



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, our school took part in the CAFOD BIG Lent Walk Assembly and engaging Jubilee Year Pilgrimage Workshops, deepening our understanding of faith in action. The interactive BIG Lent Walk assembly introduced pupils to inspiring CAFOD-funded projects in Kenya, particularly the incredible work of *The Glitter Group*, where women have used chicken farming to support their families and communities. Through this, pupils saw firsthand how their Lenten fundraising makes a real difference. Meanwhile, the Pilgrimage Workshops helped children explore what it means to be *Pilgrims of Hope*, using stories from around

the world to highlight how we can all work together to build a better future. These sessions beautifully connected with the themes of the Jubilee Year and Catholic Social Teaching, reminding us of our role in creating a more just and compassionate world. We thank Eileen Reynolds, a grandparent of two of our children, a parishioner of St Mary's and a CAFOD volunteer for leading the inspiring workshops.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

On **Monday 7 April at 2:00pm** each class will complete a prayer walk around our school and church grounds in order to support CAFOD with their Big Lent Walk and raise vital funds for communities around the world. This will end our Lenten pilgrimage where we aim to achieve the CAFOD target of walking 240 kilometres. We ask that each child brings a suggested **donation of £1** to support CAFOD on that day. Parents/parishioners are more than welcome to join us at 2:00pm and take part in the walk with the children and staff. This is a wonderful way to live out our Lenten promises of give, act and pray. Every £1 we raise will help us be there for people fighting extreme poverty globally. Donations can also be made on our St Mary's CAFOD Just Giving page [via this link](#). You are all very welcome to join us for this last part of our Big Lent Walk.



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.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK AT ST MARY'S



This week, we have been celebrating British Science Week with an exciting day of PTA funded workshops led by Spark 2 Education. Each class had the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities that brought science to life. From exploring bubbles in Reception and Year 1 to investigating space in Year 5 and climate in Year 6 through virtual reality, our pupils were immersed in a world of discovery. Year 2 delved into 'Change and Adapt,' aligning with this year's theme, while Years 3 and 4 explored the fascinating world of volcanoes and dinosaurs. It was wonderful to see our children so enthusiastic about science, asking thought-provoking questions and developing their curiosity. We encourage families to continue the fun at home by trying out some science activities based on the theme of adaptation and change! There are lots of activities that you can involve in at home too using this [community activity pack](#), linked to this year's theme.

TIME FLIES...



Time certainly flies in school, and it is unbelievable that we have already completed over half of the school year and nearly half of Lent 2. Our staff are conscious of how quickly the rest of the year will now go! You will be aware, from discussions with staff at Parents Evenings over the past two weeks, what the next steps are for your child. Our staff have already started the work needed to support the children so that they really make the progress they are capable of. We do need your support with this too though so please look at

your child's mid-year targets and consider how you can help. Do you need to help strengthen your child's attendance, do we need your support to see more positive behaviour from your child or would your child benefit from reading more frequently with you at home? However small you think these things may be; I assure you that they will make a difference to the outcomes for your child. Aside from the push for the best outcomes we can hope for, there is still plenty of time in our timetable for a range of exciting and engaging activities. This also includes us getting outside more, weather permitting, for lessons. Do keep an eye on the newsletter, Dojo and the school diary to stay up to date with information about everything happening at school and how you can be involved.

BLUE CROSS VISIT – DOG SAFETY ASSEMBLY

Today we were delighted to welcome a visitor from the Blue Cross to deliver a special Dog Safety Assembly. Delivering an engaging presentation and interactive props, the session helped children understand how to read a dog's body language and stay safe around dogs. Key messages included how dogs show their feelings, the importance of giving them space, and the 'Three C's' to remember when meeting dogs outside. Some of our pupils had the opportunity to take part in demonstrations, showing how to react safely in different situations. Following the talk, each class received a poster to display, and children were given sticker badges as a reminder of the valuable lessons learned. A big thank you to the Blue Cross for an informative and engaging session!



DEXTER - OUR AMAZING CRUFTS THERAPY DOG



Continuing the theme of dogs, we are incredibly proud of Dexter, our beloved therapy dog, who had the amazing honour of representing therapy dogs at Crufts this past weekend! Dexter plays a vital role in our school family, providing comfort, companionship, and nurture support to our children and staff. His presence at such a prestigious event highlights the important work therapy dogs do in schools and beyond. We are delighted to see Dexter's positive impact being recognised on a national stage - well done, Dexter! Dexter loves to hear children read, so he spends time listening to individual children read. We also use Dexter to teach children how to care for a pet, how to behave around animals and we can promote social skills and confidence. We understand that some children may fear dogs, and this is something we can work on with your child. Dexter is always on his lead in school and under the control of his owner, Sara.

2025 WORLD BOOK DAY COMPETITION

We have been blown away by the amazing book character creations celebrating World Book Day 2025 made using kitchen rolls and toilet rolls that have been sent into school! We had incredible designs ranging from *Harry Potter* and *The Gruffalo* to *Matilda* and *The Cat in the Hat* to *Stickman*. The creativity of our children is astonishing! Congratulations to our winning entries, which were announced in assembly—the judges found it a very difficult decision! All the wonderful creations are displayed in the entrance, so please do pop in and see them.



NURSERY PLACES – SEPTEMBER 2025



We have limited 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.

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>
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. 11:00am.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish