



# 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 18: 24 January 2025**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



### Save the Children

Year 2 led the school in worship on Monday with a powerful reflection on how people can change and make a difference. They brought the story of Saul's transformation into Saint Paul to life through a re-enactment, reminding us of the forthcoming coming Feast of the Conversion of Paul tomorrow. The children highlighted the incredible work Saint Paul did to spread God's message of love throughout the world and inspired us to think about how we, too, can make a positive impact in our lives. As part of their response, Year 2 is preparing to fundraise for their chosen charity, *Save the Children*, by earning change through doing chores at home—

a fundraiser that will not only help others but also give parents a little extra support!

## SCHOOL/ST MARY'S PARISH MASS – SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY AT NOON

We warmly invite all children and their families to join the parish Mass at **St Mary's church, Marple Bridge on Sunday, 2 February, at noon**. This celebration will be a wonderful opportunity for our school and parish families to come together in faith. Our children will be actively supporting the Mass by welcoming parishioners, reading, and leading the offertory procession. The parish music ministry will also enhance the celebration with their beautiful music. We encourage as many families as possible to attend and share in the source and summit of our faith, as we strengthen our connection with St Mary's parish and each other. Children are asked to wear their school uniform and sit with their family during Mass. Please [complete this short survey to indicate if you can attend or not](#) by 31 January.



**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.

## DOODLE LEARNING WINTER COMPETITION



I would like to remind parents about the fantastic *Doodle Learning* platform, which uses advanced AI technology to personalise learning for each child. By analysing responses, it tailors activities in *Doodle English*, *Doodle Spell*, and *Doodle Maths* to support and challenge children at their own level. To get the most out of this engaging resource, we encourage children to use Doodle for just 10 minutes a day to stay in the 'Green Zone'. Excitingly, our school has entered the *Doodle Winter Back to School* competition! The school with the highest percentage of pupils in the 'Green Zone' between 17 and 31 January

will win class games prizes, so let's get Doodling and aim for success together!

## FLU IMMUNISATIONS

Flu is on the rise in Stockport. If your child missed their immunisations at school, extra clinics have been set up. Call IntraHealth on 03333 583 397 (option 1) and make an appointment. The clinics are running throughout January (for children from Reception to Year 11).



**DIOCESE OF  
NOTTINGHAM**

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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

## PUNCTUALITY MATTERS



Our school opens at 8:40am ready for the start of the school day at 8:50am. Please ensure children enter school by that time. Once the doors are closed, children enter via the office but are then marked late for school. This week there have been 47 instances of lateness. Please help your child to have the best start to the school day by arriving before 8:50am. This also helps prepare children with good work habits for secondary school and later life.

## MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS DURING SCHOOL TIME

Medical appointments are recorded as an absence so still affect your child's attendance record if they are not present for registration. Appointments must be supported by evidence which should be provided to the school office. Please make routine medical appointments for the dentist or opticians after school or during the school holidays whenever possible. Thank you for your cooperation.



## COMMUNITY ART COMPETITION



Our school has been invited to take part in an art competition for a new community art project. Art Stop CIC are working with the Marple Vision team and Stockport Council to brighten up a neglected wall in between Super Drug and Iceland on Market Street in Marple. On Tuesday, Mrs Thompson met with KS1 and KS2 children to discuss the competition. As discussed, the images will be something about Marple, Marple Bridge or Mellor. Please could your child bring their sketch/painting/drawing into school by **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January**. Good luck!

## STOCKPORT SHAPES TRIATHLON

On Monday morning, five of our talented pupils from Years 5 and 6 proudly represented St Mary's at the Triathlon event held at Avondale Leisure Centre. Competing in cycling, swimming, and running, they joined 18 schools from across Stockport in an exciting day of sport. Accompanied by Mrs Ashton and Mr Nish, the children had the privilege of meeting James Cole (pictured), a Team GB triathlete, who inspired them with his dedication and achievements. Although St Mary's didn't place in the top three this time, our team shone with their resilience, exceptional teamwork, and outstanding sportsmanship, making the whole school very proud. Congratulations to: Lucy C, Rosa, Sofia WO, Conor R and Isaac J.



## CROSS COUNTRY



Twelve children represented St Mary's at the 5th School's Cross Country event last Saturday. The weather conditions were cold, but clear and with very little to no MUD! Well done to all twelve children for showing their strength, determination and running skills. Congratulations to top ten finishers: Lucy, 3rd and brother Harry coming 4th in their respective races. Please note there is a change of date for the last and 6th race of the season (changed by the

organisers). It is now on **Saturday 15 March**. The Presentation will now be on Saturday 29 March. In the meantime, happy running to you all!

## ROMAN WORKSHOP



On Thursday, our Year 4 pupils were transported back in time during an exciting Roman workshop day held in school. Through hands-on activities, fascinating artifacts, and interactive storytelling, the children explored life in Roman Britain, learning about Roman soldiers, daily life, and the impact of the Roman Empire. Dressed in costumes and handling replica objects, they were fully immersed in the history, gaining a deeper understanding of this fascinating period. The workshop was a fantastic opportunity for the children to engage with history in a fun and memorable way, and their enthusiasm and curiosity were wonderful to see.

## PTA FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

Don't miss our **Fun Family Quiz Night** next **Friday 31 January** from **6:00pm – 8:00pm** in the **School Hall**! Enjoy a lively evening with **child-friendly quiz rounds** created and hosted by our brilliant Year 6 children. There's something for everyone, with a **reasonably priced bar**, delicious **pizza and hotdogs**, and a **tuck shop** to keep the fun fuelled. Tickets are just **£2.00 per adult**, and **children go free!** Grab your tickets now via the [PTA website](#) and secure your spot for a fantastic family evening.



## PTA AGM



It's that time of year again where the PTA need new members to join us. ALL positions on the committee are up for election. We have a fabulous tradition of PTA events at St Mary's from the Christmas fair to the World book discos and the Colour Run, but it needs people to organise and run them. Please see the separate attachment outlining the 'Job descriptions' of the roles up for grabs. The AGM is on **Wednesday 5 February at 6:20pm** in the school hall. All are welcome.

## 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>
31 January	PTA Family Quiz Night. 6:00pm – 8:00pm.
2 February	Parish/School Mass. 12 noon at St Mary's Church, Marple Bridge.
3 February	Hinduism workshops for each class.
5 February	PTA AGM. 6:20pm in the school hall. All welcome.
<b>7 February</b>	<b>NSPCC Number Day. Children can wear an item of clothing with a number, shape or pattern on it.</b>
7 February	Choir to sing at Young Voices 7:00pm Co-Op Live arena, Manchester.
10 February	Year 1 celebration of the word. 2:30pm. All welcome.
<b>11 February</b>	<b>Safer Internet Day.</b>
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.
24 February	INSET day – school closed to pupils.
25 February	School reopens to pupils following the half term break.
25 February	Year 1 parents phonics meeting 5:00pm – 5:30pm.
26 February	NSPCC Speak Out. Stay Safe Workshops (Years 2, 5 and 6).
4 & 11 March	Parents Evenings 3:30pm – 6:30pm.
<b>15 March</b>	<b>Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:00am (note date change).</b>
17 March	St Patrick's Day Year 6 celebration of the word. 2:30pm. All welcome.
20 March	First Confessions in school for all Sacramental Programme children.
25 March	School Council to visit Houses of Parliament.
28 March	Mother's Day assembly led by Reception class at 9:30am. All welcome.
<b>29 March</b>	<b>Cross Country Presentation.</b>
<b>7-11 April</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross led by Year 5. Each morning at 9:00am. All welcome.</b>

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.  
Mr John Nish.