



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

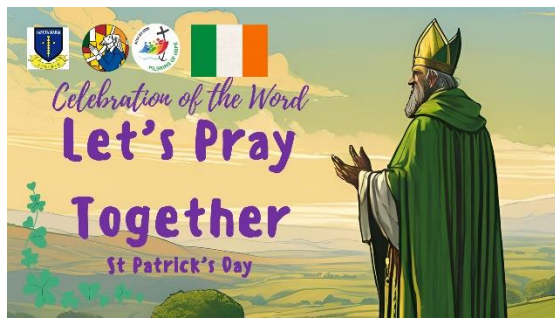
<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

St Mary's Parish: <http://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/>

Holy Spirit Parish: <https://www.holyspiritmarple.com/>

Bulletin Number 25: 21 March 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

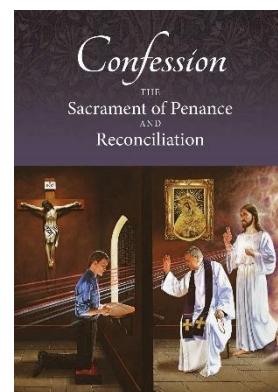


On Monday Year 6 lead us in a beautiful celebration of the word for the feast day of St Patrick. It was lovely to see so many families join us in prayer. Year 6 reflected on who St Patrick was and how he taught with very simple items the importance of God. He used the shamrock to teach about the Holy Trinity. We were encouraged to reflect on how we can follow the values of St Patrick and be strong and brave to share the faith, be humble and treat people like Jesus did

and to show love and kindness to all who we meet. This led us to Mission to share Gods love with someone this week like St Patrick.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to the children on the Sacramental Programme who made their First Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday afternoon. They were initially joined by all children in Years 4-6 for a reverent and reflective celebration of the word, focusing on the theme of forgiveness. This special time of prayer and reflection helped the children to prepare their hearts before making their individual First Confession with either Father Emmanuel or Father Stephen. It was a truly meaningful and grace-filled occasion, and we are incredibly proud of them for taking this important step in their faith journey. Father Bill will be visiting school next Monday to give children in Years 4-6 the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the season of Lent.



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.

AMBASSADORS OF HOPE VISIT THE DIOCESAN CENTRE



Last Thursday, our Ambassadors of Hope, Emily and Caio, proudly represented St Mary's at the Diocesan Centre, Derby where they had the privilege of presenting to the Bishop of Nottingham and representatives from the other 24 schools within the St Ralph Sherwin Trust. They spoke passionately about the strengths of Catholic life and mission at our school and shared some of our exciting plans for the Jubilee Year. It was a wonderful opportunity for our ambassadors to showcase their faith, leadership, and commitment to our school and Trust family. We are incredibly proud of them for being such inspiring ambassadors of hope!

STOCKPORT SHAPES FAMILY CHALLENGE



We're excited to invite all St Mary's families to take part in the Stockport SHAPES Family Challenge - a fun and engaging way to stay active, spend quality time together, and even win fantastic prizes! SHAPES stands for Sport, Health, Activity, Participation, Engagement, and Support, encouraging families to get moving through a variety of activities. Every activity earns points, and the families with the most points will win amazing rewards, including sports equipment and local experience vouchers! We'll



**DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM**

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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

be celebrating participants in our Friday assemblies, so don't miss this chance to make fitness fun and create lasting memories. Sign up now by visiting <https://forms.gle/qjrS6oESBEmN7rC4A>. Let's get active, St Mary's!

YEAR 5 SOAR TO SUCCESS

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic work of our Year 5 pupils following their participation in the Glider Design Challenge on Wednesday, 19 March. This engaging STEM workshop, delivered virtually by Thales and The Smallpiece Trust, provided an exciting opportunity for the children to explore aerodynamics, forces, and engineering principles. Throughout the session, they demonstrated excellent problem-solving skills, creativity, and teamwork as they designed and constructed their very own straw gliders before testing them in flight. Their enthusiasm and determination were truly inspiring, and it was wonderful to see their learning in science, maths, and design technology brought to life in such a practical and enjoyable way. Well done, Year 5—we are incredibly proud of you!



CROSS COUNTRY



The 6th and last of the school's cross country series took place last Saturday at Woodbank Park. Well done to all 14 children that took part. All our children excelled in effort, determination and enthusiasm. Congratulations to Lucy for coming 2nd in her race and her brother Harry who finished in 3rd place. We hope you all continue to enjoy running through the summer months, in readiness for the next School's Cross Country series in September.

SPOTLIGHT ON ACHIEVEMENT

At St Mary's, we are incredibly proud of our children's achievements, both in and beyond the classroom. Our end of Key Stage 1 and 2 outcomes exceed national expectations, reflecting the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our staff in ensuring the very best for our children. Alongside this, our children demonstrate excellent attitudes to learning, leaving St Mary's well-prepared for their next steps. None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our wonderful families.



We love to celebrate success in our whole-school Friday assemblies, where we recognise amongst others SANCTA Award winners, Star Readers, Star Mathematicians, our Be Kind award recipients, and achievements beyond school. These awards highlight not just academic success but also personal growth, resilience, and extra-curricular accomplishments. We encourage pupils to share their achievements from outside school, whether it's a sporting trophy, a music certificate, or a personal milestone.

Our commitment to every child's progress is reflected in termly pupil progress meetings, where teachers and senior leaders discuss each child's journey, celebrate progress, and implement tailored support to ensure every pupil thrives. Through high-quality teaching, targeted interventions, and strong home-school communication, we continue to provide the challenge and support needed for all our children to succeed. More information can be found here: [DfE Performance Tables - St Marys Catholic Voluntary Academy - Marple Bridge](#)

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD



Have you heard about the Smart Free Phone Initiative? Across the UK, more parents/carers are choosing smartphone-free devices for children under 16 to reduce digital distractions and promote healthier technology habits. The Smartphone-Free Childhood Campaign has gained

momentum, with over 100,000 signatures since its launch in September 2024. The initiative encourages delaying smartphone use until at least 14 years old and limiting social media access until aged 16. Smart free phones offer a simple, distraction-free alternative, allowing only calls - with no internet, camera, or text messaging. To learn more about this movement, visit [Smartphone Free Childhood](#).

PARKING CONCERNS

We have received further concerns from local residents regarding parking on roads around the school, at drop-off and pick-up times. Please remember to park safely and respectfully, avoiding driveways, junctions, and pavements to ensure the safety of our children and consideration for our neighbours. Where possible, we encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot, or park further away and walk the last part of the journey as part of our WOW walk to school campaign. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school family safe and maintaining good relationships with our local residents.

Avoid bad parking,
walk, cycle or
scoot to school

#BeConsiderate



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>	
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.
28 March	Year 1 Mother's Day Afternoon Tea. 2:00pm - 3:00pm.
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.
9-13 June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.
9-13 June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check.
21 June	First Holy Communion Mass for Holy Spirit Parish children. 11:00am.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish