



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 21: 14 February 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, our Year 1 children led a beautiful celebration of the word reflecting on the theme of love and care for creation, as part of our Year of Jubilee pledge. They shared scripture, prayers, and songs that reminded us of our responsibility to cherish God's world and one another. As part of their commitment to living out this message, the children have been learning about their class charity, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and the vital work it does to protect endangered animals and their habitats. Through thoughtful discussions, creative artwork, and fundraising ideas, Year 1 is demonstrating how even the smallest hands can make a big difference in caring for our common home.

YEAR OF JUBILEE ART COMPETITION

As we celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025, our first Year of Jubilee competition invites children to explore the theme Pilgrims of Hope through art. A key symbol of hope in the Jubilee logo is the anchor, often referred to by sailors as an anchor of hope - a reserve anchor that provides stability in life's storms. For this competition, children are challenged to design an anchor (they have that reflects what hope means to them). They might consider what they are hopeful for, their hopes for the future, and how they can spread hope to others. Designs can include symbols, colours, and a piece of scripture that inspires hope. The winning entry will be recreated on a wooden anchor and proudly displayed in the school entrance as a reminder of our journey as Pilgrims of Hope. Entries should be submitted by 24th March we look forward to seeing your inspiring creations! A great half term project.



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.

KEY STAGE 1 ATHLETICS TOURNAMENT



On Tuesday, a group of our Key Stage 1 children had a fantastic time at the Athletics Tournament hosted by All Saints Primary School. They took part in a range of exciting activities, including basketball skills, curling (a firm favourite!), penalty taking, golf, and running. It was wonderful to see such great teamwork, with everyone encouraging and supporting each other throughout the event. A special congratulations to Daniel, who was recognised by the sports leaders for his impressive improvement in golf, and to Ada, who won the Self-Belief Award for her determination and perseverance. Well done to all our young athletes for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship and to the staff

who transported and supported them.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

YEAR 1 EXPLORE PEAK WILDLIFE PARK

On Wednesday, as part of their science learning, our Year 1 children enjoyed a fantastic day at Peak Wildlife Park, filled with excitement, learning, and plenty of animal encounters! The children were thrilled to meet a variety of animals up close, from playful penguins to curious meerkats. They also took part in an engaging educational session, where they learned about different habitats and how we can help protect wildlife. This linked wonderfully with the celebration of the word they led on Monday and their class charity, WWF. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day. A huge thank you to our staff and volunteers for making this memorable experience possible!



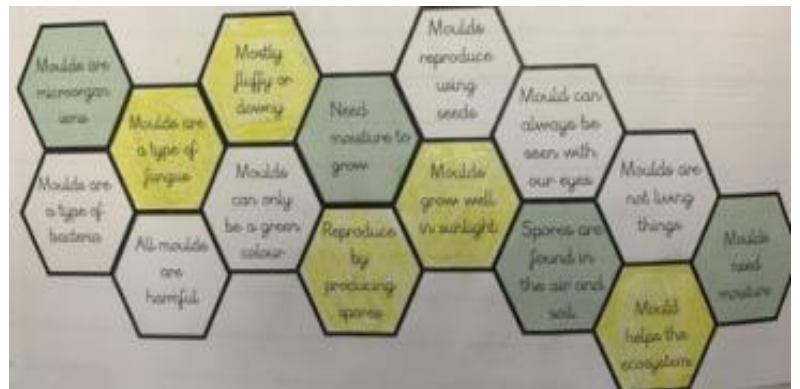
YEAR 2 FIREFIGHTERS



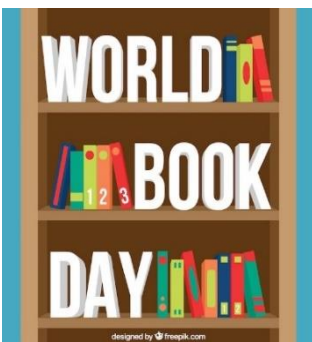
On Thursday, our Year 2 class had an exciting and educational visit to Bury Fire Station and Training Centre. The children were thrilled to explore the fire engines, try on firefighter equipment, and learn about the vital role firefighters play in keeping our communities safe. They also took part in hands-on safety activities, including learning how to stay safe in an emergency. The visit not only sparked their curiosity but also reinforced the importance of teamwork, bravery, resilience and community service. A huge thank you to the team at Bury Fire Station for making the day so memorable!

FOCUS ON: RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

At Saint Mary's, we use retrieval practice to help children strengthen their memory and deepen their understanding. This technique encourages children to actively recall what they have previously learned, reinforcing their knowledge and making it easier to remember over time. Low stakes activities such as quizzes, flashcards, and 'Colour the Path' tasks (pictured) challenge children to retrieve key facts, concepts, and skills from their long-term memory - helping to secure learning in a meaningful way. By regularly engaging in these activities, pupils build strong connections in their learning, giving them greater confidence in recalling and applying knowledge.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2025 – THURSDAY 6 MARCH



World Book Day is fast approaching! We are so excited to dedicate this time to celebrate our love of reading at Saint Mary's! This year, the whole school will be focusing on the book, 'The Day The Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt. The day will begin with a celebration of the word focusing on how literature enriches our lives as well giving praise to God through the 'greatest story ever told'. The rest of the day will then be dedicated to the children reading the story and taking part in different activities linked to the book. *This year, we would like all children to come dressed in a colour of their choice, as a way of representing a crayon from the story. They do not need to wear a full costume, something simple like a coloured t-shirt would be fine.* As well as World Book Day, we will have a visit from the Scholastic

book fair. The book fair will be open from Friday, 28 February until Thursday, 6 March. A separate email will be sent closer to the time to detail timings of the fair and ways to pay for the books. Please see the attached leaflet with more information regarding our exciting plans for World Book Day this year. Your child has also brought home their £1 book token this week that they can use towards the purchase of a book or exchange for a free World Book Day book!

YOUNG VOICES CONGRATULATIONS

A huge congratulations to our amazing school choir, who performed at Young Voices last Friday evening at the Co-op Live Arena in Manchester! They joined an incredible 8,000 children from across the north west region, filling the arena with music, energy, and joy. It was a truly unforgettable experience, and Saint Mary's sang their hearts out, representing the school beautifully. We are so proud of their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm - well done, everyone! Thank you to the staff and parents who accompanied the children and made this memorable event possible. We look forward to Young Voices 2026!



OFSTED CONSULTATION



Ofsted (the organisation responsible for inspecting schools) is currently consulting on a new way of inspecting schools which, they hope, will be introduced in the new school year. They are particularly keen to hear from parents/carers. If you would like to find out more, or to respond, [please click here](#). The consultation is open until 28 April 2025.

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON LOCAL PARKING CHARGES – SHARE YOUR VIEWS

I would like to highlight a significant issue regarding forthcoming parking charges in several local car parks. While these changes are being introduced across Stockport, we are particularly concerned about their impact on Marple Bridge. These charges will affect parents who rely on safe, accessible parking for school drop-offs, pick-ups, and commuting to work. I strongly urge you to contact local councillors and Stockport Council to share any concerns you may have. These charges could result in unsafe parking practices, putting the safety of our children at risk. The Marple Area Committee discussed this matter during their last meeting. You can find further details via the link below and contact Emma Stubbs from the council with any feedback or questions:



[🔗 Marple Area Committee Meeting – Full Details](#)

[✉ Emma Stubbs \(Stockport Council\): emma.stubbs@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:emma.stubbs@stockport.gov.uk)

Your voice matters - help us protect the safety of our children and community.

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 Saint 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 are for 10-minute slots, giving you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and achievements with their teacher(s). Mrs Major sent the link to book appointments on Monday evening. If you have not yet made your appointment, [they can be booked here](#). We look forward to welcoming you and sharing your child's learning journey.



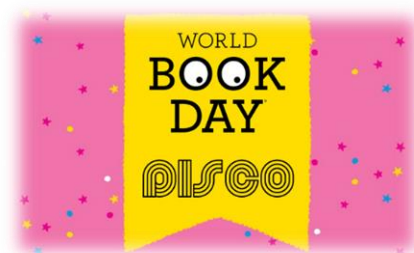
CYCLE TOGETHER



If your child is learning to cycle, keen to cycle to school or will be taking part on a Bikeability course then why not support your child by brushing up your own cycling skills or learn yourself? Cycling is a great way to get around and an enjoyable family activity. All things cycling in Greater Manchester can be found online at Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) cycling. Courses, tips, maintenance and cycle routes are available at <https://beeactive.tfgm.com/cycling/>.

PTA WORLD BOOK DAY DISCO – FRIDAY 7 MARCH

Get ready to dance and celebrate the magic of books at our **World Book Day Disco** on **Friday, 7 March 2025** at **5:00pm - 6:15pm**! The children are invited to dress as their favourite book characters, with a chance to win prizes for the best dressed. Tickets are £4 per child and are available via the PTA website here: <https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/wbd25/> We can't wait to see everyone's fantastic costumes on the dance floor!



PTA FUNDRAISING COMMUNICATION

Thank you to all parents, children, and staff for your incredible support in last year's PTA fundraising efforts! Thanks to your generosity, we have raised a fantastic amount, which is being used to enhance our school in exciting ways. As we all know school budgets remain under significant pressure, and we are in a fortunate position as a school to have some wonderful resources available to us, however, to ensure the children can continue benefiting from these, the PTA has committed to fund the following:

- **£5,477** - Repairs to the path through the woods to church and steps down to Dingley Dell so that all children can return to enjoying their wonderful forest school.
- **£1,500** - Maintenance of Timber Trails Outdoor play equipment to ensure this wonderful resource can continue to be used.
- **£1,750** - Replace teacher laptops due to network updates across the school, to support our teachers in their daily roles.
- **£500** - Purchase of the *Crumble* software, so the children have the opportunity to learn coding and program physical electronics like motors and sensors.
- **£4,000** - Continued support of class workshops for the next academic year, these class workshops take place termly and each child in school has the opportunity to take part.

Your contributions truly make a difference in our children's education and experiences. Thank you for your continued support! 💙

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>	
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.
12 March	Science workshops for each class as part of Science Week.
6 March	World Book Day – see above. Wear an item of clothing in your favourite colour.
7 March	PTA World Book Day Disco – 5:00pm – 6:15pm. Tickets priced £4 are available at https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/wbd25/
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 the 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
7 April	BIG Lent Jubilee Walk finale 2:00pm.
7-11 April	Stations of the Cross led by Year 5. Each morning at 9:00am. All welcome.
11 April	School closes for the Easter break.
28 April	School reopens following the Easter break.
5 May	May Day Bank Holiday – School closed.
12-15 May	Year 6 SATs Tests.

Wishing you a relaxing half term break. School reopens on Tuesday 25 February.