



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/>

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



The Gospel in our whole school Collective Worship reminds children and adults how those who follow Jesus are united as family in their faith. Through Jesus' words about God's family, made up of those who follow God's will, the children reflected on how they can be loving brothers and sisters to everyone and be inspired by the example of the saints who also loved God and followed His will. In this week's Gospel, it sounds like Jesus is being rude and disowning His family, but in fact, He was simply saying that God comes before everything! The children reflected about their first thoughts when

they get up in the morning and how they can reveal their priorities at that moment e.g. food, spending time with friends or family, playing games etc. Then, through watching a video about the daily routine of some Franciscan Sisters, the children also considered how they too can say 'yes' to God's will – making us part of His family of followers. The Gospel this week follows on from us reflecting on Mary's 'yes' during the month of May and how we can follow her example, through our SANCTA Values, to say yes to God and live life to the full.

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.

PENTECOST 2 TERM

I cannot believe that it is our final half term of the school year. I am sure the years pass by even quicker the older I get! Despite it being the final half term of the year, there is still a huge amount of learning to squeeze in. Contrary to what some believe, the children do not simply play and relax when the sun comes (hopefully) and July is in sight. Our staff have lots of lessons still to teach and, in addition to normal learning, there are a whole range of other exciting activities, e.g. sports day (weather permitting), Olympics Week, end of year productions and visits. Amidst the excitement of some of the activities planned, our children have end of year assessments to complete over the next couple of weeks, therefore it is important that children are ready and arrive at school on time each day. Whilst there is a lot happening at our school, we know that our Year 6 children shall also start thinking about their secondary schools. Our Year 6 team are working closely with secondaries to plan transition events. Please do keep an eye on the class Teams page for information about transition days. Please don't forget, you can keep an eye on our newsletter calendar each week for events during this half term.



SCHOOL NURSE CLINIC



Alison Dunning, our school nurse, will be in school on **19th June 2024 from 10:00am - 12:00pm** to meet with parents/carers. Alison works with school aged children and their families to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, if you would like an appointment with Alison, please contact Anita Norburn (SENCo) anorburn@mmb.srscmat.co.uk.

PLAY WORKER VACANCY

As previously mentioned, our very successful Kids Club currently has an advert out for a Playworker. [Follow this link for the full advert](#). The job is listed as working every day, but we are accommodating and if you know of someone who would like just a couple of nights, we are happy to be flexible for the right candidate. We are also keen to encourage any teenagers (16+) who may be thinking of a career in childcare/teaching as this job works very well around college commitments and our very own Miss Poole started out in Kids Club! The closing date is **Monday 17 June**, so please don't delay.



**DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM**

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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX & HEALTH EDUCATION (RSHE)

You may have seen information in the news recently about the Government's plans for updating the RSHE curriculum. If you have missed it, you can [click here](#) for a summary. As these plans are only in the consultation phase, no changes shall be made to [our curriculum](#) yet. We shall re-consult if/when things change.



PHONICS SCREENING CHECK



Over the course of this week, children in Year 1 and some children in Year 2 have taken the national Phonics screening test, reading real and pseudo 'alien' words aloud using their phonics knowledge. This check was taken at the children's own pace with Mrs Bramhall (Y1) or Miss Poole (Y2). The check helps assess children's knowledge of phonics and reading levels and informs us at school for any additional help they might need as they move into Year 2 or Year 3.

The children have been preparing for the check in school and we thank you parents at for working with your child at home, supporting them with their reading and sound knowledge using the resources supplied. This check is nothing to be concerned about [and this leaflet gives further information](#). Well done to the children, they have been amazing and have taken the screening check in their stride. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate asking Mrs Bramhall or Miss Poole, our lead teacher for reading. Parents/carers will receive their child's screening check results as part of the end of year report in July.

YEAR 4 MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK (MTC)

This week has also seen children in Year 4, along with all Year 4 children in England, take the online Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). The MTC determines if Year 4 children can fluently recall their multiplication tables up to 12x12. The checks are designed to help schools identify which children require more support to learn their times tables. There is no 'pass' rate or threshold which means that, unlike the Phonics Screening Check, children will not be expected to re-sit the check. The Department for Education (DfE) will create a report about the overall results across all schools in England, not individual schools. Again, the children were fantastic, and I am very proud of their positive attitude and approach to the check. Further details about the [MTC can be found here](#). You can support your children with their times tables by using the Times Tables Rockstars programme that each St Mary's child has access to via their class Teams page.



YEAR 1 FUNDRAISING SUCCESS



Congratulations to Year 1 for their incredible effort in raising £252 for their class charity, Christian Aid! The children showed great initiative and generosity by filling empty Smartie tubes with 20p coins and baking delicious Smartie cookies to sell to our school family. Their hard work and community spirit have made a meaningful contribution to a very worthy cause. Well done, Year 1, for demonstrating such creativity and kindness in your fundraising efforts and living out our SANCTA values of support and challenge.

NEW HALL CURTAINS

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the PTA for their generous contribution of new curtains for the school hall. These beautiful curtains have enhanced the aesthetic appeal of the space, creating a more welcoming and functional environment for our assemblies, performances, and events. Your continued support and dedication to our school family are deeply appreciated, and we thank you for making such a positive impact on our children's educational experiences.



PTA NEW TO YOU BOOK FAIR



All children are invited to our book swap on **Friday 28th June** to choose a book for free, which will be theirs to keep. To make this possible, we are asking each child to bring in 1-2 books in good condition that they've read and loved. Your books will be given to the fair for another child to read and love. Please hand in donations to class teachers by Wednesday 26th June. Thank you.

ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB

Our previous book club recommendations were a huge success with lots of children being keen to read the suggested texts. Copies of these books can now be found in the school library. This week, we shared new recommendations for the month ahead, please find attached our June Book Club.

MARPLE CARNIVAL – TOMORROW



From Mrs McCubbin... Hello St. Mary's family! It's Carnival time again! This year the carnival takes place tomorrow, **Saturday 15 June** and theme is 'Going for Gold' Paris Olympics 2024. Our chosen sport is Cycling. We will be cycling in the parade. Dress in red, white and blue. Decorate your bike with flags, streamers, anything you want!!

Remember to wear your helmet! **Please meet at Arkwright Road Recreation Ground (Rec) from 12:00pm with Judging at 12:30pm and the parade at 1:00pm.** Can't wait to see you all! Bonne chance! More details regarding the carnival can be found [here](#).

THE GENERAL ELECTION – A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

The Catholic Bishops' Conference have created a webpage about the issues important to Catholics in the forthcoming General Election on Thursday 4 July. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has recorded a message encouraging Catholics, particularly young adults, to be "willing to get involved and vote" as the opportunity to vote in a general election is a "privilege". Cardinal Nichols is asking voters to be active rather than passive in order to engage with politicians to ascertain their views on the key issues. "You want to know what your candidate will think and say on your behalf when that candidate gets into Parliament" says the Cardinal. He continues, "I would like to put forward a theme for us all to think about. How do we seek to construct a society in which families can flourish? That's the bedrock – many positive things flow from that." [Reflections on key themes are available here.](#)



50% CAP ON ADMISSIONS TO FAITH SCHOOLS CONSULTATION

The Government has opened a consultation on lifting the cap that for the last 14 years has limited the number of Catholic children that can be admitted into any new Catholic school. Please go to the link below and respond to the consultation (only your name and email address are required). Responses are crucial if Catholic families throughout the country are not to continue to be deprived of a Catholic education. The consultation closes on 20 June. [https:// www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/)

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>
15 June	Marple Carnival Meet at Arkwright Road Recreation Ground from 12:00pm.
17 June	Whole School Worship led by Year 1. 2:30pm. All welcome.
18 June	Year 2 Bramhall Park Visit – Legacy Trail.
19 June	Year 5 visit to the Bridgewater Hall – Come and play with the Halle.
19 June	School Nurse Clinic 10:00am – 12:00pm.
19 June	The Wild Roadshow to visit EYFS.
21 June	Year 1 visit to Being Outdoors.
25 June	New EYFS Parents' Intake Evening 6:00pm – 7:00pm.
28 June	PTA New to You Book Fair. Please bring books to swap by Wednesday 26 June.
28 June	Careers Fair for Years 3-6. 1:30pm – 3:00pm.
1 July	Whole School Worship led by Year 2. 2:30pm. All welcome.
2 July	Sports Day 1:30pm – 3:00pm (weather permitting). Reserve date: 16 July.
4 July	Transition day (Y6 pupils at their new secondary schools).
8 July	Whole School Worship led by Reception. 2:30pm. All welcome.
8-12 July	Olympics Week.
11 July	Mini First Aid Workshops for all children.
12 July	End of Year Reports issued to parents/carers.
12 – 14 July	Family Camp.
16 July	Parent/Carer Open Evening (drop in) 3:30pm – 5:30pm.
17 July	Year 5/6 Production 1:30pm and 6:00pm.
19 July	PTA Colour Run 3:30pm – 5:00pm.
22 July	Leavers' Assembly 10:00am.
22 July	Y6 and Special Friends Confetti and Bubbles 2:45pm – 3:15pm.
22 July	Leavers' Disco 5:30pm – 7:30pm.
23 July	Leavers' Mass 10:00am in school.
23 July	School closes for the summer break at 3:15pm.
3 September	School reopens following the summer break. (Y1-Y6).
25 September	Online Safety Workshop (in person) 7:00pm - 8:00pm in the school hall.

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