



# 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 12: 1 December 2023**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Today we have joyfully celebrated the Trust Feast Day of Saint Ralph Sherwin. We joined with the 24 other schools in the Trust to focus on the Trust's vision, mission and values and how these align with those of our school. We had a wonderful liturgy this morning which helped us to launch our day and remember that our mission is to journey with Mary to Jesus and share the good news of



the gospels with others through our actions each day. Our SANCTA values help us to do this intertwined with our Golden Rules and Pocket Principles – Be respectful, be responsible and be ready to learn. Through the day, the children have participated in engaging and fun learning linked to our curriculum with each class having focused on one of our SANCTA values: **S**upport, **A**spire, **N**urture, **C**hallenge, **T**rust and **A**chieve. Each class has also contributed to a collaborative whole school art project that will be presented to the Trust. Each child has created a self-portrait which, when put together, creates a very clever collage of St Ralph Sherwin. This represents how, we at St Mary's, along with wider Trust family, strive to 'Grow in faith, serve with love, transform our world; together in Christ'. We rounded off our day by coming together and sharing our learning and finding out more about Saint Ralph Sherwin – what he did and how we can use his example of love and service in our own lives. Amazing work St Mary's!

**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.

## TRAVELLING CRIBS ARE ON THEIR WAY



Our Travelling Cribs started their journey this week. Each pack contains a set of beautiful wooden figures, and additional items, to enable every family in our school to have an overnight visit from the Holy Family. Please make time to enjoy this experience, whichever day you receive the Travelling Crib, and send the pack back to school the next day, so that everyone has a turn and can be included before we break up for Christmas.

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

Some of the children who have received individual/group music tuition will be performing for the school on Thursday 21 December at 9:30am. If you are free, you are more than welcome to join us for a few festive renditions and to celebrate the children's hard work in music. The concert will last approximately 40 minutes.



## ONLINE SAFETY MEETING FOR PARENTS/CARERS



Thank you to the parents who came to the E-safety session led by Tanya Cross from Stockport Local Authority on Tuesday evening. We all learnt a great deal regarding internet safety and different ways we can keep our children safe online, especially with the rise of AI (Artificial Intelligence). Further resources and links have been added to our school website providing a wealth of information to help support you as parents. I am working with Tanya to provide a follow up session in the spring either online or in person at a time when childcare can be supported. Updates will follow and we will poll you as to what might work best to support you in this important area of child safety. The link to the resources on our school website is [here](#).



**DIOCESE OF  
NOTTINGHAM**

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Company No 7937154



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

## HOUSE POINTS



Please see the totals for the month of November below. Blue team are still in the lead, but it is going to be a close call by the end of term!

Red	Yellow	Blue	Green
1,275	1,329	<b>1,386</b>	1,284

## DRAMA WORKSHOPS

On Wednesday, Mrs Groake-Booth led drama workshops for all children in key stages 1 and 2. The children had a fantastic time focusing on speaking and listening, teamwork skills and getting a taster of what it like to 'tread the boards'. Mrs Groarke-Booth runs her own drama group, Kickstart Drama. If you would like to sign up for a free trial session, contact Sarah on [kickstartdrama@gmail.com](mailto:kickstartdrama@gmail.com) or via her website [www.sarahgroarke.co.uk](http://www.sarahgroarke.co.uk). Thank you, Mrs Groarke-Booth, for again sharing your outstanding talents and giving up your time to work with our children.



## IT'S PANTO SEASON... OH NO IT'S NOT! OH YES IT IS!



Our fantastic PTA are generously funding an in-house pantomime which will be performed for the children in the school hall on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**. The children will watch a production of Dick Whittington to help with their festive preparations. Thank you to our PTA for your amazing work and support.

## RECEPTION PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

If you are applying for a school (Reception) place for next September, applications should be made by the **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024** via the [Stockport Admissions website](https://www.stockportadmissions.co.uk). Please note: *if you 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.



## NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE UPDATE



At St Mary's we believe 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 November is below. Our school target is 97%. Congratulations everyone on your amazing efforts this month, especially with winter illnesses taking hold. As a school we have achieved a very good 96.3% attendance overall since September. Nationally, attendance currently stands at 93.7%, so again, well done St Mary's for our strong attendance and thank you parents/carers for supporting strong attendance and punctuality habits.

November 2023 Attendance	
Rec	96.32 %
Y1	95.67%
Y2	96.55%
Y3	93.91%
Y4	92.11%
Y5	95.05%
Y6	95.43%
Overall	94.95%

## TEACHING ASSISTANT VACANCY

We currently have a fixed term vacancy for a part time (10 hours 2.5 hours per day over four days) Teaching assistant to work at our amazing school to cover a maternity leave from January. Further details are available [here](#).



## 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 next Friday, 8 December - 3.30pm-5.30pm**

Thank you for all of your support in preparing for our Christmas Fair which is now only one week away! Only one more week of donations and we thank you wholeheartedly for your generous support. Next Friday, the day of the fair, we ask that **cakes and/or biscuits** are donated. In return for these donations, the children can wear non-uniform to school. We ask that suitable clothes choices are made, in particular footwear, given the cold weather.

Tickets for Father Christmas are on sale online in pre bookable slots - details are on the [PTA website](#). 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. We look forward to seeing you all next Friday. **The PTA meeting scheduled for Tuesday 5 December has been cancelled. This was an additional meeting for the Christmas fair, if needed.**

## 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>
2 December	Marple Winter Wonderland 1:00pm – 4:00pm. 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.
5 December	<del>CANCELLED – PTA Meeting via Zoom at 8pm.</del>
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	Dick Whittington 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.
<b>21 December</b>	<b>Christmas Music Concert at 9:30am in the school hall.</b>
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.
15 January	Closing date for Reception place admissions. <a href="#">Stockport Admissions website</a>
<b>31 January</b>	<b>Rookie Rockstars Concert (surnames A-M) 6:00-7:00pm in the hall.</b>
<b>1 February</b>	<b>Rookie Rockstars Concert (surnames N-Z) 6:00-7:00pm in the hall.</b>

**Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.**  
**It is Marple Winter Wonderland tomorrow from 1pm. St Mary's will be singing at 3:25pm.**