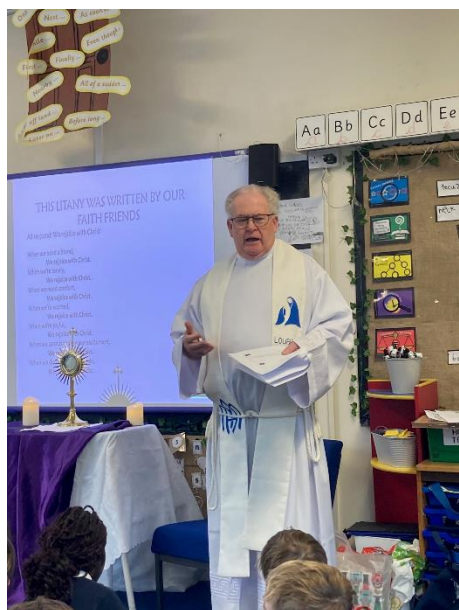




RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



RE NEWSLETTER The Advent Term RE newsletter is available in the [parents news section of the school website](#). This provides an overview of the Religious Education themes covered in each year group during the Advent term. The newsletter also provides suggestions of additional activities you can work on at home with your child as well as key liturgical dates.

FATHER BILL RETIREMENT As I mentioned last week, 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. This Sunday, Holy Spirit are also hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support after the 9:00am Mass. [Details of both events are in the parish newsletter](#). Also this Sunday at 2:00pm, St Mary's church, New Mills are hosting a Songs of Praise followed by tea and cake. All are welcome!

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.



SPECIAL FRIENDS ASSEMBLY We are delighted to invite parents, especially those of children in Reception and Year 6, to our Special Friends Assembly on **Friday, 27 September at 9:30am**. This assembly celebrates the wonderful bond between our Reception children and their Year 6 special friends, who play an important role in helping the younger children settle into school life. This responsibility not only supports our Reception pupils but also helps develop the SANCTA values of nurture, support, and trust in our Year 6 children. Following the assembly, the PTA will provide refreshments and cakes, with donations supporting Macmillan's national Coffee Morning appeal. We look forward to seeing you there!



THE IMPORTANCE OF READING

As you are aware reading is a key priority at St. Mary's. Study after study suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. Children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed!



Reading for Pleasure

"The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss



Children need support to develop the habit and love of reading. Alongside reading aloud to your child we would encourage families to participate in 'Book Chat'. Book Chat is the informal interaction that accompanies quality reading to and with children, developing children's language and comprehension and nurturing a love of reading. Time and space to hear stories and to read and talk informally about what you're reading makes a difference to children's pleasure in reading. Miss Poole has responsibility for reading in our school. She organises many activities throughout the year to engage your child in reading.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL



Thank you to those who followed up on our request to update asthma inhalers at the beginning of the year. If your child has any other medical conditions of which we should be aware, or there is new information to share, please call into the school office as soon as possible.

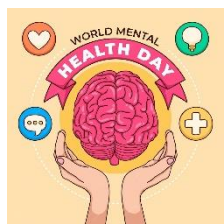
CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY 2024

On **Friday 4 October** we are asking that children come *dressed in green* and donate £1 in aid of Family Fast Day. As you know, CAFOD is a fabulous charity that supports and reaches out to people who are affected by poverty. This year the theme is the 'carving a better future for the world' and we think it is important that we get involved and show our support where we can. You can [read more about this year's campaign here](#).



Fast, pray and give

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2024



The following Friday, **11 October 2022**, we will be celebrating World Mental Health Day at St Mary's and we are asking all children to wear an **item of yellow** with their uniform and to donate £1. This will form part of our contribution to the Healthy Young Minds organisation. This is a wonderful charity which does so much to support children and young adults. During that week, the children will have a special focus on mental health as part of their learning.

CYCLE (OR SCOOT) TO SCHOOL WEEK 2024

Next week, 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! Children are to leave bikes or scooters against the railings near the school office.



APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES: SEPTEMBER 2025



NURSERY: for children born between 1 Sept 2021 - 31 August 2022: closing date **31 March 2025**.

RECEPTION: for children born between 1 Sept 2020 - 31 August 2021: closing date **15 January 2025**.

SECONDARY: for children born between 1 Sept 2013 - 31 August 2014: closing date **31 October 2024**.

[All school applications are managed by Stockport Local Authority via this link.](#)

Prospective St Mary's parents are most welcome to attend our open events on Tuesday 5 November 10:00am-11:30am or Tuesday 19 November from 1:30pm-3:00pm.

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! So far, we have over £200 in the cashpot. Fantastic! Thank you for your support.



ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP REMINDER – 25th SEPTEMBER



A final reminder that we are hosting an in-person online safety workshop led by Tanya Cross, Stockport's Health and Wellbeing Adviser, next Wednesday, 25th September, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. If you haven't signed up already and to help Tanya tailor her presentation [please complete this short online form](#) by Monday 23 September.

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.](#)

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>
22 September	Holy Spirit Parish - Macmillan Coffee Morning after 9:00am Mass. St Mary's parish, New Mills – Songs of Praise followed by tea and cake at 2:00pm.
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 by the PTA.
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.