



# St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

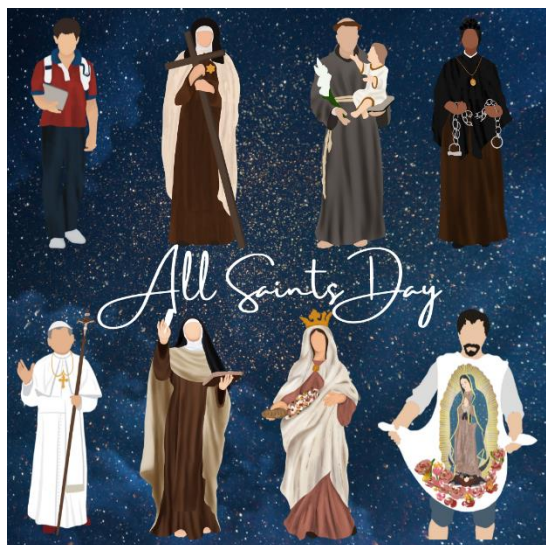
<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

St Mary's Parish: <http://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/>

Holy Spirit Parish: <https://www.holyspiritmarple.com/>

**Bulletin Number 8: Friday 1 November 2024**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Welcome back! We hope that you had a wonderful half term break. This week, our school has been immersed in celebrating the Catholic life of our community, focusing on the solemnity of All Saints. Throughout the week, the children have reflected on the lives of saints, understanding their dedication to God and how we, too, can strive to follow their examples in our daily lives. The children have been learning that a Saint is one of those women or men who in their life set an example of how to live a life for God. The children have reflected on how they give hope to us all that we can become better people and one day become Saints ourselves. The children have learned how Jesus gave us the instructions to live a holy life in the Beatitudes. Our journey culminated today with a beautiful, whole-school Mass celebrated by Father Bill. It was a profound

opportunity for us all to come together in faith, honouring the Communion of Saints and deepening our connection to the spiritual traditions that enrich our school. Father Bill's homily encouraged us to live with purpose and kindness, inspired by those who have come before us.

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

## 2024 POPPY APPEAL

Each year the Royal British Legion honour servicemen and women through their annual Poppy Appeal. Poppies and child friendly memorabilia are available from the school office. The suggested donation is £1 per item. **On Monday 11 November at 10:50am** we will be holding a short service of remembrance on the playground to which you are all very welcome to attend. Mrs Groarke-Booth has kindly offered to play the Last Post and if any parents/carers serving in the Scouts, Guides, Cadets, Armed or Emergency Services would like to join us in their uniforms, you are most welcome. Children who are members of uniformed associations e.g. Brownies or Cubs are also welcome to wear their uniforms on this day.



## PARENTS EVENINGS



A reminder that the second of our parents evenings will take place in person on **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. If you are yet to make an appointment they can be made [here](#). The postponed Y3 parents evening from Wednesday 30 October will now take place on Wednesday 20 November. Appointment times remain the same. We look forward to meeting with you.



DIOCESE OF  
NOTTINGHAM

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR

[headteacher@mmb.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:headteacher@mmb.srscmat.co.uk)

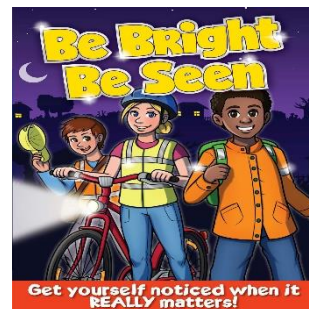
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St Ralph  
Sherwin  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

## BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN ON THE ROADS

Please share this important road safety message from Stockport Council's Road Safety Team with your children: As daylight hours get shorter it's ever more important to take care when out and about crossing roads. To help drivers see you, think about wearing something bright or having a bright tag on your school bag. If cycling, check your lights are working and use them. Look for safer places to cross roads such as puffin or zebra crossings. Try and cross where there is plenty of street lighting. That will help you to see and be seen by drivers.



## OCTOBER HOUSE POINTS

Please see the totals for the month of October. St Patrick's House are currently in the lead but there is a long way to go until the end of the term term...

St George	St Peter	St Mary	St Patrick
893	823	887	962



## INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

TEMPEST  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Will be held on **Thursday 21 November**. Preschool siblings are more than welcome to join their sisters and/or brothers who attend St Mary's and can be brought into school via the office entrance from 8:30am.

## 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.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We are excited to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to St Mary's from **14 - 19 November**. This is a wonderful opportunity for children and families to discover new books and foster a love for reading. The fair will be open each day from 8:30am - 8:50am in the morning and from 3:20pm - 3:40pm in the afternoon. As with last year, all purchases will be cashless, making payments easy and convenient. Every book purchased helps earn rewards for our school, supporting our library and literacy programs. We look forward to seeing you there!

SCHOLASTIC  
**BOOK FAIR!**  
COMING SOON!

## YEAR 3 AND YEAR HARRYTOWN NETBALL FESTIVAL



Nine Year 3 and Year 4 children took part in the Harrytown Netball Festival on Tuesday afternoon, showcasing teamwork, sportsmanship, and skill on the court. Competing against other local schools, our children gave their best efforts, displaying both determination and enthusiasm. This event was a wonderful opportunity for them to develop their netball skills, strengthen friendships, and experience the joy of friendly competition. We are incredibly proud of their positive attitudes and commitment to representing St Mary's so well. A big thank you to the Harrytown coaches and supporters, especially Mrs Ashton and Mrs Bramhall who helped make the event a memorable and fun one!



## ATTENDANCE UPDATE



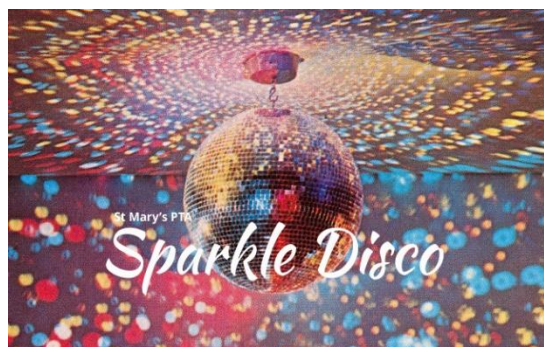
**DID YOU KNOW?** A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%

At St Mary's we feel 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 October is to the right. Our school target is 97%. Congratulations everyone on your amazing efforts this month. As a school we have achieved a very good **96.6%** attendance. When rounded we have hit our target for two months running - fantastic! Nationally, attendance currently stands at 94.1%, so again, well done St Mary's for our strong attendance and thank you parents/carers for supporting strong attendance habits.

October 2024 Attendance	
Rec	96%
Y1	95 %
Y2	94%
Y3	99 %
Y4	97 %
Y5	97 %
Y6	98%
Overall	<b>96.6 %</b>

As per our 2024-2025 Attendance Policy, requests for leave of absence during term time must be made using the form available from the school office or [on the school website](#). Forms should be **submitted at least 15 school days prior to the requested leave**. Please note that holidays taken during term time (whatever the circumstances) cannot be authorised and may result in Stockport Council issuing each parent with a Fixed Penalty Notice. For further details, please refer to the [Stockport Council website](#) and our [Attendance Policy](#) is available on the school website.

## PTA NEWS



Tickets for our fabulous [Sparkle Disco](#) to be held on **Friday 8 November** are now on sale! Tickets are 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 are available via the [PTA website](#).

**The 2024 St Mary's School Christmas Fair will be Friday 6 December - 3.30pm-5.30pm**

A little advance notice... We have started to plan for our fantastic Christmas Fair. Please can you send in the following items over the following Fridays in November and December to support the fair and make it an enjoyable and successful event...

**Friday 15 November** - unwanted gifts for *Elfridges* and wrapping paper.

**Friday 22 November** - chocolates for the Chocolate Tombola.

**Friday 29 December** - bottles for the Bottle Tombola. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

**Friday 6 December - DAY OF THE FAIR** any further donations of unwanted gifts for *Elfridges*, chocolates or bottles (*non-uniform day in exchange for donations on 6 December only.*)

We will once again also be having a Teddy Adoption stall so if you have any new/ great condition teddies that you would like to donate please send these in from 2 December.

Tickets for Father Christmas will go on sale online in pre bookable slots - details for this shortly on the [PTA website](#). If anyone has any raffle prizes they would like to donate please contact the PTA: [pta@stmaryspta.org.uk](mailto:pta@stmaryspta.org.uk). The Christmas fair is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and it is a very special afternoon. If anyone would like to help at the fair, please get in touch with the PTA. [pta@stmaryspta.org.uk](mailto:pta@stmaryspta.org.uk). We particularly need people to help clear and tidy up at the end of the fair. Thank you for your support.

**WREATH MAKING** - We are running our first ever Wreath making class-this will be run by the fabulous Zoe-of the Marple Flower House on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 5:00pm. Cost is £40, and this includes all materials and a glass of fizz/mulled wine/soft drink/ tea/coffee etc. All welcome. Further details on the [PTA website](#).

## 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.

### KEY DATES AND EVENTS UPDATE

The [Key Dates and Events calendar](#) has been updated to reflect the activities and events planned for this half term, particularly in the build up to Christmas. We encourage you to take a moment to review the [calendar available on the school website](#) to ensure you're up-to-date with all that's happening at school. As always, please read this in conjunction with the 'Dates for Your Diary' section of this newsletter, where you'll find additional details and reminders. We look forward to a busy and rewarding half term ahead!"

### KEY DATES...



### 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>	
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).
6 November	Parents Evenings 3:40pm – 6:40pm. Bookings can be made via this link <a href="#">here</a> .
7 November	Lisa Smart MP visiting the School Council.
8 November	PTA Sparkle Disco 5:00- 6:15pm. Tickets available via <a href="#">Sparkle Disco – St Mary's PTA</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.
<b>11-15 November</b>	<b>Anti-bullying week – 2024 theme: choose respect.</b>
<b>12 November</b>	<b>Wear 'odd socks' to school in support of anti-bullying week.</b>
14-19 November	Scholastic Book Fair. 8:30 – 8:50am and 3:20 – 3:40pm.
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).
21 November	Individual and sibling photographs.
29 November	INSET Day – school closed to children.
30 November	Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:00am.
<b>1 December</b>	<b>PTA Wreath Making from 5:00pm. Further details: <a href="#">Wreath Making Workshop – St Mary's PTA</a>.</b>
2 December	Advent Service 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
4 December	Junior Festival of Carols – St George's Church, Heavily 7:30pm (led by Y3).
6 December	PTA Christmas Fair 3:30pm – 5:30pm.
10 December	Nursery and Reception Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm. (Note date change.)
11 December	Pantomime at Romiley Forum (Nursery – Year 6).
12 December	Christmas Dinner day.
<b>15 December</b>	<b>Advent carol service at Holy Spirit church, Marple. 4:00pm – 5:00pm.</b>
17 December	Y4/Y5 Swimming Gala 9:30 – 11:30am at Grand Central.
18 December	Y1/Y2 Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm.
20 December	Carol Service – 1:30pm in the hall. All Welcome.
20 December	School closes for the Christmas holidays.
6 January 2025	School reopens following the Christmas holidays.

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