



# 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 5: Friday 4 October 2024**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday afternoon, we were blessed to celebrate a beautiful Mass with Father Bill, marking both the beginning of our academic journey and his final Mass as the Parish Priest of Holy Spirit parish. It was a joyous occasion, filled with heartfelt prayers and a spirit of gratitude for all that Father Bill has done for our school and parish family. The children displayed great reverence and respect throughout the celebration singing beautifully and participating with enthusiasm - they are a credit to the school and their families. Thank you to our SANCTA Squad who helped prepare the Mass and read so eloquently. As we bid farewell to Father Bill in his role as Parish Priest, we thank him for his unwavering dedication and service, and we look forward to seeing him in the near future. Thank you for your generosity, we raised £200 for Father Bill's collection. He will use this towards his golfing retirement hobby.

**BIBLE ALIVE WEEK** Through a variety of interactive activities, storytelling, and creative lessons, the children were able to engage with the Bible in new and meaningful ways this week. Each day focused on different stories and teachings, bringing the scriptures to life in a way that deepened their understanding and connection to the Word of God. From acting out parables to exploring the messages of the Old and New Testaments, Bible Alive Week was a memorable experience that strengthened our faith and reminded us of the enduring relevance of the Bible in our daily lives.

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

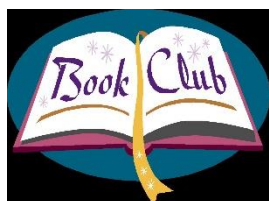
## SEPTEMBER HOUSE POINTS

Please see the totals for the month of September below. St Patrick's (green) house are currently in the lead (just), but I am sure it will be close run thing by the end of term...

St George	St Peter	St Mary	St Patrick
1,582	1,387	1,393	<b>1,586</b>



## ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB



We are excited to announce that we will be continuing with our 'book club' after last year's success. Classes will have time each half term to discuss favourite authors and books and listen to book recommendations, which we hope will help our pupils to choose books to read independently, discover new authors and share a love of reading. We have attached our Advent 1 book recommendations, which you may like to share and discuss together at home over the weekend.

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2024

Next 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.



## ATTENDANCE

### WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?

Right to education (Article 28)



At St Mary's we know that, if learners are to get the greatest benefit from their education in school, it is important that they have good attendance and arrive punctually. The attendance over the month of September is below. Our school target is 97%. Congratulations everyone on your amazing efforts this month. As a school we have achieved a fantastic **97.4%** attendance. Nationally, attendance currently stands at 94%, so well-done St Mary's for our strong attendance at the start of the school year.

September 2024 Attendance	
Rec	97.2 %
Y1	98.0 %
Y2	96.0 %
Y3	98.5 %
Y4	98.8 %
Y5	96.5 %
Y6	96.5%
Overall	97.4 %

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION



Curriculum information for each year group is available on the [school website](#) along with other relevant information regarding the St Mary's curriculum. Our curriculum is built around six key pillars: coherence, sequence, context, excellence, balance and inclusivity and the SANCTA values are the golden thread that encapsulate and support our principles of curriculum design. Alongside this information, teachers provide a weekly newsletter providing current learning and knowledge mats outlining key concepts to be learned are available on your child's class Teams page.

## START WELL STOCKPORT WEEK OF ACTION

We're thrilled to announce the upcoming Stockport Start Well Week of Action, taking place from 14 October 2024. This year their spotlight is on children's social and emotional well-being with a variety of engaging activities for you and your family, both virtual and in person. Please see the attached calendar of events to attend or book on.



## STOCKPORT ONLINE SAFETY HUB



Following on from our recent parent meeting regarding online safety, the [Stockport Online Safety Hub](#) is a brand-new online resource with lots of expert advice and guidance to help you manage your child's safety online as a parent. It includes information on the latest hot topics when it comes to keeping children safe, such as how to manage your child's screen time, understand the latest gaming platforms, what they mean for your child's safety

and lots more. The online hub, launched this week is a fabulous resource for parents and carers. The Hub is designed to engage and align the community on online safety and wellness by providing up-to-date and evidence-based information to all key stakeholders of a child's life. Parents will find a rich library of helpful resources, including app reviews, how-to guides and advice on an array of online safety topics.

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2025

This term is a very busy time for admissions and applications are currently open for: • Nursery – September 2025 start • Reception – September 2025 start • Year 7 – September 2025 start. All school admissions are managed by Stockport Council. Details of how to apply for school places, [can be found here](#). In addition to these applications, we do have a few spaces available in some year groups where children could start immediately. If you are looking for school places, or know someone who is, then please get in touch with our school office so they can talk you through the admissions process.



## WELLSPRING – HARVEST COLLECTION 2024



One of our SANCTA values is 'support'. As a school family we feel it is important that we give thanks and support our local community. Therefore, during Harvesttime we again are asking our families to bring in donations for The Wellspring, Stockport, so that we can share what we have with homeless or less fortunate people in our town. This year, The Wellspring's Harvest Festival has again been created with an eco-theme

and so we can help our children understand that we should all be looking to make changes where possible to protect their future and the future of the planet. This theme also links with our Catholic Social Teaching theme for this half term: care of creation. Wellspring's 'Wish List' includes products with the eco idea in mind and contains: sugar, coffee, cordial, biscuits, crisps, tinned meat, cereal, butter, pasta sauces and tinned tomatoes. Each class will have a large bag to collect in donations from **Tuesday 1 October until Tuesday 15 October**, so if you are able to, please send your child/children into school with items from this 'Wish List' link.

**PTA NEWS - THE GREAT ST MARY'S BAKE OFF!** The children are invited to bring their Bake Off entry to the school office on **Monday 7 October**. There are 6 different categories to enter: bread, biscuits/cookies, small cakes, brownies/blondies, free from and showstoppers. The entries will be judged by Dean, owner of All Things Nice and winners will be announced in the afternoon at 3.20pm. These delicious treats will then be on sale from the outside classroom on the bottom playground after school.



*Please be respectful and remember that we are a strict nut free school, this is a NUT FREE ZONE. ONE entry per child, which needs to be labelled with a description and your child's name. Happy Baking!*

## 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>	
5 October	Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:00am.
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)
<b>14 October</b>	<b>Nasal Flu vaccinations (Reception to Year 6 children)</b>
<b>14-18 October</b>	<b>Start Well Stockport Week of Action (see attached for information).</b>
15 October	KS2 Cross Country Competition at Marple Hall 3:45pm-5:15pm. <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/JW8CD49723">https://forms.office.com/e/JW8CD49723</a>
16 October	PTA Sponsored Bounce.
18 October	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn 1:15pm in the hall.
18 October	Celebration Assembly 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
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.
31 October	Closing date for Year 6 parents to apply for a secondary school place via Stockport Council <a href="#">Secondary school application process - Stockport Council</a> .
4 November	Year 3 Collective Worship at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
<b>5 November</b>	<b>Open Morning for prospective parents 10:00 – 11:30am</b>
11 November	Act of Remembrance 10:50 – 11:05am in the bottom playground. All welcome.
18-21 November	Scholastic Book Fair.
18 November	Year 6 Collective Worship at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
<b>19 November</b>	<b>Open afternoon for prospective parents (1:30pm – 3:00pm).</b>

***Wishing you all a relaxing weekend. Happy baking! Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.***