



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



We are now in the first week of Advent, marking a sacred time that goes beyond the usual hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. Amidst the busyness, preparations, and celebrations leading up to Jesus' birth, it's important to take moments to pause, reflect, and ready our hearts, minds, and lives for His coming.

On Monday afternoon, our school family did just that, coming together for a beautiful Advent celebration of the word led by our dedicated Faith Friends. The service was a deeply moving reminder of the hope, peace, joy, and love that Advent brings. Through heartfelt prayers, reflective readings, and uplifting hymns, the Faith Friends encouraged us to ponder the true meaning of this holy season. We are immensely proud of their leadership and thank them for inspiring us all to embrace Advent with renewed faith and anticipation.

On Tuesday evening, our talented Year 3 children proudly represented our school at the St George's Carol Concert. Joining voices with pupils from other Stockport schools, they delivered a heartwarming performance that filled the historic church with festive cheer. Their enthusiasm and joy were truly contagious, and their beautiful singing showcased the spirit of the season. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to connect with the wider community, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and outstanding performance. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported them, especially our gifted music teacher, Mrs. Tennant, whose guidance made this evening so special!

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

SEND You may be aware, from reading the news, that the Government has described special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as a national crisis. The current system just isn't working and we understand the upset or frustrations that parents/carers face if their child has SEND. Like many mainstream schools around the country, we have worked incredibly hard to develop our practice and provision to meet a wider range of needs than ever before. In fact, very recently we have been praised and recognised by Stockport Council for our SEND provision and asked to share our good practice with other schools in the area. However, parents/carers should recognise that our approach to inclusion does not remove waiting lists for access to services nor does it increase funding to support children with SEND etc. Even when a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), additional funding rarely covers 1:1 support and, often, will only cover support which is already being given in school. Our staff are trained to support a variety of needs within class as we recognise that approaches used for children with SEND will usually also benefit the whole class. For further information about our approach to SEND at St Mary's, [click here](#). If you have any questions then please do get in touch with our Inclusion Leader, Mrs Norburn. You can get in touch via the school office.

Special Educational Needs



& Disability

SLEEP WEBINAR FOR PARENTS Do you have a child aged 2 -10 years of age? Do you struggle with your child's disrupted sleep? Do you feel exhausted? If yes, then the Stockport Parenting Team would like to invite you to come along to their virtual Sleep Seminar on **12 December 2024 from 9:30am-12:00pm**. The session will include useful information about understanding sleep cycles, establishing bedtime routines and how to support children's sleep patterns; and we will provide you with some helpful handouts that will support the session. Register via this link: [Sleep Seminar - 12th December 2024 Tickets, Thu 12 Dec 2024 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)



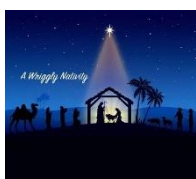
MINDFUL RESILIENCE FOR PARENTS

8-week courses starting in January for Parents & Carers of Neurodivergent Children and Adults.

These courses are free for Stockport families with an option of face to face or online. Please see the attached flyer for more information.



EYFS NATIVITY



Our Nursery and Reception children look forward to welcoming you to their 'Wiggly Nativity' on **Tuesday 10 December** at either 10:00am or 2:00pm. We ask that only **two adults per child** come to watch each performance due to fire restrictions and the capacity of our hall. Older siblings in school will have the opportunity to watch their sister or brother perform in the dress rehearsal.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our post box is out! We will do ONE delivery in the last week of term and ask all cards to be posted by Monday 16 December. Please remember: each card must have the **child's name and class** clearly written on the envelope to ensure correct delivery.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH: 12 December



Christmas jumpers may be worn on this day. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, do not fear: you are not expected to buy one. You can let your child wear a favourite jumper instead.

OUTDOOR PE KITS

Winter has arrived with vengeance, but the children will continue to do PE outdoors. Please can you ensure that your child has tracksuits bottoms and a warm long sleeve jumper.

TERM DATES 2025 – 2026

The term dates (holiday list) for 2025-2026 have now been published and were emailed to parents today. They are also [available here on our school website](#).



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!

CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Our intrepid cross country runners were not put off by the crisp, frosty and cold weather we've been having recently. Well done to all the runners who took part. Keep running until the next race which is on **Saturday 18th January 2025**. Hopefully our new cross country vests will have been delivered from the manufacturer by then.



CAFOD FESTIVE FUN RUN



Everyone is welcome to join CAFOD for the annual Christmas Fun Run in Bollington on **27 December at 11:00am**. Wear your festive fancy dress and take on this joyful run to support communities around the world to lift themselves out of poverty. This is a great opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors with the family over the Christmas period, whilst also contributing to a good cause. Adult, child and family entrance fees are available. Whether you walk, run or jog, every step makes a difference. Please use the QR code to register or find out more info on our website: www.cafod.org.uk/Bollington

RECYCLING YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE FOR FRANCIS HOUSE

Will you be buying a real Christmas tree this year? Registrations have opened for Francis House Children's Hospice Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme in partnership with Just Helping and St Ann's Hospice, Greater Manchester. If you live in Greater Manchester, you can book now to have your Christmas tree collected and recycled between 9 – 12 January and they ask you to make a small donation of your choice. That's one less thing to worry about over the festive period! Register now at www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree. Your support ensures that they can make a real difference for local families facing unimaginable challenges. With your help, they can ensure no family need face their difficult journey alone and Francis House can remain a crucial lifeline for families navigating the toughest times ahead of them.



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>
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.
27 December	CAFOD Fun Run (Bollington) Bollington Fun Run .
6 January 2025	School reopens following the Christmas holidays.
13 January	Druhm workshops for each class. welcome to the DRUHM academy .
18 January	Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:00am.
20 January	Year 2 Celebration of the word. 2:30pm. All welcome.
22 January	Year 6 SATs meeting for parents. 6:00-7:00pm.
31 January	PTA Family Quiz Night. 6:00pm – 8:00pm.
14 February	School closes for the February half term break.
23 February	INSET day – school closed to pupils.
24 February	School reopens to pupils following the half term break.

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