



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 9: Friday 8 November 2024

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, Year 3 led a beautiful Celebration of the word, focussing on our Catholic Social Teaching theme for this half term: *the preferential option for the poor*. Through their thoughtful words and reflections, Year 3 reminded us of the importance of caring for those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Reflecting on the gospel story of the poor woman who gave her last two coins, the children taught us that true generosity means

giving cheerfully, with an open heart, and challenged each of us to take action by helping someone in need this week. Let us all embrace this mission and look for ways to support and uplift those around us, making a meaningful difference in our community.

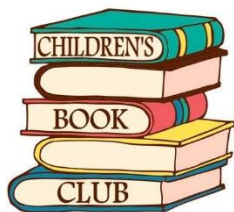
WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the word with your children.

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. **Next 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.



ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB – ADVENT 2



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 2 book recommendations, which you may like to share and discuss together at home over the weekend. Remember children in Y1-Y6 are invited to attend story time in the library each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime.

CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Last Saturday, St Mary's attended the 3rd school's cross-country event at Woodbank Park. The weather conditions were perfect for running, no rain and very little mud! Well done to all 14 children that took part. Special congratulations go to Lucy for coming 1st and Harry 9th. The next event is on Saturday 30th November, all welcome.



**DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM**

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**St Ralph
Sherwin**

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

POTTERY CLUB



Our Pottery Club has been diving into the world of clay with creativity and enthusiasm this half term! The children have been working on a special project to design and create their own unique clay fish. Using slab-building and carving techniques, each child sculpted their fish, adding intricate scales, fins, and textures to make them come to life. They've learned about the importance of patience and attention to detail, as well as the science behind clay. We're so proud of their artistic achievements!

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 11 – 15 NOVEMBER 2024

During Anti-Bullying Week 2024, our school will be focusing on the theme *Choose Respect*. As part of this year's Anti-Bullying Week campaign, we are urging everyone to think about how we can 'Choose Respect' instead of bullying, and how we can role model this behaviour. Through a variety of activities, our children will explore what it means to show respect to others and to stand against all forms of bullying. In PSHE lessons, children will discuss the different types of bullying—physical, verbal, cyber, and social—developing their understanding of how harmful these behaviors can be. In RE lessons, they will reflect on the values of kindness, empathy, and inclusion as taught by our faith, exploring how respect for others aligns with the teachings of Jesus. Across other areas of the curriculum, we'll be linking themes of respect, friendship, and compassion, encouraging students to consider how they can make positive choices to foster a supportive and respectful school environment aligned to our St Mary's Way behaviour curriculum. We hope that by engaging in these discussions, our children will feel empowered to contribute to a caring community where everyone feels valued. Further information about this year's theme [can be found here](#).



ODD SOCKS DAY – 12 NOVEMBER

All the children need to do is wear odd socks and the more colourful the better! It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique. Odd Socks Day is being held on **Tuesday 12 November** this year during Anti-Bullying Week. During the week in school, we will be looking at some of the Protected Characteristics and talking about respect for all linked to Anti-Bullying Week.

VISIT BY LISA SMART MP



On Thursday, we had the pleasure of welcoming Lisa Smart MP to our school, where she met with two of our pupil leadership groups: the Community Custodians and the School Council. The Community Custodians engaged in an insightful conversation about health and safety issues affecting our school family, including concerns around parking and ensuring a safe environment for everyone. Lisa commended their awareness and commitment to making a positive impact on the school's surroundings and the local community.

Our School Council members also had the opportunity to ask Lisa questions on a range of important local and national issues. Reflecting values central to our school and Catholic Social Teaching, they discussed topics like environmental protection, the cost of living, responsible leadership, and how we can better support the poor and vulnerable in society. Lisa was very impressed by the depth of their questions and the maturity with which our pupils engaged in these significant discussions. She also shared an insider's perspective on a typical day as an MP, which left the children excited for their forthcoming visit to the Houses of Parliament in the spring - where Lisa will join us once again for part of the experience.

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



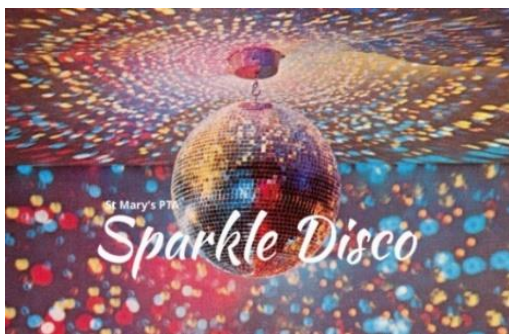
On Tuesday we held our open morning. It was wonderful to welcome prospective parents to St Mary's. **There will now be an open afternoon from 1:30pm – 3:00pm on Tuesday 19 November 2024** for prospective parents/carers who are considering sending their children to St Mary's in September 2025. If you are in this position, or know of families who are, please spread the word. At this event 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. As a reminder, the closing date for Reception places 2025 is 15 January and applications are made via the [Stockport Council Admissions website](#).

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair is visiting St Mary's from **Thursday 14 to Tuesday 19 November**. Attached is a flier with a small selection of the books that will be available to buy. If you can't attend in person with your child, feel free to visit <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases>, once you have chosen your books complete the attached wish list and pay online via this link <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay>. Please ensure that you return the wish list to the school office before the 19 November, so that we can place your order. Remember there are some great bargains to be had and lots of ideas for Christmas gifts. The bonus is that school receives free books as a reward for hosting the book fair.



PTA NEWS



Tickets for our fabulous [Sparkle Disco](#) to be held tonight **Friday 8 November** are still available. 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-5:00pm

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. 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. 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 1st 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 **tomorrow, 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.



ONLINE PARENTING COURSES – FAMILY LIVES



Being a parent/carer has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents/carers may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives

has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested, please follow this link: <https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>. Family Lives offers a confidential and free helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

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 bold.</i>
8 November	PTA Sparkle Disco 5:00- 6:15pm. Tickets available via Sparkle Disco – St Mary's PTA .
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 on the bottom playground. All welcome.
11-15 November	Anti-bullying week – 2024 theme: choose respect.
12 November	Wear 'odd socks' to school in support of anti-bullying week.
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.
1 December	PTA Wreath Making from 5:00pm. Further details: Wreath Making Workshop – St Mary's PTA .
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 – 5:00pm.
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.
15 December	Advent carol service at Holy Spirit church, Marple. 4:00pm – 5:00pm.
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 restful weekend! Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.