



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week our 'Faith Friends' from each year group led a wonderful celebration of the word reminding us that we are in the season of Advent – a time of reflection and preparation. We are preparing not only to receive Jesus on Christmas morning but also to remember that the Church gives us this season to remind us to slow

down in the busyness of shopping, wrapping presents, Christmas parties etc. to remember that we should also prepare ourselves to receive Jesus in the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, but also to prepare our hearts for Jesus returning. As the Gospel for the second Sunday of Advent reminded us, we should 'prepare the way for the Lord.' This year, let our Advent promise be to remember what we are really preparing for: the Jesus of *history* who came to us over 2000 years ago as a vulnerable baby to save humanity, the Jesus of *mystery* who is with us and nourishes each day in the Sacraments and the Jesus of *majesty* who will come in glory at the end of days. Mission Together have an interactive children's [Advent Calendar](#) that you might like to share with your child at home to help celebrate this season. To further assist us in our Advent journey, this Sunday, 15 December, at 4:00pm you are invited to join with the parish of Holy Spirit, Marple for a Carol Concert where some of our children will be singing and reading. You are all very welcome.

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Father Bill led each class in 20 minutes of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Monday. Each class had the privilege to visit Jesus and spend some quiet time in reflection, saying class and individual prayers and singing hymns of praise to help them prepare for the true meaning of Christmas. The children displayed great reverence in the presence of Our Lord, and it was an honour to see them develop their understanding that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist and this Sacrament is the source and summit of our faith. Well done St Mary's! Thank you, Father Bill, for leading us in prayer and journeying with us through Advent.



EYFS NATIVITY CONGRATULATIONS



Our nativity season has started and it certainly was a joy to celebrate the Christmas story with our children in the Early Years this week as they told us about that special 'Wiggly Nativity'. The children were absolutely amazing and were all stars themselves! They really helped us get in the Christmas spirit. Special thanks to all of our Early Years staff and volunteers for helping the children put on such a high quality and dazzling retelling. Finally, thank you to you, our wonderful parents, for providing us with such amazing 'stars' to work with, who shine each and every day.



KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY

Our Year 1 and Year 2 children look forward to welcoming you to their 'Don't be Afraid!' Nativity on **Wednesday 18 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. Siblings in school will have the opportunity to watch their sister or brother perform in the dress rehearsal. At the end of each performance there will be a voluntary cash or card collection in aid of school funds and paying the performance licence fee.



SNOW WHITE PANTOMIME



I am thrilled to share that our recent visit to the Snow White pantomime at Romiley Forum on Wednesday was a resounding success! The children were absolutely captivated by the performance, immersing themselves in the enchanting world of Snow White and her adventures. Their laughter and cheers filled the theatre, showcasing their genuine enjoyment of the show. We are particularly proud of our children's exemplary behaviour, which was noted by both the theatre staff and the other school in attendance. Their respectful and enthusiastic participation truly reflected our school SANCTA values and made the experience even more memorable. Thank you to all the staff, volunteers and parents who made this wonderful outing possible!

CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

Some of the children who have received individual/group music tuition will be performing for parents 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.



CLASS CHRISTMAS PARTIES



We are excited to announce that next **Thursday, 19 December**, will be our much-anticipated Christmas Party Day! Children, if they wish, are invited to come dressed in their festive party clothes to celebrate this joyful occasion. Please remember that while they can wear their favourite party outfits, jewellery is not permitted, and we kindly ask that everyone wears sensible footwear—no heels, please! We look forward to a time filled with fun, laughter, and festive cheer as the children celebrate the festive season with their class!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our post box is still 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. Thank you for your help.



TERM DATES 2025 – 2026



The term dates (holiday list) for 2025-2026 are published on our school website – [please follow this link](#). Please book holidays during the periods of school closure and a reminder that holidays during term time cannot be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances. Please see our current [Attendance Policy](#) for details on what constitutes as exceptional circumstances outlined on pages 12-13. Leave of absence requests should be submitted to the school office at least 12 school days before the proposed absence. The form is [available here on the school website](#).

PTA NEWS

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our Christmas Fair last Friday. A special shout-out goes to our amazing PTA and dedicated staff, whose hard work and meticulous organisation made the event possible. Their efforts ensured that the fair was not only enjoyable but also a memorable experience for all. From the festive stalls to the delightful activities, it was a true celebration of our school family. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm, which helped create a festive and joyful atmosphere! All proceeds go directly to benefit pupils. Through your generosity, we have raised a superb £2,300. Amazing!



RECEPTION PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

If you are applying for a school (Reception) place for next September, applications should be made by **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.



THE ABC DEVICE CHECKLIST



With Christmas just around the corner, the holiday period is a great time to take stock of the devices you have (plus any new Christmas devices) and ensure they are set up correctly with any parental features you feel are appropriate for your child. One frustrating issue is that the available features and how you set devices up differ, so to help parents Internet Matters have good, non-techie guides which you can follow as part of their ABC Checklist. ABC stands for:

A - Activate parental controls.

B - Balance screen time.

C - Check and chat.

You can find a [full explanation, set up guides and advice here](#).

AUTISK IS COMING TO MARPLE

Autisk is a group offering support, signposting events, social groups and holiday clubs for young people with disabilities in and around the Stockport area. No diagnosis is needed to access the service. They are pleased to announce that they are coming to Marple. They are able to offer a once-a-month family session starting in January. There is no need to book, just turn up. They are at Marple Con and Social Club starting 11th January 1pm-3pm. Come along for arts, crafts, board games, VR headsets, Switch console games, construction and sensory tent with lights. £2 per family, no need to book.



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>	
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.
9 January	Year 5 swimming lessons start.
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.
7 February	Choir to sing at Young Voices 7:00pm Co-Op Live arena, Manchester.
14 February	Coffee and cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn 1:15pm -2:15pm.
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.
25 February	Year 1 parents phonics meeting 5:00pm – 5:30pm.

Carol concert at Holy Spirit church – 4:00pm this Sunday (15 December).
Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish and Miss Alice Poole.