



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 19: 31 January 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week our school, along with schools throughout the world, joyfully launched the 2025 Jubilee Year under the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*. Pope Francis has invited us to renew our hope and embrace a vision that 'restores access to the fruits of the earth to everyone', reminding us that we are not masters of the world, but pilgrims on a shared journey of faith and care for creation.

Our jubilee began with a celebration of the word exploring the meaning of pilgrimage, hope, and service. The children learned our inspiring *Song of Hope* hymn, reflected on the symbolic *Pilgrims of Hope* logo, and made their own personal pledges for the year ahead. As part of this mission, the children were challenged to share a message of hope - either spoken or written - with someone this week.

Each child also received a special prayer card from the Diocese of Nottingham to guide us throughout this Jubilee journey. As we continue through this year, we will support important charities and reflect on how we can build God's kingdom of justice, peace, and love in practical and meaningful ways. We look forward to sharing this pilgrimage of hope with our whole school family. [More information on the Jubilee year can be found here.](#)

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

One way of living as *Pilgrims of Hope* is spending more time with Jesus. Therefore, we warmly invite all children and their families to join the parish Mass at **St Mary's church, Marple Bridge this Sunday, 2 February, at noon**. This celebration will be a wonderful opportunity for our school and parish families to come together in faith. Some of our children will be actively supporting the Mass by welcoming parishioners and reading. 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. 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.

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT



On Wednesday afternoon, a group of our talented Y5 and Y6 pupils proudly represented the school at the Dodgeball Tournament hosted by Stockport SHAPES at Marple Hall High School. The event was filled with energy, teamwork, and determination as our players showcased their skills, quick reflexes, and incredible sportsmanship. We are so proud of their effort, resilience, and positive attitudes throughout the matches. A huge thank you to the staff and supporters who cheered the team on - your encouragement made a real difference. Well done to the team: Adie, Caio, Idris, Iris, Isiah, Jem, Leo, Louis and Oscar

R. We came 2nd overall and now progress to the Grand Final on 27 February at Bramhall High School.



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SPOTLIGHT ON LEARNING – WHY DO WE FORGET?

One of the most common frustrations shared by parents and teachers is when a child forgets something they seemed to know perfectly well just the day before. It often leaves us thinking, 'but you knew this yesterday!' While this can be exasperating, research on memory shows that forgetting is in fact a natural part of the learning process.

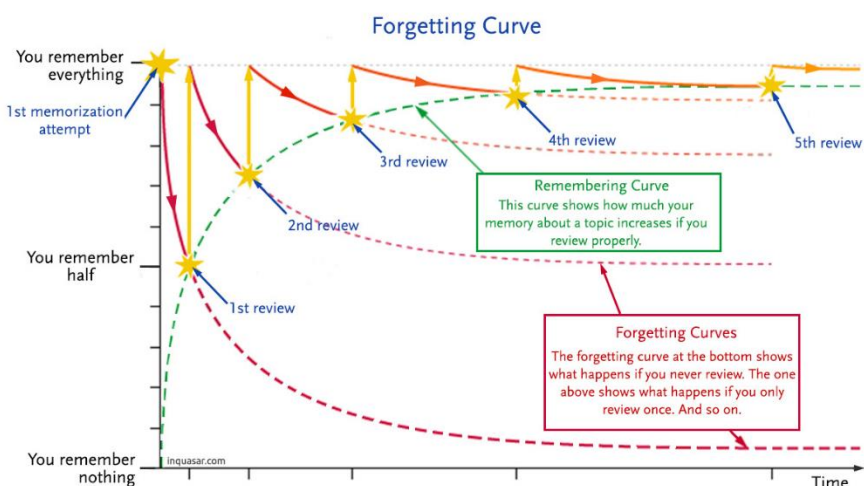
When we learn something for the first time, it doesn't immediately settle or stick into long-term memory. Instead, it requires repeated exposure and practice before it becomes securely embedded. This process of forgetting and relearning may seem counterintuitive, but each attempt to recall information strengthens memory and deepens true understanding.

The German psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus illustrated this through his famous forgetting curve', which shows how quickly information fades after learning but also highlights how relearning helps it stick more effectively over time.

In school, children often engage in 'retrieval practice' - a teaching strategy where they are tested on knowledge learned in previous lessons, terms, or even years. Not only does this give teachers valuable insight into each child's progress, but the act of recalling information itself helps strengthen their memory. So, what can parents do? Here are two key takeaways:

1. Be patient: Forgetting is a natural part of learning. Try not to get too frustrated.
2. Revisit learning: Help your child by regularly checking if they remember things like spellings, times tables, and phonics sounds, even weeks or months after they first learned them.

By understanding and embracing this process, we can better support our children on their learning journeys.



NSPCC NUMBER DAY 2025 – FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY



We will be taking part in NSPCC Number Day 2025 on Friday 7 February. This is a fantastic event that promotes a love of maths while raising money for a vital cause. To support the work of the NSPCC, we are inviting children to come to school wearing an item of clothing with a number, shape, or pattern on it in exchange for a £1 donation. The day will be filled with fun, number-themed activities designed to spark curiosity and confidence in maths. We look forward to seeing

everyone's creative outfits and thank you in advance for your generous support of this important charity. As with all our school 'dressing up' events, it's all about having fun and, in this case, promoting Maths so your child can achieve their potential.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2025

From 3 to 7 February, we will be marking Children's Mental Health Week 2025, with this year's inspiring theme: *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself*. Throughout the week, children will engage in activities and discussions designed to help them explore their emotions, strengths, and personal growth. By understanding who they are and what they need to thrive, children can develop resilience and a strong sense of self. We encourage families to join us in supporting this important message at home by talking about feelings, setting goals, and celebrating personal achievements, big or small. Let's grow together as a school family!



LOWRY DRIVE – CHANGES TO PARKING



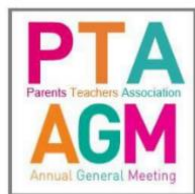
Following consultation with Stockport Council and local residents, double yellow lines have now been painted along Lowry Drive by the Highways Agency. We ask all parents and visitors to please refrain from driving down Lowry Drive, as parking is no longer permitted. Also, we are currently working closely with local councillors and Stockport Council to explore the possibility of Lowry Drive becoming a designated 'School Street', helping to create a safer, more child-friendly environment around school. Details about this [government scheme can be found here](#). As always, we remind parents to respect the rules of the road and avoid parking on double yellow lines anywhere near school. The safety of our children is paramount, and by following the Highway Code, we can all help to maintain a secure environment. Please share this important message with family and friends who may be collecting children from school. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

PTA FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT - TONIGHT

Don't miss our **Fun Family Quiz Night** tonight, **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



A final reminder that 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 next **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 bold.</i>
2 February	Parish/School Mass. 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.
7 February	NSPCC Number Day. Children can wear an item of clothing with a number, shape or pattern on it.
7 February	Choir to sing at Young Voices 6:00pm Co-Op Live arena, Manchester.
10 February	Year 1 celebration of the word. 2:30pm. All welcome.
11 February	Safer Internet Day.
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.
15 March	Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:00am (note date change).
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	Current KS2 School Council to visit Houses of Parliament.
28 March	Mother's Day assembly led by Reception class at 9:30am. All welcome.
29 March	Cross Country Presentation.
7-11 April	Stations of the Cross led by Year 5. Each morning at 9:00am. All welcome.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Hoping to see you at Mass at St Mary's. Mr John Nish.