



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 22: 28 February 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Further to my letter of 25 February, it is with a deep sense of sadness and gratitude that we acknowledge the forthcoming closure of St Mary's Church at Easter 2025. For many years, St Mary's has been at the heart of our school and parish community - a place of worship, celebration, and togetherness. Generations of families have gathered within its walls for sacraments, school Masses, and moments of prayer, finding comfort and strength in their faith.

While this news brings sadness, it is also an opportunity to give thanks for the countless blessings St Mary's has brought to our community.

As we prepare for this transition, we will find ways to celebrate and honour the legacy of St Mary's Church. Our faith reminds us that the Church is not just a building but a people united in love and mission. We will continue to nurture our Catholic identity, ensuring that our children, staff, and families remain connected in prayer, service, and shared faith. More details will follow in the coming weeks when this has been finalised with the parish about how we can come together to mark this significant moment in our history.

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.

NSPCC SPEAK OUT. STAY SAFE PROGRAMME

This week, our children took part in the NSPCC's *Speak Out. Stay Safe* programme, designed to help them understand, at an age-appropriate level, how to stay safe and seek help when needed. Led by trained NSPCC volunteers, the workshops and virtual age-appropriate assemblies provided important messages about children's rights, speaking out against harm, and identifying trusted adults who can offer support. These sessions play a vital role in empowering our children with the knowledge and confidence to keep themselves safe. We are grateful to the NSPCC for their work in supporting children's well-being and safety. Further information about the programme [can be found here](#).



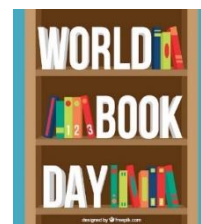
YEAR 5 & 6 STOCKPORT SHAPES DODGEBALL FINALS



We are incredibly proud of the seven Year 5 and 6 children who represented our school in the Stockport SHAPES Dodgeball Final at Bramhall High School on Thursday afternoon. Competing against schools from across the borough, they displayed outstanding teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase their skills, embrace healthy competition, and represent St Mary's with pride. A huge well done to Adie, Caio, Iris, Isaiah, Jem, Louis, and Oscar—you were a credit to our school!

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.* Please see the attached leaflet with more information regarding our exciting plans for World Book Day this year.



DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM

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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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.

HOUSE POINTS

Please see the totals for the month of February. St George'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
731	640	612	653

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE UPDATE



DID YOU KNOW? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%

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 strong attendance and arrive punctually. The attendance over the month of is to the right. Our school target is 97%. Congratulations everyone on your amazing efforts this month. As a school we have achieved a very good

February 2025 Attendance	
Rec	94.5%
Y1	95.6 %
Y2	97.4%
Y3	96.7 %
Y4	96.9 %
Y5	97.9 %
Y6	96.3%
Overall	96.5 %

96.5% this month and overall, for the year we currently stand at 96.5% also - fantastic! Nationally, attendance currently stands at 93.4%, so again, well done St Mary's for our strong attendance and thank you parents/carers for supporting strong attendance habits.

YEAR 6 VISIT TO STOCKPORT AIR RAID SHELTERS

On Tuesday, our Year 6 pupils stepped back in time with a fascinating visit to the Stockport Air Raid Shelters museum. As part of their history curriculum, they explored the underground tunnels that once provided safety during World War II, gaining a powerful insight into the experiences of those who lived through the Blitz. The children took part in hands-on activities, including trying on wartime attire and handling historical artefacts, bringing their learning to life in an unforgettable way. It was a fantastic opportunity to deepen their understanding of the past, and their enthusiasm and thoughtful questions made it a truly memorable experience. The museum staff praised our children on their knowledge, behaviour and appetite to learn. Well done Year 6 and thank you to the staff and volunteers for making this memorable visit possible.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



We are delighted to announce that the Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to school from **Friday 28th February until Wednesday 5th March**. The books will be available to view and purchase from 8:30am – 8:50am and 3:30pm – 3:45pm. Please see the email with the wish list and available books sent on Monday which will give you a taste of what is on offer. If your child attends Kids Club and you are not able to attend the fair, please use the wish list to place an order. We receive a percentage of the sales from the book fair in free books, so buying a book from Scholastic is a great way to support school and encourage our budding young readers.

PTA WORLD BOOK DAY DISCO – FRIDAY 7 MARCH



A reminder to 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!

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>
4 & 11 March	Parents Evenings 3:30pm – 6:30pm.
5 March	Lent begins – Ash Wednesday Mass at St Mary's Church at 10:00. All welcome.
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/
12 March	Science workshops for each class as part of Science Week.
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	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Norburn and Mrs Bradbury 1:15pm – 2:00pm.
11 April	Celebration assembly at 2:15pm. All welcome.
11 April	School closes for the Easter break.
28 April	School reopens following the Easter break.
29 April	Skateboarding workshops for Y1 – Y6 classes.
1 May	Wild Roadshow workshops for Nursery and Reception classes.
5 May	May Day Bank Holiday – School closed.
12-15 May	Year 6 SATs Tests.
12 May	Year 2 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
19 May	Year 4 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish