



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Our whole school Collective Worship this week was on the themes of Peace and Solidarity, two of our Catholic Social Teaching strands that we are all called as Catholics to follow. We heard the stories of two of the CAFOD Catholic Social Teaching animals, Daisy the Dove and Shriti the Bear and how they lived out the teachings of Jesus in their lives. We then reflected on St Paul's words to the Colossians (Colossians 3:13-14). 'Bear with each other and forgive one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.' We often get caught up in our own lives and forget to care for those around us. If we do good in our community, the whole community benefits so do the country and eventually the world. The good has a ripple effect unfortunately so does the bad in the world we spent time praying for peace in our world particularly in the Ukraine, Russia and the Holy

Land. The Children's mission for the week was to share the sign of peace with someone highlighting the importance of positive actions. Let us listen to the words of St Paul and "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." This will lead to peace. We stand in solidarity with all those suffering and pray for end of conflicts.

Next Monday, **22 January**, Year 6 will lead our collective worship at 2:30pm to which you are all warmly invited.

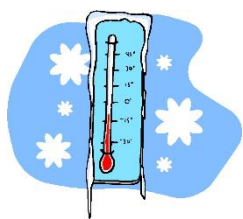
**WEDNESDAY WORD** The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word of God with your children.

### SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS: ST MARY'S SAFEGUARDING TEAM

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. Should any parent have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform the school's Designated Safeguarding Leader: Mr Nish. We also have three Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leaders: Mrs Bradbury, Miss Poole and Mrs Thompson. In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a statutory duty to discuss the issue with one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads to seek further advice.



### OUTDOOR PE KITS AND CLOTHING



Winter has arrived with a vengeance this week. The children will continue to do PE outdoors when the weather is safe. Please can you ensure that your child has tracksuit bottoms and a warm long-sleeved top. The children will also play outside when it is safe to do so. Please ensure that your child/ren has a suitable winter coat, hat, scarf and gloves.

## WONDERDOME – PLANETARIUM VISIT TO ST MARYS



All classes visited the Wonderdome [mobile planetarium](#) today. Stepping into a WonderDome they were transported on a cosmic journey, a thrilling adventure exploring the wonders of the Universe. The captivating shows were tailored to all ages, delivering curriculum-focused, presenter-led content which certainly ignited our children's curiosity and sparked a desire to explore and learn more. From planet formation to the birth and death of stars, from launching rockets to stepping foot on other worlds, it was an

unforgettable opportunity to bring the marvels of space right into our school hall. We hopefully have Inspired future space explorers and kickstarted the children's lifelong love of space and science with WonderDome. One child said to me: 'Wonderdome made me feel like I was in space – it was out of this world! I want to learn so much about space now.' Please look on your child's class Team page for photos of their experience. A huge thank you to our PTA for funding this exciting experience.

## ROOKIE ROCKSTARS

Rookie Rockstars are delighted to be coming to work with St Mary's this month. Rookie Rockstars is a Scottish charity focussing on mental health and wellbeing in children and young people. They offer a free primary school programme that brings professional musicians and performing artists into school to work with the children over three consecutive days.



They teach the children five original songs about wellbeing and mental health, encouraging them to look after themselves and others as best as they can. On 31 or 1 February, the children get to be rockstars for an evening as they perform in their very own concert for members of the community, showcasing all they learned with Rookie Rockstars and the team. It's great fun for everyone involved and I am sure this will be a highlight of the school year for many. Children with surnames starting with the letters A-L will perform from 6-7pm on 31 January and children and children with surnames M-Z will perform from 6-7pm on 1 February. Tickets for the concerts will go on sale from 23 January. Please see the letter sent today for further information.

## NSPCC NUMBER DAY 2024

Celebrate Number Day with St Mary's! On **Friday 2 February**, we will have a whole day of number activities in school. This is in association with the NSPCC, who provide activities in exchange for a small donation and we are keen to support this children's charity. One of our online platforms, Times Tables Rock Stars, used in Years 3-6, are supporting this day with a special tournament –



children will be given more information on this in school and there will be national and in-school prizes to be won! On Friday 2 February, the children are invited to dress up:

**Nursery – Year 2** we are asking the children to come into school that day wearing an item of clothing with a number, shape or pattern on it.

**Years 3 – 6** it's time for you to show off your best Rock Star moves. Anything goes! Punk, grunge, metal, Madchester, indie... the list is endless. You can wear a band t-shirt, be a famous rock star or create your own outfit, accessories or hairstyle to show you are a rock legend. Please do not feel under any pressure to buy costumes. As with all our school 'dressing up' events, it's all about having fun and, in this case, promoting Maths so your child can achieve their potential. Please send your child in on the day, with a suggested donation of £1 for the NSPCC. This is our thank you to them for the initiative we had in the Advent term: Speak Out and Stay Safe!

## YEAR 6 PGL AND SATs PARENTS MEETING



There will be a meeting for parents of children in Year 6 on Wednesday 24 January from 6:00pm – 7:00pm regarding the forthcoming residential visit to PGL in Shropshire in March. The meeting will also double as a SATs information session allowing parents to understand more about the tests children will take in May of Year 6 and how you can support your child in preparing for them. This is a meeting for adults rather than children.

## PARKING ON LOWRY DRIVE AND CONSTABLE DRIVE

Following Tuesday's accidents on Lowry Drive and Constable Drive, thank you for respecting our previous requests not to park on Lowry Drive. We have noticed that this has eased, which we really appreciate and ask you to continue to keep this area clear. We know how busy pick up and drop off times are and once again ask that you remain respectful of our neighbours. Please do not park over driveways or idle unnecessarily. We have contacted Stockport Council and our local Councillors to petition them asking that during cold weather the roads around school are gritted. This will ensure that children, parents and staff can travel to and from school safely and prevent the potential of closing school due to safety concerns on the local road network. You may wish to contact the Council yourself to make the same request. Cllr Stephen Gribbon [cllr.stephen.gribbon@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.stephen.gribbon@stockport.gov.uk) and Cllr Geoff Abell [Cllr.Geoff.Abell@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Geoff.Abell@stockport.gov.uk) are our local Councillors. Many thanks for your co-operation and support.



## ST MARY'S PARISH ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY

We are looking for a personable, reliable, and hardworking person to join our parish team. The post holder will be the first point of contact for general enquiries via telephone, mail and email, replying or forwarding to the appropriate recipient as required as well as other responsibilities detailed in the Job Description. The role involves management of the parish office and administration including administrative support to the parish priest. The role requires twelve hours of work over three days, salary is £12.00 per hour. To apply please complete the application form which can be found on the [Diocese of Nottingham website](#). The closing date is 29 January 2024.

## 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>
20 January	Cross Country at Woodbank Park.
22 January	Year 6 Class liturgy 2:30pm in the school hall. All welcome.
24 January	Year 6 PGL/SATs meeting for parents at 6:00pm in the Y6 classroom.
31 January	Rookie Rockstars Concert (surnames A-L) 6:00-7:00pm in the hall.
1 February	Rookie Rockstars Concert (surnames M-Z) 6:00-7:00pm in the hall.
<b>2 February</b>	<b>NSPCC Number Day. (See above.)</b>
5 February	Year 2 Class liturgy 2:30pm in the school hall. All welcome.
9 February	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn. 1:15pm
9 February	End of half term celebration assembly. 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
9 February	School closes for the February half term break.
19 February	School reopens following the February half term break.
19 February	PTA AGM. 6:00pm in the school hall. All welcome.
22 – 29 February	Scholastic Book Fair in school. Details to follow.
23 February	PTA Family Quiz. 6:00 – 8:00pm. Tickets available soon via the <a href="#">PTA website</a> .
26 February	Trust INSET day. School closed for children.
5 & 12 March	Parents Evenings (3:45pm – 6:45pm) in the school hall.
8 March	World Book Day Fancy Dress Disco. 5:00pm – 6:15pm. Ticket details to TBA.
13 March	Y3/Y4 Easter Production (10:00am and 2:00pm in the school hall).
14 March	Grandad's Wheels – author visit to school.
19 - 22 March	Y6 residential visit to PGL.
22 March	PTA Easter Eggstravaganza.
25 – 28 March	Stations of the Cross led by Y5. 9:05am in the school hall. All welcome.
28 March	School closes for the Easter break.

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