



# 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 9: 10 November 2023**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Well done and thank you to Year 6 who led us in a fantastic collective worship on Monday afternoon. The children considered how during times of war and emergency, there have always been people trying to help and protect others. Remembrance is a time when we give thanks for the people who help and protect others now, and who have done so in the past. We listened to the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae and the children shared some of their own war poems that they have written during History lessons. The mission for the children was to show their remembrance, for example by attending a service or observing the silence. Year 6's

messages helped us to prepare for our poignant and reflective whole school Remembrance Service this morning. The children respectfully reflected on those servicewoman and men who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy today. Special thanks to Mrs Groarke-Booth who playing a moving Last Post and Reveille (The Rouse) and to Mrs Tadikonda for representing the armed services. This bugle call rouses the living back to duty, after having paid respects to the memory of those who gave their lives for peace. At this time, let us continue to give thanks for their service and we pray that Jesus' message of peace be realised throughout the world, especially in Israel, Palestine, Russia and Ukraine.

## WEDNESDAY WORD

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

## WHATSAPP PARENT GUIDE

Even though WhatsApp has an age restriction of 16+, schools find it the most popular messaging app from Y4/5 upwards. Over the last year or so WhatsApp have introduced new features The link below provides an updated guide for parents/carers so that you can ensure the most appropriate settings are applied for you child/ren. You can find the article/guide [here](#).



## PARENTS EVENING



A reminder that parents evening will take place in person on **Wednesday 15 and Wednesday 22 November 2023 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 any remaining appointments can be made [here](#). We hope you have found using the booking system easy and convenient.

## 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 **tomorrow, 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,



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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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.

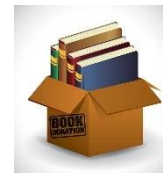
### ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB



Our October 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 pupil's bought or borrowed their own copy of the books to read at home. This week, we shared new recommendations for the month ahead. You should have received a separate email with details of our November Book Club. If you haven't, please contact the School Office.

### BOOK DONATIONS

Whilst on the subject of books, in the coming months, we are hoping to update our Library space. We are looking for donations of good quality chapter books suitable for children aged 6-11. If you have any suitable books, in good condition, that you would like to rehome, these would be gratefully received. Books can be handed into the School Office. Thank you in advance.



### INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

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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.



### PTA NEWS



ST MARY'S  
PTA

**Sponsored Bounce** We have raised a huge £2941. Thank you to all who contributed!

The PTA and the teachers have discussed how we spend this as there were large differences in the amounts raised between classes. We have decided to split this amount equally between all classes to spend on their wish lists. We hope you can understand why we feel this is the fairest

option. Thank you again for being so generous. The children will be very excited when their items arrive and we will share photographs of each classes items with you in due course.

### 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.

*The 17, 24 November and 1 December will be school uniform days as we know this helps parents and also supports the children's learning. The 8 December will be a non-uniform day.* 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](https://ptastmarys.org.uk/). If anyone has any raffle prizes they would like to donate please contact the PTA: [pta@stmaryspta.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:pta@stmaryspta.org.uk). We particularly need people to help clear and tidy up at the end of the fair.

## ANTI BULLYING WEEK 13 – 17 NOVEMBER 2023

The national theme for 2023 is 'Make A Noise About Bullying'. Whilst we teach the children about friendships on a daily basis, Anti-Bullying Week provides us with specific opportunity to remind everyone whether it's in school, at home, in the community or online, to reach out and show each other the support we need. The National Anti-Bullying Week in England is coordinated by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week>.



Throughout Anti-Bullying Week the children will be learning, through their PSHE/RHE topics, what makes a great friend, the different types of bullying there are (race, gender, cyber etc), how to recognise them and what to do if they or someone else is being bullied. For example, children in Y6, will be learning how to be safe using social media and the correct use of social media so that nobody will feel bullied as a result of inappropriate posting.

## ODD SOCKS DAY – 13 NOVEMBER

All you need to do is wear odd socks and the more colourful the better! It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique. Odd Socks Day is being held on **Monday 13th November** this year to launch Anti Bullying Week. During the week in school, we will be looking at some of the Protected Characteristics and talking about respect for all linked to Anti-Bullying Week.

## 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>
11 November	St Mary's Parish Christmas Fair, New Mills 10:00am – 1:00pm. All welcome.
13 – 17 November	Anti-Bullying Week.
<b>13 November</b>	<b>Odd Socks Day – to launch Anti-Bullying Week.</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.
16 November	Mad Science Assembly.
17 November	Christmas Fair donations - unwanted gifts for Elfridges and wrapping paper.
<b>19 November</b>	<b>Garden Working Party. 10:00am – 1:00pm. All welcome. (Note change of date.)</b>
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 in the school hall 6:00pm – 7:00pm.
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	Non-uniform day in exchange for 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.
14 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.

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