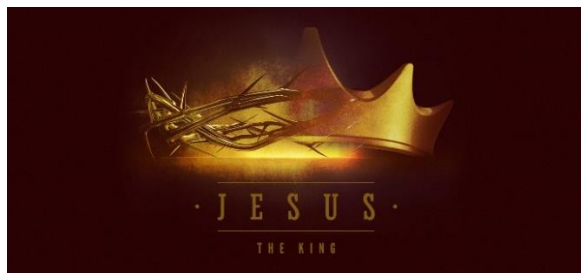




RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



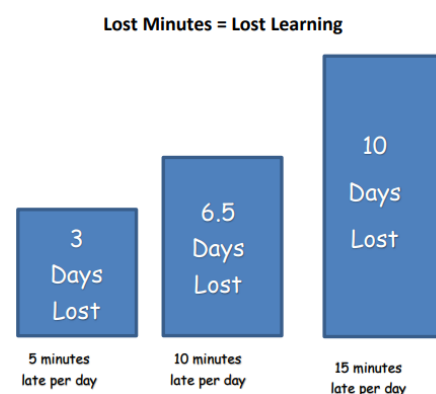
In the last week of November, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Our whole school celebration of the word this week was a series of reflections inviting children to explore the idea that their hearts are little kingdoms made for the King. Children were reminded that Jesus wants good things for us and He is interested in all that is close to their hearts: special

people, passions, memories and hopes. Each day, children were invited to ask Jesus to be the King of their Hearts. You might like to use this short prayer as part of your family prayer time: *Jesus, you care about us and want good things for us. Thank you for the precious people inside our hearts. Watch over us, guide us, let our hearts be ruled by you. Christ the King be King of my Heart. Amen.* Next week we enter into the season of Advent and we will launch with an Advent Celebration of the word led by our Faith Friends at 2:30pm on Monday. You are all very welcome to attend.

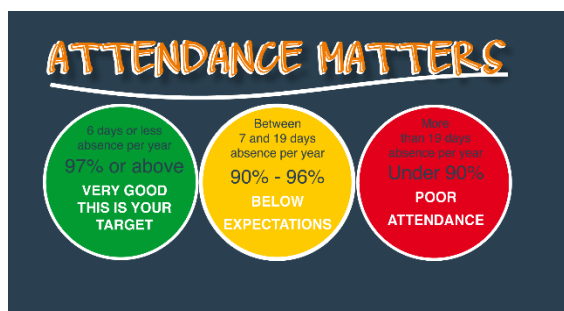
WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the word with your children.

PUNCTUALITY

It is very important for all children to arrive at school on time each day. The school day starts at 8:50am. Arriving a few minutes late each day can have a significant impact on learning over time. The door opens at 8:40am until 8:50am. This time is for your child to settle into the school day, speak with their friends and complete start of the day activities. As the graph to the right shows, being 5 minutes late each day over the year adds up to 3 lost days of learning. 10 minutes adds up to 6.5 days and 15 minutes totals 10 days of lost learning. We all recognise the importance of strong attendance but equally, arriving on time promptly paves the way for a successful start to your child's day and promotes good habits for work in later life. Thank you for your valued support.



NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE UPDATE



We are delighted to share our attendance figures for November, reflecting the fantastic commitment of our pupils and families to regular school attendance. This month, our overall attendance reached **96.83%**, with several classes exceeding **our target of 97%** – an excellent effort! A huge well done to Year 1, Year 3 and

Year 4 who have led the way with the highest attendance this month. Regular attendance is vital for learning success, and we thank all our families for their continued support in ensuring children are in school and ready to learn every day. Keep up the great work!

| November 2024 Attendance | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Rec | 94.84% |
| Y1 | 98.62% |
| Y2 | 96.97% |
| Y3 | 98.0% |
| Y4 | 97.04% |
| Y5 | 95.52% |
| Y6 | 96.59% |
| Overall | 96.83% |





CHRISTMAS POSTBOX

The St Mary's post box will be available from Monday 2nd December, we ask all cards to be posted by Monday 16th December. Please ensure all cards have the child's name and year group clearly labelled.

TRAVELLING CRIBS ARE ON THEIR WAY...

Our Travelling Cribs started their journey this week. Each pack contains a set of beautiful wooden figures, and additional items, to enable every family in our school to have an overnight visit from the Holy Family. Please make time to enjoy this experience, whichever day you receive the Travelling Crib, and send the pack back to school the next day, so that everyone has a turn and can be included before we break up for Christmas.



CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT



Some of the children who have received individual/group music tuition will be performing for the school on **Monday 16 December at 9:30am**. If you are free, you are more than welcome to join us for a few festive renditions and to celebrate the children's hard work in music. The concert will last approximately 45 minutes.

IT'S PANTO SEASON... OH NO IT'S NOT! OH YES IT IS!

We are edging closer to our whole school visit to the pantomime performance of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* at Romiley Forum on **Wednesday 11 December**. This fantastic event is a highlight of our festive calendar and promises to bring plenty of laughter, magic, and Christmas cheer for everyone. It's a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to experience live theatre and enjoy the spirit of the season together. We can't wait to see the excitement on their faces as they immerse themselves in this classic Christmas tradition! We have only had permission and payment from half the children. In order for this trip to go ahead we do need more payments. [Please follow the link to give permission for your child to attend](#).



RECEPTION PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025



If you are applying for a school (Reception) place for next September, applications should be made by the **15 January 2025** via the [Stockport Admissions website](#). Please note: *if your child attends St Mary's Nursery, this does not guarantee your child a place in the school.* You will need to complete the application form using the link above by the closing date.

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

It was wonderful seeing all the children and their siblings beaming for their school photographs last week – the children look so smart. You should have received a proof of your child's photograph which has a web link and QR code to order copies. Please order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk. You have until 4 December to place orders if you want to receive free delivery. After this date delivery charges will apply.

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

WINTER WONDERLAND



Our Y1 and Y2 pupils have been asked to sing at Winter Wonderland in Marple Bridge on **Saturday 7 December**. Please complete the below form to sign up to support us, as we celebrate Christmas in the community. Uniform will not be required and Christmas jumpers are encouraged. We will meet at the main stage and the children will sing for around 20 minutes. Parents are asked to remain at the stage whilst the children are singing. We are waiting to hear from the organisers regarding what time our slot on stage will be, but we believe it will be sometime after 2pm. We will contact parents again once timings have been confirmed. <https://forms.office.com/e/65jpjVhiM>

PTA NEWS



The 2024 St Mary's School Christmas Fair will be this Friday, 6 December – 3:30pm-5:00pm.

Please can you send in the following items to support the fair and make it an enjoyable and successful event...

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 are on the [PTA website](#). If anyone has any raffle prizes they would like to donate please contact the PTA: pta@stmaryspta.org.uk. We have the grotto, Elfridges, toasting marshmallows, tombola room, tree of treats, games, tuck shop and the kitchen will be selling mulled wine, hot dogs and turkey sandwiches! We need volunteers though - please fill in the google sheet or message 07857940044 if you can help - no experience necessary! https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1g-hEMIVRjeMNpLjsX_XPFSm9wRFyDvx756s85HwkKsA/htmlview

WREATH MAKING

Please join us for our first ever wreath making class - run by the wonderful Zoe from The Flower House Marple. The price is £30 and includes a drink, and all the materials you will need to make a gorgeous wreath. Sunday December 1st 6-8pm. <https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/wreath-making/>

PTA Tea Towels!

We are excited to bring you the 2024 tea towels featuring self-portraits of our wonderful St Mary's children (and staff!). **The order deadline is Monday 2 December.** Prices start at £7 for 1, £13 for 2 and £18 for 3. To order, please contact Charlotte - 07703546474 or email crmclarke@btinternet.com
The perfect Christmas gift!

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> |
| 30 November | Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:00am. |
| 1 December | PTA Wreath Making, further details: Wreath Making Workshop – St Mary's PTA . |
| 2 December | Advent Service 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome. |
| 3 December | Junior Festival of Carols – St George's Church, Heavily 7:30pm (led by Y3). |
| 6 December | Any further donations of unwanted gifts for the Christmas Fair: Elfridges, chocolates or bottles (<i>non-uniform day in exchange for donations on this date only.</i>) |
| 6 December | PTA Christmas Fair 3:30pm – 5:00pm. |
| 7 December | Marple Bridge Winter Wonderland 1-5pm. Y1 and Y2 singing. Time TBC. |
| 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. |
| 16 December | Christmas Music Concert – 9:30am in the hall. |
| 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.