



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Year 6 led our whole school worship this week. They helped us to reflect and put into action the message of Sunday's gospel where Jesus asked the first disciples to be 'fishers of people'. The children prompted us to live out the gospel message by dropping what you're doing and come now! Jesus gives us the best news and this is His invitation - to listen to Him, turn back to Him and believe what He tells us because the kingdom of God is close at hand. In the Gospel, the first disciples dropped everything to follow Jesus. When something comes up that is important to us, we can be quick to change our plans. You might want to talk about times when a family member had to drop everything and change plans quickly e.g. a parent leaving work to collect a sick child from school. Ask your child, what news would make them drop everything. Year 6 gave the children and parents attending the worship the mission of how we can use our gifts and talents to be disciples of Jesus in 2024. Thank you and congratulations Year 6 for leading a wonderful worship.

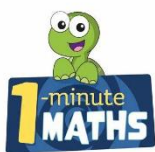
WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word of God with your children.

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS: PARENT SMART

We all want what is best for all our children and keeping them safe is paramount, at home and in school. At school we have policies and protocols to follow to ensure we are keeping children safe whilst at St Mary's. [Please see our school website for details](#). Parenting can be very rewarding, but challenges can arise with our children that sometimes we need a little advice and guidance. Place2be is a great website for parents on 'Parenting Smart' with lots of advice and guidance with short videos. Please see the link below. <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/> NSPCC is also a great website to visit. They have parenting tips for all stages of your child's life, as well as advice on how to deal with difficult situations and keeping your child safe. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents> They have a useful Positive Parenting approach guide you can download. <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1195/positive-parenting.pdf>



ONE MINUTE MATHS APP



Please take a look at the [free Maths App for pupils in KS1!](#) It is produced by White Rose Maths, follows the scheme we follow in school, and is designed to help children practise and develop their fluency in recalling known facts. Best of all, it's free! Some of the content is suitable for children in Reception. There is a section on subitising which is a very important skill for Reception children.

Practising this skill would be beneficial for the children. Likewise, children in Year 3 who possibly need a little catch up or boost in Maths confidence would also benefit. Please give the app a try, we would love to hear how you get on.

ROOKIE ROCKSTARS

The children have enjoyed vibrant and engaging workshops this week. They have been introduced to five original songs about wellbeing and mental health, encouraging them to look after themselves and others as best as they can. They are looking forward to performing the songs at the concerts on either 31 or 1 February, where 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. Children are welcome to dress as rockstars if they wish. Children with surnames starting with the letters A-L will perform from 6-7pm on 31 January and children with surnames M-Z will perform from 6-7pm on 1 February. Children should arrive at school at 5:30pm. Tickets for the concerts are on sale via the school office. There is a limit of two tickets per family and they are priced at £5 per ticket. Cash only please.



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.

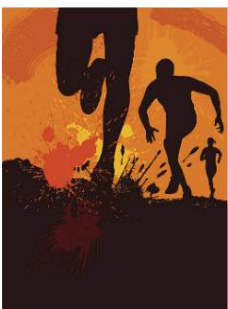
Years 3 – 6 it's time for you to show off your best Rock Star moves. Anything goes! Punk, grunge, metal, Madchester, indie... the list is endless. You can wear a band t-shirt, be a famous rock star or create your own outfit, accessories or hairstyle to show you are a rock legend. Please do not feel under 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!

DODGEBALL COMPETITION

Eight children from Year 5 and eight from Year 6 were selected to participate in a dodgeball tournament, held at Marple Hall School, last Thursday. The children were split into two teams, St Mary's 1 and St Mary's 2. They were in separate divisions and played 4 games each. Both teams just missed out on reaching the Championship Division. However, in the Premier Division, following another 4 games, St Mary's 2, came joint 2nd. In the spirit of the games, special mentions go to Thomas and Herbie for achieving the Honesty Award. Joe was awarded the Determination Award and Anya the Self-belief Award. Well done to all the children for showing teamwork, good manners and an abundance of enthusiasm. A credit to our school!



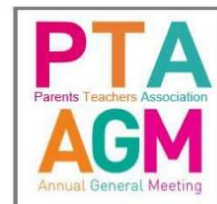
CROSS COUNTRY



Last Saturday saw the 5th School's Cross Country Event at Woodbank Park. Although the thaw had begun there were still some icy patches. Well done to all 13 children who participated. Congratulations to Harry for coming 5th, Lucy 5th and Issac 1st. The final Schools' Cross-Country event is on Saturday 24th February, when Mrs Ashton herself, will be participating in the National Cross-Country Championships in Telford! In the meantime, let us wish Isaac in Year 6 and Lucy in Year 5 the best of luck as they have been selected to represent the Stockport team in this year's Greater Manchester Cross Country Championships. This will be taking place at Heaton Park on Saturday 3rd February.

PTA AGM

It's that time of year again where the PTA need new members to join us. **ALL positions on the committee are up for election.** We have a fabulous tradition of PTA events at St Mary's from The Christmas fair, to the World book discos and the Colour Run, but it needs people to organise and run them. Please see the separate attachment outlining the 'Job descriptions' of the roles up for grabs. The AGM is on Monday 19 February at 6:00pm in the school hall. All are welcome.



TEACHING ASSISTANT AND MIDDAY ASSISTANT VACANCY



We have a vacancy for a Level 3 Teaching Assistant to work initially in the Early Years Department at our fantastic school starting after the Easter holidays. This role is combined with a midday assistant role. Further details of the post are available [here](#) and if you would like an informal conversation regarding the role, please speak with Mr Nish or Miss Poole. The closing date is 9:00am on Monday 19 February 2024.

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 bold.)</i>
29 January	Please return Bags2School by 9:00am.
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.
2 February	NSPCC Number Day. (See above.)
5 February	Year 2 Class liturgy 2:30pm in the school hall. All welcome.
5 February	Choir performing at the Young Voices concert - AO Manchester Arena.
7 February	Year 1 visit to Peak Wildlife Park.
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	Closing date for Teaching Assistant and Midday Supervisor vacancy.
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 PTA website .
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.
15 April	School reopens following the Easter break.

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