickets for our fabulous **Sparkle Disco** to be held on **3 November** are now on sale! Tickets are priced at £3. We are having one big family disco from 5:00-6:15pm. There will be a tuck shop, hot dogs, pizza, tattoos and a licenced bar. Sparkly clothing can be worn! Tickets available via the [PTA website](#).

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2024



The deadline of **31 October** for Year 6 parents/carers to apply for a secondary school place for September 2024 is fast approaching. 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.

## ONLINE SAFETY – EPIC GAMES GUIDANCE

Epic Games (which includes *Fortnite*, *Fall Guys* and *Rocket League*) provide some very useful features for parents to manage their child's gaming experience. This includes 'cabin accounts' which are accounts where the child is under 13 and certain restrictions are applied by default, e.g. talking to other players. Given the popularity of these games it's possible some parents aren't aware of this feature, so I thought this was worth sharing. You can find further details and instructions from Internet Matters [here](#). On **28 November**, we will be holding an Online Safety presentation/workshop for parents from 6:00pm–7:00pm. Tanya Cross, who is the PSHE Lead from Stockport Council, will lead this presentation. I warmly invite you to this important meeting.



## CROSS COUNTRY NEWS



Twelve children participated in the 2nd School's Cross Country Event at Woodbank Park on 7 October. Congratulations go to Harry W who came 3rd in his race, Lucy W 5th and Isaac C 1st. Very well done to the other nine children braving the elements on a Saturday morning to run for St Mary's. The next race is on **Saturday 4 November**. We would love to see more of you come along, especially Year 3-4 boys.

On Wednesday afternoon there was a schools' Cross Country Competition at Marple Hall School. The approach of storm Babette did not put off 26 children from competing. In 1st place were/was Harry W, Lucy W and Isaac C in their respective races. Lucy C came 3rd. St Mary's Yr 3-4 boys team came 1st, they were from Year 4, Harry, Isaac J, Jacob and Jack. Isaac J

was awarded the 'Inspire' badge for the enthusiasm and support he showed for his team mates. ALL the children were amazing, showing their strength and determination to do their best. Mrs Ashton and all our parent supporters were very proud of the children's efforts.

## ST RALPH SHERWIN STAFF PRIDE AWARDS



We constantly celebrate the achievements of our wonderful children at St Mary's. This week I also want to offer congratulations to two staff members: Mrs Ashton and Mrs Bradbury. They have been recognised by the Trust for their exemplary dedication to the children of St Mary's. Mrs Ashton has given many years of time towards PE and sports provision at St Mary's and her enthusiasm is admired by children, staff and parents alike. We are lucky to have such a committed and dedicated member of the team. Mrs Bradbury has shown dedication towards meeting and supporting the needs of pupils at St Mary's as our Senior Mental Health lead. Her calm and reassuring approach helps pupils to feel safe and nurtured in her care. Mrs Bradbury ensures that mental health and wellbeing is a priority for St Mary's and recognises the importance of a happy school. Congratulations to them both on their achievement and thank you for your dedicated service to the St Mary's school family.

## 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 <b>bold</b>.)</i>
30 October	School reopens following the October half term break.
31 October	<a href="#">Closing date for Nursery place applications.</a>
31 October	<a href="#">Closing date for Secondary School applications.</a>
31 October	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Programme (Y1 – Y6).
<b>31 October</b>	<b>Online booking for Parents Evening will open at 5:30pm. The link will be sent via email at this time.</b>
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. 5:00pm – 6:15pm. Tickets available at £3 via the <a href="#">PTA website</a> .
4 November	Cross Country at Woodbank Park.
8 November	CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching Workshops KS1.
<b>10 November</b>	<b>Remembrance gathering 10:55 – 11:10am.</b>
11 November	St Mary's Parish Christmas Fair, New Mills 10:30am – 1:00pm. All welcome.
<b>12 November</b>	<b>Garden Working Party. 10:00am – 1:00pm. All help appreciated!</b>
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.
<b>16 November</b>	<b>Mad Science Assembly.</b>
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.
<b>23 November</b>	<b>Individual and sibling photographs.</b>
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. All welcome.
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.
22 December	School closes for the Christmas break.

**Wishing you all a relaxing half term break.**

**See you all on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October. Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.**