



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 34: 21 June 2024

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week in a heartwarming display of compassion and unity, Year 1 led a remarkable whole school collective worship focusing on their class charity, Christian Aid, and linked this with the timeless wisdom of St. Paul's letter regarding love. Year 1 passionately and confidently shared their learning about Christian Aid's mission to support communities in need, inspiring their peers with stories of hope and generosity and what they had done to live out a life of love inspired by the mission of

Christian Aid. They eloquently connected these efforts to St. Paul's message of love from 1 Corinthians 13, emphasizing that true love is patient, kind, and selfless. Through song, prayers, and reflections, Year 1 reminded us all of the power of love in action and the importance of supporting those less fortunate. It was a truly memorable and uplifting experience for the entire school family.

This week parents of children in Years 2 and 3 have received a letter regarding Holy Communion preperation for 2024-2025. This letter is for children who will be making their First Holy Communion at St Mary's. Please keep in your prayers the Year 3 children who live in Holy Spirit parish and will be making their First Holy Communion this Sunday during the 9:00am Mass.

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.

CONSIDER HOW TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION – AN UPDATE

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has published this week the following statement about education... *Consider how to vote at the **General Election** (4th July): some thoughts from the Bishops of England and Wales about **Education**. Catholic schools support parents as the primary educators of their children and welcome anyone who seeks a Catholic education for their child. The 2,100 Catholic schools make up 9% of the state-funded sector and are considerably more ethnically diverse than the national average, taking in more pupils from the poorest households, and outperforming state schools at GCSE. The Catholic community provides the government with rent-free land and buildings for schools, and by contributing to capital costs saves taxpayers hundreds of millions of pounds. This partnership with the State has resulted in protection of the core principles of Catholic education, such as the ability to give priority in admissions to Catholic children, and to teach a Catholic curriculum for Religious Education. Catholic education is popular with parents and successful in preparing pupils for life in modern Britain. However, there are campaigns to get rid of schools with a religious character, and to change the curriculum so that our schools would no longer be Catholic. Consider whether election candidates support the creation of new Catholic schools through the removal of the cap on faith-based admissions? Whether they recognise the importance of Catholic leaders, teachers and governors in maintaining the Catholic school ethos? How will they safeguard parents' rights as the primary educators including their right to withdraw their child from Relationships and Sex education and Religious Education? For more information visit: www.cbcew.org.uk/education-election24/*



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

MARPLE CARNIVAL WINNERS!



I am thrilled to announce that our school won the award for the best 'walking' group at this year's Marple Carnival! Our children, staff, and volunteers put in a tremendous effort to create a vibrant and spirited display that truly captured the theme and energy of the event: the Olympics – Going for Gold. Our hard work and enthusiasm were evident as we paraded through the streets of Marple, earning admiration from the community and the judges alike. A huge congratulations to everyone involved for their outstanding dedication and creativity. This is a fantastic achievement that we can all be proud of! Special recognition and thanks go to Mrs Evans, Mrs Manuel, Mrs McCubbin, Mrs McSwity and Mr Chrippes who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the French theme was on point and suitably impressed the judges. We went for Gold and achieved it! Congratulations Team St Mary's.

PTA NEW TO YOU BOOK FAIR

All children are invited to our book swap next **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.



COME AND PLAY WITH THE HALLÉ ORCHESTRA



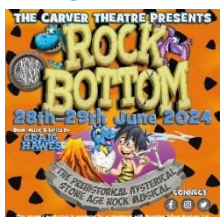
Our Year 5 children had an unforgettable experience visiting Bridgewater Hall on Wednesday, where they had the extraordinary opportunity to play alongside the world-renowned Hallé Orchestra. The children were in awe as they walked into the grand concert hall, and their excitement only grew when they were invited to participate in a workshop led by professional musicians. Each child got a chance to play ukulele, learning directly from the orchestra members. The highlight was performing a piece together with the Hallé, where our young musicians showcased their newly honed skills in a spectacular finale. This hands-on experience not only enriched their understanding of music but also inspired many to pursue their musical dreams with greater enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of our budding musicians and grateful to the Hallé Orchestra for this wonderful opportunity!

BRAMHALL PARK LEGACY TRAIL

We are incredibly proud of our Year 2 children for their outstanding behaviour and positive attitudes at the Stockport Shapes Alliance Olympic Legacy trial held at Bramhall Park on Tuesday. Competing alongside 500 children from schools across Stockport, our pupils demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, enthusiasm, and respect throughout the event. Their commitment and determination in each activity were truly inspiring, reflecting the values of teamwork and perseverance. Congratulations to our young athletes for their remarkable achievements and for representing our school with such pride and distinction!



THE CARVER THEATRE – 'ROCK BOTTOM' PRODUCTION



I am thrilled to announce that several of our talented children will be taking to the stage at the Carver Theatre on 28-29 June to perform in the lively production of 'Rock Bottom.' This delightful show promises an unforgettable experience, filled with humour, music, and a touch of prehistoric charm. We are immensely proud of our young stars who have worked hard to bring this performance to life. Don't miss out on the opportunity to support our budding thespians and enjoy a fantastic evening of entertainment. Tickets are available now from www.carvertheatre.co.uk, so please mark your calendars and come and cheer on our amazing performers!

BIKEABILITY



Our Year 6 children demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm and commitment during their participation in the Bikeability program. Over the course of this week, they honed their cycling skills and learned vital road safety techniques, proving themselves to be confident and capable young riders. The instructors were highly impressed with the children's eagerness to learn and their ability to master challenging manoeuvres with such determination. Not only did our pupils display excellent behaviour and cooperation throughout the training, but they also showed a commendable sense of responsibility and teamwork. This hands-on experience on the roads of Marple Bridge has not only equipped them with valuable life skills but also inspired many to embrace cycling as a fun and healthy mode of transportation. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing them ride safely and confidently in the community!

GARDENING

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who purchased plants from our School Garden sale before half term. The money donated will be very useful to us and will be used to purchase the next seeds, soil and tools for the children's gardening on Wednesdays. If you couldn't attend the sale but would like to donate/buy plants that have been sown, grown and cared for by the children, please just ask me at school drop-off/pick-up (or in the School Office). We have a few tomatoes, squash, herbs and summer bulbs remaining! Thanks, Chris (Mr Percy).



SPORTS DAYS



We are really looking forward to our Sports Days which are sure to be fantastic events. Parents/carers are invited to watch the children in **Reception to Year 6** from 1:00pm (1:15pm start) on **Tuesday 2 July 2024**. If your child has a t-shirt in their house group colour, they may bring it in to wear. *Please monitor your emails in case we have to postpone due to inclement weather. The reserve date is 16 July.* **Nursery** are holding their Sports Day on **Wednesday 3 July** from 9:30am. Please see the Nursery newsletter for further details.

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>	
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.
3 July	Nursery Sports Day and Picnic. 9:30am – 11:30am.
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 weekend. Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.