



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Aid to the
Church in Need

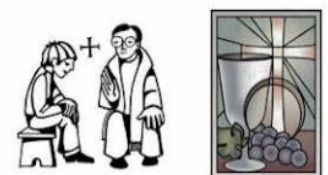
On Wednesday the children joined their prayers with many others around the world for Red Wednesday. This is a campaign organised by [Aid to the Church in Need](#) to raise awareness of the persecution of Christians and all faiths globally. We reflected on our mission to show love and care for our sisters and brothers throughout the world and we prayed for all who suffer because of their faith. Children in Early Years and KS1 reflected on how we are all a part of God's family, like sheep in a flock. We shared the parable of the Good Shepherd which led

children to wonder who the Good Shepherd could be and why he wants to keep his sheep safe. We then prayed for everyone in God's family, especially those who are in need. As Christians we are called to help and serve and our liturgy helped children to pray for the needs of others. KS2 pupils thought about how there are many Christians across the world who suffer because of their love for Jesus. They show amazing bravery and faith each day. We shared the Gospel story of Jesus walking on the water and his friend Peter stepping out of the boat. We reflected upon how persecuted Christians step out with courage each day. We then entered into Jesus' presence and prayed for our brothers and sisters in need. We concluded in song with the hymn 'Oceans.' Last week I shared how the children have been introduced to the themes of Catholic Social Teaching and I am very impressed with how quickly the children have made links with Red Wednesday and how our SANCTA values, that we strive to live out each day, share God's love and care with others. This week Year 3 also led our school worship on Monday focusing on the Feast of St Andrew. They linked how St Andrew lived his life for Jesus through beautiful readings, prayers and some fantastic Scottish dancing! Fantastic work Year 3. We now gear up for Advent and Christmas and look forward to celebrating these great Church seasons with you. Please see the diary on page 3 or the Collective Worship calendar for further details of forthcoming events in school and in the community.

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.



Sacramental Preparation



**DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM**

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR

headteacher@mmb.srscmat.co.uk

Company No 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

GARDENING WORKING PARTY UPDATE



A big thank you to Iona (Reception) and her dad, Daisy (Y2) and her mum, Aoife (Y6), Jonah (Y2) and their dad, Madeleine (Y4), George (Y2) and Mrs Buckley and of course to our fabulous Mr Percy for their help on Sunday with the willow dome and getting the dead hedge and woven willow fence ready for the children on Wednesdays. Your hard work is much appreciated, and everyone can see the fruits of your labours! 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. Please contact Mr Percy via the School Office if you can offer any support with our gardening provision.

RECEPTION PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

If you are applying for a school (Reception) place for next September, applications should be made by the **15th January 2024** via the [Stockport Admissions website](#). Please note: *if your child attends St Mary's Nursery, this does not guarantee your child a place in the school.* You will need to complete the application form using the link above by the closing date.



VERY IMPORTANT ESAFETY MEETING FOR PARENTS

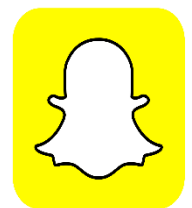


Will take place on **Tuesday 28 November from 6:00pm – 7:00pm** in the school hall. The meeting will be led by Tanya Cross, Stockport Council's Schools Health and Wellbeing Advisor. The session will provide useful information to help you support your children to stay safe online. In order for Tanya to 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 Sunday 26 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. So far only 13 parents have confirmed their attendance. Online safety is vitally important to our children and this meeting will support you in keeping your children safe online. Please try to attend if you are able to. **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.

PARENTS GUIDE TO SNAPCHAT MY AI

Chatbots are springing up everywhere now, including within apps that children and young people use, and there have been some concerns over the ethics, the information and guidance that is being given by the chatbot and more, particularly in relation to guidance that is age appropriate, privacy concerns and misinformation. The following blog for parents explains what the chatbot is, how it works, the issues and some tips for parents. You can find the blog [here](#).



NURTURE GROUPS, ELSA (EMOTIONAL LITERACY SUPPORT) AND MSU (MOTOR SKILLS UNITED – GROSS AND FINE MOTOR SKILLS SUPPORT)



We are fortunate to be able to offer these intervention groups for individuals/small groups after the half term break, led by a very talented team of trained teaching assistants from within our school team. Children may access these resources as a short block of support at any time throughout their journey through St Mary's. If your child is attending any of these sessions, this will have been discussed at our recent parents evenings. For any enquiries or further information please contact Mrs Norburn.

THE BIG AMBITION – HAVE YOUR SAY!



The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched [The Big Ambition, a national survey](#) of children and young people across England. The [Big Ambition](#) aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England. The survey will be open until Friday 15 December.

PTA NEWS



ST MARY'S
PTA

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

Thank you for all of your support in preparing for our Christmas Fair which is now only two weeks away! Please can you send in the following items over the following Fridays in December to support the fair and make it an

enjoyable and successful event...

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

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

The 1 December will be a school uniform day 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](#). 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.

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>
25 November	Cross Country at Woodbank Park.
26 November	Parish Ambassadors updates to Holy Spirit and St Mary's parishes.
28 November	Very important Online Safety Talk/workshop for parents in the school hall 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Please register using this link by Sunday 26 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.
17 December	Carols at Holy Spirit Catholic Church (4:00pm). 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.
4 January 2024	School reopens following the Christmas break.

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