



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 8: 3 November 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



All Saints' Day

During their collective worship time this week, the children have been reflecting on holiness. This week we have celebrated two important Feasts, All Saints and All Souls, connected with holiness. The children have been learning that a Saint is one of those women or men who in their life set an example of how to live a life for God. The children have reflected on how they give hope to us all that we can become better people and one day become Saints ourselves. The children have learned how Jesus gave us the instructions to live a holy life in the Beatitudes. We

celebrated Mass for the solemnity of All Saints on Wednesday with Fr Emmanuel and parishioners. The children's reverence, respect and participation was exemplary. This week the children have also been learning that in November we remember all those who have died and we keep them in our prayers.

A reminder that next **Monday, 6 November, at 2:30pm Year 6** will be leading our whole school collective worship on the theme of remembrance. All parents/grandparents are welcome to attend.

WEDNESDAY WORD

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME – HOLY SPIRIT PARISH, MARPLE

Father Bill is holding the first session for 'First Forgiveness' next Monday Evening, **6 November, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**. All those Candidates who have already signed up, or are in the process of doing so, and who are parishioners of Holy Spirit Marple, are invited to come along at 6:30pm. Parents/carers please note starting and finishing Times. Parents/carers of Candidates from St. Mary's Parish, Marple Bridge - details will follow in the coming month.



2023 POPPY APPEAL



Each year the Royal British Legion honour servicemen and women through their annual Poppy Appeal. Poppies and child friendly memorabilia are available from the school office. The suggested donation is £1 per item. On **Friday 10 November at 10:50am** we will be holding a short service of remembrance on the playground to which you are all very welcome to attend. Mrs Groarke-Booth has kindly offered to play the Last Post and if any parents/carers serving in the Scouts, Guides, Cadets, Armed or Emergency Services would like to join us in their uniforms, you are most welcome.

PARENTS EVENING

A reminder that parents evening will take place in person on **Wednesday 15 and Wednesday 22 November 2022 from 3:45pm to 6:45pm**. Appointments are scheduled for ten minutes and offer you the opportunity to discuss how your child(ren) has settled into their new class, an opportunity to look at aspects of their work to date and discuss key targets for the coming year. As last year we are using an online booking system and appointments can be made [here](#). We hope you find the booking system easy and convenient to use.

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

ST MARY'S PARISH MARPLE BRIDGE AND NEW MILLS CHRISTMAS FAIR



The parish of St Mary's, Marple Bridge, and The Annunciation, New Mills, is holding its first parish Christmas Fair since the Covid pandemic - and, as part of the parish family, you are invited! The Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 11 November, from 10:00am to 1:00pm** at the parish hall in New Mills (St. Mary's Road, New Mills, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 3BW).

There will be a tombola, cakes, refreshments, music, stalls - and the two parish schools will be selling their Christmas offerings, too! It would be wonderful for the parishioners to see our pupils

and families at this festive event.

OCTOBER HOUSE POINTS

Please see the totals for the month of October. Yellow team are currently in the lead but I am sure it will be a close call by the end of the term...

Red	Yellow	Blue	Green
874	963	894	868



NSPCC SPEAK OUT. STAY SAFE PROGRAMME



This week the children participated in the Speak Out. Stay Safe programme. The programme was delivered by the NSPCC. Speak Out. Stay Safe is a safeguarding programme for children aged 5 to 11 years old (Years 1 – 6). It helps children understand:

- Abuse in all its forms and how to recognise the signs of abuse.
- That abuse is never a child's fault and they have the right to be safe.
- Where to get help and the sources of help available to them, including the [Childline service](#).

If you would like to know more about the *Speak out. Stay safe.* programme, please [click here](#).

LIVING STREETS TRAVEL TRACKER

As you will be aware, we encourage our children to walk, park and stride, scoot and even cycle to school. A big shout out to Y4 who were 68% active this week meaning they walked, park and strode, scooted or cycled to school. Well done!



TRAVEL TRACKER

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

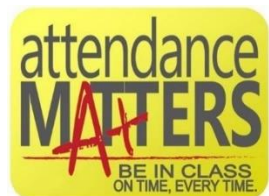
Will be held on **Thursday 23 November**. Preschool siblings are more than welcome to join their sisters and/or brothers who attend St Mary's and can be brought into school via the office entrance from 8:30am.

OPEN EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS/CARERS

There will be an **open morning from 10:00am – 11:00am on Wednesday 15 November and an open afternoon from 1:30pm – 2:30pm on Tuesday 21 November 2023** 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.



ATTENDANCE UPDATE



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 October is below. Our school target is 97%. Congratulations everyone on your amazing efforts this month. As a school we have achieved a very good **96.5%** attendance. When rounded we have hit our target for two months running - fantastic! Nationally, attendance currently stands at 93.9%, so again, well done St Mary's for our strong attendance and thank you parents/carers for supporting strong attendance habits.

October 2023 Attendance	
Rec	97.1 %
Y1	96.1 %
Y2	96.9 %
Y3	96.8 %
Y4	96.2 %
Y5	96.7 %
Y6	95.6%
Overall	96.5 %

As per our 2023-2024 Attendance Policy, requests for leave of absence during term time must be made using the form available from the school office or [on the school website](#). Forms should be **submitted at least 15 school days prior to the requested leave**. Please note that holidays taken during term time (whatever the circumstances) cannot be authorised and may result in Stockport Council issuing each parent with a Fixed Penalty Notice. For further details, please refer to the [Stockport Council website](#) and our [Attendance Policy](#) is available on the school website.

PTA NEWS

The 2023 St Mary's School Christmas Fair will be Friday 8 December - 3.30pm-5.30pm

A little advance notice... We have started to plan for our fantastic Christmas Fair. Please can you send in the following items over the following Fridays in November and December to support the fair and make it an enjoyable and successful event...

Friday 17 November - unwanted gifts for *Elfridges* and wrapping paper.

Friday 24 November - chocolates for the Chocolate Tombola.

Friday 1 December - bottles for the Bottle Tombola. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

Friday 8 December - DAY OF THE FAIR cakes/ biscuits.

In exchange for a donated item, the children can wear their own clothes on each of these Fridays. We will also be having a Teddy Adoption stall so if you have any new/ great condition teddies that you would like to donate please send these in from 3 December.

Tickets for Father Christmas will go on sale online in pre bookable slots - details for this shortly on the [PTA website](#). If anyone has any raffle prizes they would like to donate please contact the PTA: pta@stmaryspta.org.uk

The Christmas fair is one of our biggest fundraisers and it is a very special afternoon. If anyone would like to help at the fair, please get in touch with the PTA. pta@stmaryspta.org.uk. We particularly need people to help clear and tidy up at the end of the fair.

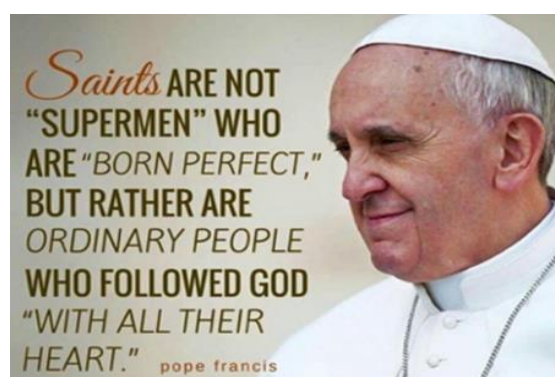


**ST MARY'S
PTA**

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>
3 November	PTA Sparkle Disco. 5:00pm – 6:15pm.
4 November	Cross Country at Woodbank Park.
6 November	Y6 Collective Worship at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome
6 November	Sacramental Programme begins at Holy Spirit Parish 6:30pm – 7:30pm.
8 November	CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching Workshops KS1.
10 November	Remembrance gathering 10:50 – 11:10am. All welcome.
11 November	St Mary's Parish Christmas Fair, New Mills 10:00am – 1:00pm. All welcome.
12 November	Garden Working Party. 10:00am – 1:00pm. All help appreciated!
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.
16 November	Mad Science Assembly.
17 November	Christmas Fair donations - unwanted gifts for Elfridges and wrapping paper.
20 November	Y3 Collective Worship at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
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. All welcome.
23 November	Individual and sibling photographs.
24 November	Christmas Fair donations - chocolates - for the chocolate tombola.
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. All welcome.
29 November	Nasal flu vaccinations (YR – Y6).
1 December	Christmas Fair donations - bottles for the Bottle Tombola. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic.
2 December	Marple Winter Wonderland 1:00pm – 6:00pm. Children signing (time TBC).
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	Christmas Fair donations - cakes/biscuits.
8 December	PTA Christmas Fair. 3:30pm – 5:30pm. All welcome.
11 December	Pantomime in school (funded by the PTA).
13 December	EYFS Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm. All welcome.
13 December	Christmas Lunch.
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.
4 January 2024	School reopens following the Christmas break.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER



**Wishing you all a safe and fun bonfire weekend.
Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.**