



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

### Can you complete the Rosary Challenge?



Pray a decade of the Rosary each weekday in October. Begin by carefully listening to a scripture passage. Then, pray the **Our Father**, the **Hail Mary** ten times and finish with the **Glory Be**. As you pray remember the words from scripture and pay attention to how God speaks and moves your heart.

“The Rosary is a powerful weapon. Use it with confidence and you'll be amazed at the results.”  
Saint Josemaria Escriva

Thank you to Dan, our Chaplain, who led us in a prayerful and reflective celebration of the word (collective worship) this week focusing on October – the month of the holy Rosary. Last week we met virtually with Bishop Patrick to recite a decade of the rosary with all the other schools in the diocese. He set us the mission to pray one decade of the rosary each weekday during October. Why not try this over the half term break. You can track your progress using this [chart](#). You could also use [this video](#) to help support your children. The Rosary draws its mysteries from the New Testament and is

centred on the major events of the Incarnation and Redemption with each decade referring to an event in the life of Jesus and Mary. The Mysteries of the Rosary give us 'thumbnails' of the life of Christ and his Mother. The Joyful Mysteries are taken mostly from Saint Luke's Gospel in the New Testament. They involve the joyful events of Jesus' childhood. The Luminous Mysteries bring a deeper understanding of the public life of Jesus. They fill in the blanks between the childhood of Jesus and His suffering and death on the cross. The Sorrowful Mysteries remind us of how much Jesus loves us. They recall how He suffered and died just for us. The Glorious Mysteries tell us what happened after Jesus died - His Resurrection, the descent of the Holy Spirit and the love Jesus had for his Mother, Mary. This month the children have had the opportunity to focus on these mysteries in our optional Monday lunchtime Rosary Club.

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

### PARENTS EVENING

A reminder that parents evening will take place in person on **Wednesday 30 October and Wednesday 6 November 2024 from 3:40pm to 6:40pm**. Appointments are scheduled for ten minutes and offer you the opportunity to discuss how your child(ren) has settled into their new class, an opportunity to look at aspects of their work to date and discuss key targets for the coming year. As last year we are using an online booking system and appointments can be made [here](#). We look forward to meeting with you.



### WELLSPRING – THANK YOU



Thank you for all the kind food donations for The Wellspring. The response this year has been amazing. We have been sent the following lovely message from them:

*'Thank you, Saint Mary's, for your kind donations of food to The Wellspring. We really appreciate your kindness. The cost-of-living crisis is affecting everyone, leading to fewer financial and practical donations*

*at a time when demand is higher than ever, with more people needing to access our services locally. Your generosity will help make it possible for us to ensure that people have the support they need to prevent them from being homeless; that people who do become homeless are helped to secure safe accommodation with the support they need to make a new home; and that no one has to sleep rough.'*

## YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL VISIT TO PGL

Our Year 6 pupils recently returned from a highly successful residential visit to PGL Borreaton Park in Shropshire. The trip was filled with exciting outdoor activities such as abseiling, climbing, fencing, zip wiring, and a sensory trail, all of which challenged and inspired the children. Blessed with beautiful September sunshine, the pupils embraced each adventure with enthusiasm, teamwork, and resilience. Evenings were spent enjoying hearty meals and the warmth of a campfire, creating wonderful memories. The experience not only provided fun but also fostered confidence and friendships, making it a truly unforgettable trip for all involved. The attitudes and behaviour of the children was exemplary, and they were a credit to the school and their families. A special thank you to the staff who accompanied the children and gave freely of their own time. Planning for September 2025 is well underway!



## OPEN EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS/CARERS



There will be an **open morning from 10:00am – 11:30am on Tuesday 5 November** and an **open afternoon from 1:30pm – 3:00pm on Tuesday 19 November 2024** for prospective parents/carers who are considering sending their children to St Mary's in September 2025. If you are in this position, or know of families who are, please spread the word. At both events prospective parents/carers will have the opportunity to visit our wonderful school, meet some of our amazing children and staff and see St Mary's in action.

## SPONSORED BOUNCE AND SPARKLE DISCO

The children had a fantastic bounce day on Wednesday. We are very grateful to all our parent volunteers for the intense counting that went on! Thank you to all those who have paid in sponsorship money so far to the GoFundMe page. Please pay in any outstanding monies by the first week back after half term break. The PTA want to get the wish list items ordered asap! If you have yet to donate [the link is here](#). We are hugely grateful to Graham from Castle Kingdom who very kindly donated the bouncy castle for us to use. Please have a look at his site if you need a bouncy castle for an event <https://www.castlekingdomstockport.co.uk/>. His number is 07826516765.



Tickets for our fabulous **Sparkle Disco** to be held on **Friday 8 November** will shortly be on sale! Tickets will be priced at £3. We are once again having one big family disco from 5:00-6:15pm. There will be a tuck shop, hot dogs, pizza, tattoos and a licenced bar. Sparkly clothing can be worn! Tickets will shortly be available via the [PTA website](#).

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2025



The deadline of **31 October** for Year 6 parents/carers to apply for a secondary school place for September 2025 is fast approaching. Applications to enter Nursery, Reception and Year 7 in September 2025 are now open. To avoid disappointment please ensure that you apply by the on-time deadlines: **31 October 2024** for Year 7, **15 January 2025** for Reception, **31 March 2025** for Nursery. Please follow the below links for useful information which you should read before submitting your application: [Nursery and school admissions - Stockport Council](#) and [Admissions explained - Stockport Council](#).

### WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT!

St Mary's proudly took part in an exciting world record attempt on Tuesday morning for the largest number of people handwashing simultaneously as part of Global Handwashing Day. This event was not only a fun and memorable experience for our children, but also an important reminder of the significance of proper hand hygiene. Our children enthusiastically gathered, joining schools from across the globe in this coordinated effort to promote health and well-being. By participating in this event, St Mary's continues to foster a sense of community, global awareness, and a commitment to healthy habits.



### CROSS COUNTRY NEWS



16 children from years 3 to 6 participated in the Stockport Shapes Alliance Cross Country after school event on Tuesday at Marple Hall School. They were very enthusiastic, in their running, sportsmanship and support of each other. Congratulations go to Finnley (Year 3), Florence (Year 4), Lucy and Harry (both Year 5) for achieving a top 10 position. Lucy in Year 6 came 1st in her race. Our Year 5-6 girls' team of Lucy, Lucy, Rosa and Lucia came overall 3rd. All the children enjoyed this event. We've also had great success at the Stockport

Harrier's meets at Woodbank Park... It was a beautiful morning at the schools' cross country on Saturday 5 October at Woodbank Park. 15 of our children ran with determination in the autumn sunshine. Well done to all the runners and a special mention to Lucy in year 6 for coming 3rd and her brother Harry for coming 4th in his race. It must *RUN* in the family 😊. Mrs Ashton hope to see you at the next one on **Saturday 2 November**.

### GARDENING UPDATE

It has been a busy half term for St Mary's gardeners. We have seen a lot of rain and are delighted to report our custom-built water recycling system installed by Mr Chrippes and Mr Knowles and other helpers is working beautifully! A wonderful new potting shed has been kindly donated to us and thanks to the efforts of Grandad Jim and Mr Bowler it has been transported, assembled and painted and has freed up a lot of storage space from the polytunnel. Children have been harvesting the last produce from the vegetable plots and apple trees and picking the flowers for the school prayer tables and office. We are working our way round the gardens to prepare them for winter, leaving plenty of seed heads and plant material for our wildlife. We have also made a start on two new exciting projects for Spring/Summer next year. More news to follow. Happy Gardening!



### CHARITY FUNDRAISING

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our parents for their incredible generosity over the past two Fridays. On Family Fast Day, we raised an impressive **£156 for CAFOD**, supporting their vital work in helping communities around the world. Last Friday, in recognition of World Mental Health Day, we raised **£140 for Young Minds**, a charity dedicated to supporting the mental health and well-being of young people. Your kindness and support make a real difference, and we are truly grateful for your contributions to these important causes.



### ST MARY'S PARISH MARPLE BRIDGE AND NEW MILLS CHRISTMAS FAIR



The parish of St Mary's, Marple Bridge, and The Annunciation, New Mills, is holding its 2024 parish Christmas Fair - and, as part of the parish family, you are invited!

The Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 9 November, from 10:00am to 1:00pm** at the parish hall in New Mills (St. Mary's Road, New Mills, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 3BW).

There will be a tombola, cakes, refreshments, music and themed stalls.

## 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 dates in <b>bold</b>.</i>
18 October	School closes for the October half term break.
28 October	School reopens at 8:40am following the October half term break.
29 October	Y3/Y4 netball tournament at Harrytown Catholic High School. 3:45 – 5:15pm.
30 Oct & 6 Nov	Parents Evenings 3:40pm – 6:40pm. Bookings can be made via this link <a href="#">here</a> .
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> .
1 November	All Saints' Day Mass. 2:00pm in the school hall. All welcome.
2 November	Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:00am.
4 November	Year 3 Collective Worship at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
5 November	Open Morning for prospective parents 10:00 – 11:30am
7 November	Lisa Smart MP visiting the School Council.
8 November	PTA Sparkle Disco 5:00- 6:15pm. Tickets available soon via the <a href="#">St Mary's PTA – St Mary's Marple Bridge PTA (stmaryspta.org.uk)</a>
9 November	St Mary's Parish Christmas Fair 10:00-1:00pm (Parish Hall, New Mills).
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.
19 November	Open afternoon for prospective parents (1:30pm – 3:00pm).
<b>21 November</b>	<b>Individual and sibling photographs.</b>
<b>29 November</b>	<b>INSET Day – school closed to children.</b>
<b>30 November</b>	<b>Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:00am.</b>
<b>2 December</b>	<b>Advent Service 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.</b>
<b>4 December</b>	<b>Junior Festival of Carols – St George's Church, Heavily 7:30pm.</b>
<b>6 December</b>	<b>PTA Christmas Fair 3:30pm – 5:30pm.</b>
<b>10 December</b>	<b>Nursery and Reception Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm. (Note date change.)</b>
<b>11 December</b>	<b>Pantomime at Romiley Forum (Nursery – Year 6).</b>
<b>12 December</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner day.</b>
<b>17 December</b>	<b>Y4/Y5 Swimming Gala 9:30 – 11:30am at Grand Central.</b>
<b>18 December</b>	<b>Y1/Y2 Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm.</b>
<b>20 December</b>	<b>Carol Service – 1:30pm in the hall. All Welcome.</b>
<b>20 December</b>	<b>School closes for the Christmas holidays.</b>
<b>6 January 2025</b>	<b>School reopens following the Christmas holidays.</b>

### CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING REFLECTION

This half term, our Catholic Social Teaching theme focused on **Care for Creation**. We are called to recognise God's presence in all of creation and to respond by caring for our planet with love and responsibility. Through prayer, reflection, and practical actions, our children have been learning to protect the environment and promote sustainable living, ensuring that we are stewards of God's gift for future generations. Let us continue to respect and cherish all that God has created! Next half term we will be focusing on *the preferential option for the poor*.

Powerful God, you hold us and everything you have made in your loving care. You are in the whole universe and in every tiny creature. Pour out on us, God, the power of your love and teach us to care for life and for beauty. Fill us with peace, so that we do not harm others, but love them all like sisters and brothers. God, we know that people who are poor are very special to you and you want us to love them too, so they are not forgotten. We ask you to change us so that we protect your world, not destroy it. Change the hearts of people who only care about themselves and money, instead of caring about people and the Earth. Show us how even small things matter, help us see that we are all connected to each other and to the earth. We thank you God for being with us each day, fill us up with wonder and light, and help us to bring peace to our beautiful world. Amen.



**Wishing you all a safe and happy half term break! We look forward to seeing you on Monday 28 October. Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.**