



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week and last, we have been very fortunate to welcome Will Cruddace who works for CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) as an Education Officer to St Mary's. Will has been working with each class on the themes of Catholic Social Teaching: dignity, solidarity, the common good, the option for the poor, peace, care for creation and the environment, the dignity of work and participation. The children have been introduced to these themes in a child friendly, fun and interactive way. Please speak to your child about the characters Will used to help the children to remember the themes. Catholic Social Teaching (CST) is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral

compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. Our faith calls us to love God and to love our neighbours in every situation, especially our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Following in the footsteps of Christ, we hope to make present in our unjust and broken world, the justice, love and peace of God. We will be focusing in more depth on one theme per half term beginning in January with participation. An overview of CST themes is available in this short video [here](#). In our whole school worship time today, we celebrated 'A Good Friend Award' across our classes, celebrating pupils who are kind to others and recognise the value of friendship. We recognise that as well as needing our friends, we also need to be a great friend to those around us. A great way to end national Anti-bullying week. Congratulations to all certificate winners!

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

CONFESSION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024 (St Mary's, Marple Bridge parish)



If you are resident in the parish of St Mary's, Marple Bridge and would like your child to join this programme and receive these two sacraments, please obtain an application form, which are available from St Mary's Church and return the completed form to Jo Barber or Fr Emmanuel. Children must be baptised Catholics, attend church regularly, and be in Year 3 or above. The programme will begin in the New Year with a parents' meeting after the 9:30am Mass on a date to be notified nearer the time.

GARDENING VOLUNTEERS

To support our gardening therapy groups held each Wednesday, we are always looking for new and enthusiastic volunteers for small or larger projects, and for any period of time. We will be having a gardening working party on **Sunday 19th November from 10:00am – 1:00pm**. Please come along if you are free. Any children volunteering will receive a gardening gift!



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Save the date! On **Thursday 14 December** we will hold our Christmas dinner in school. This traditional festive lunch will comprise turkey with all the trimmings and a festive desert. There is also a vegetarian option. If your child does not normally have a school dinner, but they wish to have one on this occasion as a 'one off', please let Mrs Towell in the School Office know by **Friday 24 November**. After this date it will not be possible to order an extra lunch. £2.20 can be paid on Parent Pay or preferably cash sent in an envelope marked with your child's name and class.



Christmas jumpers may be worn on Christmas Dinner day. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, do not fear - you are not expected to buy one; you can let your child wear a favourite jumper instead.

BOOK DONATIONS

We are currently updating 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

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

Will be held next **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

The open morning for prospective parents held on Wednesday was a great success with prospective parents visiting from London and Wales! We will now hold an **open afternoon from 1:30pm – 3:00pm 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 the event 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

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

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.

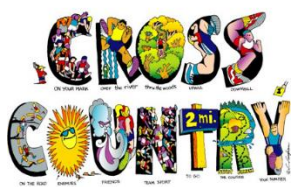
Tickets for Father Christmas will go on sale online in pre bookable slots - details for this shortly on the [PTA website](http://pta.stmaryspta.org.uk). If anyone has any raffle prizes they would like to donate please contact the PTA: pta@stmaryspta.org.uk. The Christmas fair is one of our biggest fundraisers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

ESAFETY MEETING FOR PARENTS

Will take place on **Tuesday 28 November from 6:00pm – 7:00pm** in the school hall. The meeting will be led by Tanya Cross, Stockport Council's Schools Health and Wellbeing Advisor. The session will provide useful information to help you support your children to stay safe online. In order for Tanya to come to St. Mary's to run the session, we need to ensure that enough parents will be attending. Can I please ask that you register using [this link](#) by Friday 24 November. In the link there is a place for you to ask questions that you would like Tanya to try and answer in her session. Please be aware that if there is not enough interest, unfortunately the event will not be able to take place. The form will take less than two minutes to complete! Many thanks for your support in this vital area.



CROSS COUNTRY UPDATES



Saturday 4th November saw the third School's Cross Country event at Woodbank Park. In true traditional cross country style, there was lots of mud! Congratulations go to all 14 children that participated, especially Lucy C who came 3rd, Harry W 4th, Lucy W 2nd and Isaac C 1st in their respective races. The children displayed our SANCTA values in spades – especially challenge, aspiration, achievement and support. The next race will take place on Saturday 25th November.

THE MONTH 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>
15 and 22 November	Parents Evenings 3:45pm - 6:45pm.
17 November	Christmas Fair donations - unwanted gifts for Elfridges and wrapping paper.
19 November	Garden Working Party. 10:00am – 1:00pm. All welcome.
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.
25 November	Cross Country at Woodbank Park.
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. Please register using this link by Friday 24 November.
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 singing at 3:25pm.
4 December	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn 1:15 – 2:15pm.
4 December	Advent Service – 2:30pm in the school hall. 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.**