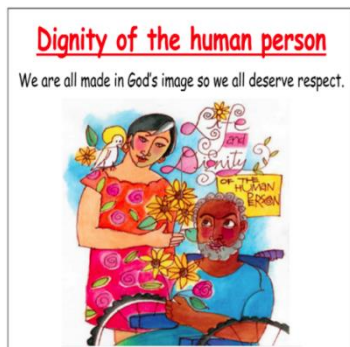




## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Year 2 led us beautifully on Monday for our school Collective Worship building on what Dan had prayed with us about last week concerning our Catholic Social Teaching principle for the half term, Human Dignity. The children read beautifully, and it was a joy to see so many parents and family members join us to pray. The children introduced us to Luc the Deer from CAFOD's CST family of animals. Luc teaches us that we should treat everyone with love, we are not all the same, but we are made in the image of God and should celebrate our differences. The children took the chance to share their God given gifts and talents but also gave us time to reflect on how we can use those gifts and talents to help others and treat them with love and dignity. Our mission this week was to try our very best to treat everyone we meet with dignity and fairness. Well done Year 2 for a wonderful time of 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.

## SCHOOL DAY TIMINGS FROM SEPTEMBER

Following DfE guidelines and after stakeholder consultation, a reminder that the school day timings will change from 3 September 2024. School will start at **8:50am**, with the door opening at **8:40am** allowing the children ten minutes to settle and prepare for the school day. School will close at **3:20pm**. These timings apply to children of statutory school age (Reception to Year 6). Nursery will continue to operate from 9:00am for the morning session and close at 3:15pm for the afternoon session.



## MARPLE HALL ART COMPETITION



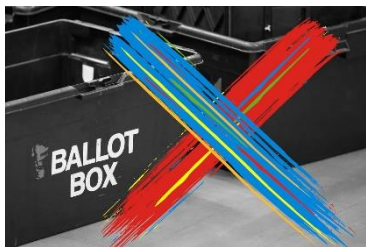
Before Easter, Year 5 were invited by Marple Hall's Art Department to take part in a portrait competition for local schools. From a selection of artists, Year 5 chose to learn about and base their portraits on the work of Sabrina Ward Harrison. On Wednesday, Miss Aspinall (Head of Creative Arts at Marple Hall) came in to view Year 5's work and present some awards; she was so impressed by all the self-portraits. Congratulations to the runners up (Lucy A and Mary) and to the three overall winners (Joseph, Oscar R and Evie), who all received an exciting prize of art supplies. Such talent Year 5!

## QUARRY BANK MILL VISIT

Year 3 children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Quarry Bank Mill on Wednesday. They visited the Apprentice House; went into the mill itself and watched and heard the machines; explored artefacts and heard information from that time. This was a wonderful way to complete their unit of work on the Industrial Revolution and the Victorians as part of their History Curriculum! We received very positive feedback from National Trust staff, members of the public and the coach driver who all complimented our children on their exemplary behaviour and attitudes. Amazing work Year 3. We are delighted you had such a fun and memorable visit. Thank you, Miss Davies, for organising the visit and thanks also to the staff who accompanied the children.



## GENERAL ELECTION 2024 AT ST MARY'S



On Thursday, polling day, our pupils were actively engaged in learning about the 2024 general election, gaining insights into the democratic process. They enthusiastically researched various aspects of the election and crafted their own manifestos, reflecting their visions for positive change. The children then presented their manifesto to the class, sparking thoughtful discussions and debates. The exercise culminated in a mock vote, where the children chose the manifesto they most

believed in. This hands-on activity not only educated them about civic duties but also empowered them to voice their ideas for a better future, whilst considering our Catholic Social Teaching principle of the Common Good.

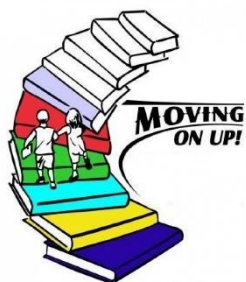
## SPORTS DAYS

Our Sports Days this week were a resounding success, with children enthusiastically participating in a wide range of sporting disciplines. From sprint races and long jumps to relay events and team games, the events were filled with energy, excitement, and friendly competition. The children not only showcased their athletic skills but also demonstrated remarkable teamwork and sportsmanship, cheering each other on and celebrating every achievement. The spirit of camaraderie and the joy of participation were truly inspiring, making this year's Sports Days a memorable event for everyone involved.



Well done to the parents who volunteered to take part in the parents' race – this will now be an annual event! Nursery had a lovely time with our parents on Wednesday. They enjoyed lots of races and a picnic with our grownups on the field. Hector reports: 'It was really good fun, I loved the running race and the parent's egg and spoon race the best....and the picnic!'

## TRANSITION/MOVE UP DAY



Our transition event yesterday was a great success, providing children with a wonderful opportunity to experience their upcoming classes and meet their new teachers. The day was filled with engaging activities designed to help children get acquainted with their new learning environment, fostering excitement and easing any anxieties about the change. From interactive classroom sessions to fun team-building exercises, the children enthusiastically participated and began forming bonds with their new teachers. The positive feedback from both children and teachers highlights the success of the day, ensuring a smooth and confident transition into the new academic year! Most

Year 6 children also visited their respective secondary schools and the feedback from Year 7 staff has been excellent stating that our children were a delight to work with and are ready for the challenges of Year 7.

## DOODLE LEARNING FOR NEXT YEAR... YOUR VIEWS PLEASE

We are considering ending our current subscriptions with Times Table Rockstars and Mathletics and purchasing Doodle Maths and Doodle Tables to go alongside our current subscription of Doodle English and Doodle Spell. The four Doodle platforms would then be available for all pupils in Y1-Y6 from September. The children currently have two-weeks



access to the new Maths platforms on Doodle, they can access the platforms by logging in and then going to the menu and switch apps. We would welcome any feedback from parents/carers regarding the proposed changes. <https://forms.office.com/e/BHgA6usu9q>. The trial and survey will close on **Friday 12 July**. Thank you in advance for your valued opinions.

## CHILDREN, PUBERTY AND TECHNOLOGY



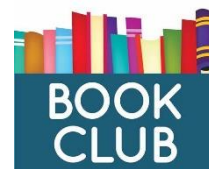
When it comes to children growing up, they face unique risks online, and when sexual exploration and technology mix this can be particularly difficult for parents/carers, but those conversations between parents/carers and their children becomes so important.

THORN have got some excellent information and conversation starters for parents of children of all ages as well as something I really like - some virtual flip-cards for parents of children aged 8-12.

You can find [all the information here](#). There are also some discussion guides about a range of issues, such as screen time and online monitoring, making friends online, consent and more. You can [find these guides here](#).

## BOOK CLUB

Our previous book club recommendations were a great 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 our final recommendations of the year, please find attached our July Book Club. We welcome any feedback from families regarding our Book Club and suggestions for the next academic year.



## PTA NEWS



Colour Run – It's back! Our final event of the year. A fantastically fun mix of running, powder paint, water guns, music and sunshine to see out the year. This will take place on **Friday 19 July** from 3:30pm on the school field. Further details will be available soon on the [PTA website](#). Last year's Colour Run was a vibrant and joyous event, where children, staff, and families came together to celebrate community spirit, raising significant funds for the PTA while having a fantastic time. We know this year will be just as fun! We hope that you can join us.

## THE MONTH (OR SO) AHEAD...KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
	<b><i>Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary. (New events added in bold.)</i></b>
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).
17-20 September	Year 6 visit to PGL.
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.**