



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Lent began on Ash Wednesday, marking the start of our journey towards Easter, a time of prayer, reflection, and preparation. To begin this sacred season, the children in Years 3-6 attended Mass at St Mary's Church, where they received ashes as a sign of repentance and renewal. Meanwhile, our younger children took part in a special celebration of the word in school during the afternoon, where they too received ashes and learned about the

significance of this holy season. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in faith, reminding us all of the importance of kindness, prayer, and making positive choices during Lent. The children were also introduced to the words **GIVE, ACT** and **PRAY** as ways we can focus our attention on God and renew our commitment to the way God wants us to live. In the Gospel, Jesus showed us that as we **GIVE, ACT** and **PRAY**, we should not be the focus, expecting praise from others for our good deeds. Instead, we should make Jesus the centre of all that we say and do. As an additional way to live out our **PRAY** focus for Lent, each class will attend the Wednesday parish Mass at St Mary's on a rota basis until the Easter break. You are welcome to join any of these Masses and details of your child's class attendance will be in their weekly year group newsletter.

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.

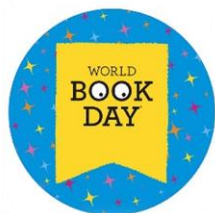
MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

A message from St Mary's Parish Pastoral Council:

Dear parishioners, following the letter sent by the chair of our PPC to the bishop, the Vicar General and the Chief Operating Officer of our diocese are coming to Marple Bridge to meet parishioners and discuss the issues. They will be meeting in church on **Friday 14 March** and the meeting will be at 4:00pm. It would be most helpful if you could advise us by Monday 10 March if you are coming to this meeting or if you would have liked to attend but are not available. Please email news@stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk if you can attend or have a question you would like answered by the Diocese of Nottingham regarding the proposed closure.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2025



Was a fantastic celebration of reading, with a special focus on the much-loved book *The Day the Crayons Quit*. We began the day with a lively assembly, where children took part in a fun book quiz, showcasing their knowledge of stories and characters. Throughout the day, classrooms were filled with creativity and enthusiasm as children explored the themes of the book, took part in engaging activities, and, most importantly, shared their love of reading. Alongside our focus book, we also encouraged children to delve

into stories from the Bible—the greatest story ever told—highlighting the importance of faith-filled storytelling. It was a wonderful day that truly brought the joy of reading to life across our school!



ST MARY'S CHILDREN SPEAK UP FOR CLIMATE ACTION

On Tuesday, Emily, Joseph, and Sofia from Year 6 represented St Mary's at Stockport Town Hall, taking part in a debate and vote with pupils from schools across Stockport.

Organised by Stockport Council's *Climate Action Now* group, the debate gave children a voice in shaping the Council's climate plans. They discussed five key initiatives, including:

- Encouraging parents to switch off car engines (idling) while waiting to reduce air pollution.
- Installing electric vehicle charging points at schools to promote greener transport.
- Expanding composting and using food waste in school gardens and bug hotels.
- Creating green bus stop roofs to improve air quality and biodiversity.
- Increasing solar panels on schools and council buildings for renewable energy.

As a school, we are committed to making sustainable choices, and we encourage all families to support these efforts—whether it's turning off car engines while waiting, reducing waste, or thinking about greener transport options. Well done, Emily, Joseph and Sofia for representing St Mary's so brilliantly and for being such fantastic ambassadors for our planet!



LENT TERM PARENTS EVENINGS

Parents Evenings continue next **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). 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.



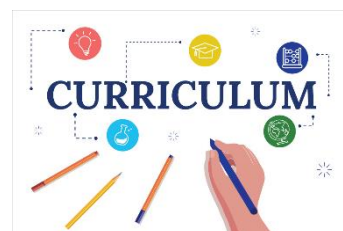
NURSERY PLACES – SEPTEMBER 2025



We have places in our wonderful nursery available for September. Please contact school on 0161 427 7498 if you would like to look around our early years provision. Please pass on this information to any parents of children who might be looking for a school nursery place. [Click here for more information about our nursery](#). Applications are made through [Stockport Council Admissions](#) and the deadline is 31 March 2025 for a September admissions.

LENT TERM CURRICULUM & KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

This half term the children will be learning lots of new knowledge and skills. Please follow your child's Teams page to find out the topics your children will be learning about. If you would like to know more about a subject, please follow this [curriculum link](#) to see how the curriculum allows children to know and remember more. To keep you updated on what your child is learning in school, teachers have posted knowledge organisers for foundation subjects on their Class Teams page. These organisers are used regularly by the children in class. They contain the essential knowledge and key vocabulary for the topics they will be studying this half term. [More information about our knowledge organisers can be found here](#).



SCHOOLS TRIATHLON



**RESTLESS
DEVELOPMENT**

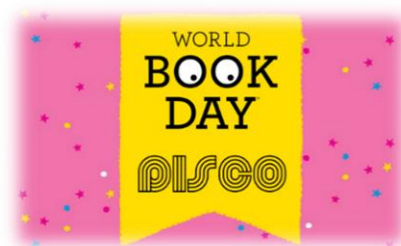


Last Friday, organisers of the Knight Frank Schools Triathlon visited St Mary's to inspire our pupils to take part in the UK's largest sporting fundraising event for children. Open to ages 7-13, the triathlon encourages teamwork, resilience,

and giving back to the community. Pupils can form teams of four, come up with a fun team name, and fundraising together before taking on the challenge. Each team member will swim, cycle, and run in a relay-style race, crossing the finish line as a team. With a focus on participation rather than competition, the event welcomes all abilities. We are excited to potentially see our children take on this challenge and make a difference! The event will take place on **Sunday 29 June** at Cheadle Hulme School. Please see the attached poster for more information and how to register should this be of interest to your child(ren).

PTA WORLD BOOK DAY DISCO – TONIGHT

A final reminder to get ready to dance and celebrate the magic of books at our World Book Day Disco **TONIGHT, 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>	
11 March	Parents Evenings 3:30pm – 6:30pm.
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 1:30pm.
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.
17 May	First Holy Communion Mass for St Mary's Parish children. 10:00am Church of the Annunciation, New Mills.
19 May	Year 4 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
23 May	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Norburn and Mrs Bradbury 1:15pm – 2:00pm
23 May	Celebration assembly at 2:15pm. All welcome.
23 May	School closes for the Spring half term break.
9 June	School reopens following the Spring half term break.
21 June	First Holy Communion Mass for Holy Spirit Parish children. 10:00am.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish