



# 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 20: 7 February 2025**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday our SANCTA Squad led our celebration of the word focusing on Sunday's Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when Jesus was taken to the Temple as a baby to be presented to God - a religious tradition and duty for all Jews. The Gospel story of this event is told through Simeon and Anna reflecting on the amazing day when they saw Jesus and through eyes of faith, recognised Him as the promised Saviour. The SANCTA Squad helped the children come to understand that they too can see Jesus with eyes of faith as the Light of the World - the light that leads us to joy, peace and truth. *With your child, you might like to...*

- *Light a candle in a darkened room or turn on a lamp or torch and ask your child to describe how light changes the look and feel of their surroundings. Talk about the title for Jesus - the 'Light of the World' and explain that Jesus guides us with His loving light.*
- *Talk about ways they can shine Jesus' loving light in the world through their words and actions.*

## SCHOOL/ST MARY'S PARISH MASS – THANK YOU

On behalf of Fr Emmanuel, the Parish Council and myself, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our wonderful School Parish Mass last Sunday. Special thanks go to the children who read so beautifully and those who acted as greeters - your warm welcome was much appreciated by everyone. The parishioners were delighted to see so many children and families at Mass, creating a joyful and uplifting celebration of our faith. Thank you for your continued support.



**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.

## HINDUSIM WORKSHOPS



enlightening experience for all.

This week, the children have immersed themselves in the vibrant culture and rich traditions of Hinduism through engaging workshops. They learned about key beliefs, festivals, and customs, gaining a deeper understanding of this ancient faith. Through storytelling, creative arts, and interactive discussions, the children explored themes such as respect, community, and spirituality. The workshops have inspired curiosity and appreciation, encouraging children to celebrate diversity and recognise the beauty of different world religions. It has been a joyful and



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**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

## NSPCC NUMBER DAY 2025 – FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY



Today, we celebrated NSPCC Number Day 2025, and the school was buzzing with excitement as children arrived dressed in fantastic mathematical outfits. From numbers and shapes to creative patterns and equations, the variety and creativity on display were truly impressive! Throughout the day, pupils took part in fun maths-themed activities, puzzles, and challenges, all while raising funds for the vital work of the NSPCC. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and

joy for maths while supporting such an important charity. Well done to everyone for making it a memorable day!

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2025

This week, we have embraced the theme *Know Yourself, Grow Yourself* as part of Children's Mental Health Week. In class, children have engaged in meaningful activities, and we encourage families to continue the conversation at home using the linked resources: [Resources and activities for Children's Mental Health Week](#)



At Saint Mary's, supporting every child's mental health is a top priority. We believe that fostering emotional well-being is essential for effective learning. Our approach begins in Nursery, where children check in daily by placing their name card in either a blue (sad) or green (happy) welly, creating a safe space for sharing feelings. Children who check in blue are gently supported, ensuring that even the smallest concerns are acknowledged and addressed. This practice continues throughout the school, with older pupils gradually introduced to a wider range of emotions for daily check-ins. To further support well-being, we offer lunchtime wellbeing groups for children who may need ongoing support or one-off follow-ups. In addition, children know they can approach dedicated staff members, including lunchtime supervisors, class teachers, and teaching assistants, for support at any time. For advice or further information about Mental Health and Wellbeing at St. Mary's, please contact Mrs Bradbury, our Senior Mental Health Lead via the School Office.

## TRUST INSET DAY



A reminder: on **Monday, 24 February**, our school will be closed to children for an INSET day focused on teaching and learning. Staff from across the St Ralph Sherwin Trust family of schools will gather to share best practices and further enhance educational provision across our Trust. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## LENT TERM PARENTS EVENINGS

Parents Evenings will be held on **Tuesday, 4 March, and Tuesday, 11 March**, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm. Appointments will be 10-minute slots, giving you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and achievements with their teacher(s). Mrs Major will be sending an email at **6:00pm on Monday 10 February** with instructions on how to book appointments. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing your child's learning journey.



## HOUSE POINTS



Please see the totals for the month of January. St Peter's House are currently in the lead but there is plenty of time until we reach the end of the term! Well done to everyone for striving to live out our SANCTA Values and Pocket Principles!

St George	St Peter	St Mary	St Patrick
1,149	1,176	1,094	1,093

## JANUARY ATTENDANCE UPDATE



At St Mary's we feel that, if children are to get the greatest benefit from their education in school, it is important that they have good attendance and arrive punctually. The attendance over the month of January is to the right. Our school target is 97%. Congratulations everyone on your amazing efforts last month, especially with the numerous winter bugs in circulation which hit a couple of our classes hard. As a school we have achieved a very good **96.2%** and overall, for the year

January 2025 Attendance	
Rec	95.2%
Y1	96.5 %
Y2	99.4%
Y3	96.2 %
Y4	93.5 %
Y5	97.8 %
Y6	95.2%
Overall	<b>96.2 %</b>

we currently stand at 96.5% - fantastic! Nationally, attendance currently stands at 94.5%, so again, well done St Mary's for our strong attendance and thank you parents/carers for supporting strong attendance habits.

## COFFE AND CAKE WITH MRS NORBURN AND MRS BRADBURY

All parents are warmly invited to attend the next Coffee and Cake meeting next Friday, 14 February at 1:15pm. Alison Dunning the School Nurse will also be attending. Please see the attached flier for further details.



## 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>	
7 February	Choir to sing at Young Voices 6:00pm for 7:00pm start. Co-Op Live arena, Manchester.
10 February	Year 1 celebration of the word. 2:30pm. All welcome.
<b>10 February</b>	<b>Parents Evenings bookings open at 6:00pm.</b>
11 February	Safer Internet Day.
14 February	Coffee and cake with Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn 1:15pm -2:15pm.
14 February	Celebration Assembly at 2:30pm. All welcome.
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.
2 April	Year 3 and 4 Easter Production 10:00am and 2:00pm
<b>7 April</b>	<b>BIG Lent Jubilee Walk finale 2:00pm.</b>
7-11 April	Stations of the Cross led by Year 5. Each morning at 9:00am. All welcome.
<b>11 April</b>	<b>School closes for the Easter break.</b>
<b>28 April</b>	<b>School reopens following the Easter break.</b>
<b>5 May</b>	<b>May Day Bank Holiday – School closed.</b>
<b>12-15 May</b>	<b>Year 6 SATs Tests.</b>

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Good luck to the choir singing at Young Voices tonight.