



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 2: Friday 13 September 2024

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, each class gathered in the Mary Garden to lead a beautiful worship in honour of the Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, celebrating Our Lady's birthday. During this special time, every child had the opportunity to place a flower at Mary's feet, honouring her with love and devotion. Together, we asked Mary to pray with us and for us as we continue our journey towards Jesus, striving to follow the "Mary Way" by living out our SANCTA values every day. It was a peaceful and meaningful moment for all, reminding us of Mary's guidance and her special role in our lives.

FATHER BILL As you might be aware, Father Bill is retiring from his role as Parish Priest at Holy Spirit parish at the end of September. We are blessed that as his last act of service as Parish Priest he will be celebrating our Back to School Mass on **Monday 30 September at 2:00pm** in the school hall. I do hope as many parents will be able to attend to pray with us and for as we embark on another school year and also to give thanks for Father Bill's service to the parish of Holy Spirit, Marple and his unwavering

and greatly valued spiritual support of St Mary's over the years. We are holding a school collection to show our appreciation for Father Bill. If you would like to make a cash donation, please place this in a sealed envelope labelled 'Father Bill collection' and send this into school with your child or pop it directly into the school office. Unfortunately we do not have the facility to accept online or card donations for collections of this nature. On Sunday, 29th September, there will be a parish retirement party for Father Bill starting at 12 noon at Holy Spirit Catholic church, Marple. Details on the [parish newsletter](#).

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME – ST MARY'S PARISH for children in Years 3 and 4 who reside in parish of St Mary's Marple Bridge will commence on Monday 23 September from 3:20-4:30pm. Please refer to the letter for the full list of dates, including Sunday Mass attendance at St Mary's, New Mills. If this applies to your child and you wish them to attend, please complete the Form at this link by Sunday 22 September: <https://forms.office.com/e/zbC4fn0y1h>. Details for the Sacramental Programme for children resident in Holy Spirit parish will be announced later in the term.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS – ADVENT 1 TERM



We offer a wide range of exciting clubs for children to attend each half term either during or after the school day. Please refer to the letter emailed out on Thursday for further details and, where necessary, use the links in the letter to sign up to the relevant clubs as soon as possible.



**DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM**

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR

headteacher@mmb.srscmat.co.uk

Company No 7937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

ATTENDANCE POLICY CHANGES 2024-2025



September marks a change in the procedures and systems, related to attendance at school, as a result of the new Government guidance called *Working Together to Improve Attendance*. This guidance is not just for schools and local authorities. It is statutory guidance and contains expectations for all parties, including parents/carers, as you can read [here](#). At St Mary's, we work incredibly hard to engage families so that children attend school regularly. Our new Trust [attendance policy](#) and strategy, which are [available on our website](#), is focused on supporting first and enforcing later. However, where children are taken out of school for unauthorised absence (e.g. term time holidays) then we do have to refer for a fixed penalty notice to Stockport Local Authority. We hope you will work with us this year to avoid this. If you are requesting to take your child out of school during term time, please [complete the revised leave of absence request form](#) at least 15 school days before the requested date.

NURTURE GROUPS, ELSA (EMOTIONAL LITERACY SUPPORT) AND MSU (MOTOR SKILLS UNITED – GROSS AND FINE MOTOR SKILLS SUPPORT)

We are very fortunate to be able to offer these intervention groups for individuals/small groups led by a very talented team of trained teaching assistants from within our school team. Children may access these resources as a short block of support at any time throughout their journey through St Mary's. If your child is attending any of these sessions, this will have been discussed during our drop-in sessions after school this week or will be at this term's parents' evenings after the half term break. For any enquiries or concerns about your child's Mental Health or further information please contact Mrs Bradbury.



HOME-SCHOOL AGREEMENT 2024-2025

Home School Agreement

We are proud that St Mary's is a school of choice and are grateful that our parents/carers have chosen this school for their child. As part of our commitment to working together, please take a read of our [Home School Agreement](#) which automatically applies to any families within our school.

ASDA CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

Asda has launched an exciting new initiative called 'Cashpot for Schools', aimed at supporting local schools. By participating in this program, shoppers can help raise funds for St Mary's every time they shop at Asda and use their Asda Rewards app. For every £1 spent, Asda will contribute towards a 'cashpot' that goes directly to the school, allowing us to invest in resources, equipment, and activities that enhance children's learning experiences. Asda are offering to donate 0.5% of the value of any shop **until 30 November 2024**. It's a fantastic way for families and the community to come together and make a meaningful difference in education while going about their everyday shopping. [More details here](#). Please support this initiative if you can to raise money for our school at no cost (apart from your shopping) to you!



CYCLE (OR SCOOT) TO SCHOOL WEEK 2024



From **23-27 September 2024**, we will be celebrating Cycle (or scoot) to School Week! This exciting initiative encourages children to embrace a healthier, more eco-friendly way of traveling to school. By cycling/scooting, children can reduce their carbon footprint, improve their fitness, and enjoy a refreshing start to the school day. We encourage all families to get involved, whether you're an experienced cyclist or just starting out. Remember to wear helmets

and follow road safety guidelines. Let's make this week a fun and positive experience while supporting our planet and building a healthy habit for the future!

SCHOOL WEBSITE



As we settle into the new school year, I want to remind you of the wealth of information available on our [school website](#). Our site is a comprehensive resource where you can learn about our school's Catholic vision and values, which guide our educational approach. You can also find detailed information about our curriculum, designed to provide a well-rounded and enriching experience for your child. Additionally, we have a section dedicated to statutory information and school policies, ensuring transparency and keeping you informed about important guidelines and procedures. We encourage you to explore these sections to fully understand how we are working to support your child's education and well-being. For any questions or further information, don't hesitate to reach out.

ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP REMINDER – 25th SEPTEMBER

We are hosting an in-person online safety workshop led by Tanya Cross, Stockport's Health and Wellbeing Adviser, on Wednesday, 25th September, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. To proceed, we need at least 25 parents to attend. If you plan to join, [please complete this short online form](#) by Thursday, 19th September. You can also suggest specific topics you'd like Tanya to cover via the online form. Additionally, updated online safety cards are now available on the E-Safety page of our school website, offering advice on popular apps children use. [The advice can be found here](#).



SCHOOL PARKING



A polite reminder and request... As school returns, the surrounding roads around St Mary's are likely to be busier. Please share with family members our agreed parking rules: if another person is picking up/dropping off your child, you may need to share the following points. Please **do not park on Lowry Drive** and ensure safe parking on neighbouring roads, avoiding parking over drives. Please avoid mounting the kerb, parking in the bus bay and parking on the corners of Lowry/ Constable/ Hogarth. Thank you for your ongoing support. Please see the attached 'did you know' leaflet regarding parking around school sites issued by Stockport Council.

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.</i>
17-20 September	Year 6 residential visit to PGL Boreatton Park, Shropshire. Coach departing at approximately 1:00pm. Y6 parents welcome to wave the children off.
23 September	Year 5 Collective Worship at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
23 September	Mrs Pickles (new Harrytown Headteacher) to speak to Y5 and Y6 children.
23 September	Sacramental Preparation Classes begin for Y3 and Y4 children resident in St Mary's parish, Marple Bridge. 3:20-4:15pm.
25 September	Online Safety Workshop for parents. 7:00pm – 8:00pm in the school hall.
27 September	Special Friends Assembly – Reception and Y6. 9:30am in the hall followed by refreshments provided.
30 September	Back to school Mass with Fr Bill. 2:00pm – 3:00pm in the school hall. All welcome!
2 October	EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Phonics workshop for parents 5:30pm – 6:30pm.
3 October	Harrytown Catholic High School Open Evening. 4:30pm – 7:30pm.
4 October	CAFOD Family Fast Day – Wear something green - £1 donation.
7 October	Year 4 Collective Worship at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
7 October	PTA Great St Mary's Bake Off! 3:20pm.
11 October	World Mental Health Day. (Wear an item of yellow with their uniform - £1)
16 October	PTA Sponsored Bounce.
18 October	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn 1:15pm in the hall.
18 October	School closes for the October half term break.
28 October	School reopens following the October half term break.
30 October & 6 November	Parents Evenings 3:30pm – 6:40pm.

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