



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 27: 4 April 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, our celebration of the word was led by our Year 3 and 4 children through their wonderful Lenten and Easter production, *Easter Praise*. Through song, drama, and prayer, they beautifully retold the Holy Week and Easter story, reminding us of Christ's journey of love, sacrifice, and the ultimate hope of the Resurrection. Their joyful and reverent proclamation of the Gospel message was truly inspiring, encouraging us all to reflect on the significance of Christ's passion and the gift of new life that Easter brings.

The children's performance not only demonstrated their deep understanding of the Easter message but also their confidence and enthusiasm in sharing their faith. Their singing filled the hall with joy, their acting brought the story to life with sincerity, and their prayers reminded us of the importance of preparing our hearts for the joy of Easter morning. Moments like these are a testament to the faith-filled community we strive to nurture at our school.

A heartfelt thank you to our staff for their dedication in guiding the children through this production, ensuring they understood both the words they spoke and the message they shared. Thank you also to our families for your ongoing support—it was wonderful to see so many of you join us in this special act of worship. As we continue our Lenten journey, may we be inspired by the faith and enthusiasm of our children, strengthened by the promise of Easter, and reminded of the light of Christ in our lives.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

A reminder that next **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. As we complete our virtual pilgrimage to Rome we have arrived in Italy and are on target to reach St Peter's Basilica in Rome for the end of our BIG Lent Walk on Monday! To support our almsgiving efforts, we ask children to bring in 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 prayer 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 final leg 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.

YEAR 5 TO LEAD STATIONS OF THE CROSS – (9:00AM MONDAY 7 – FRIDAY 11 APRIL)



Each morning next week, our children will have the opportunity to reflect on the events of Jesus' final days on Earth, leading up to His Crucifixion. Through the Stations of the Cross, guided by powerful retellings from Jesus' perspective, we will journey together in prayer and contemplation. These reflections will be led by our Year 5 children each morning at 9:00am in the school hall. We warmly invite all families to join us in this special time of prayer as we prepare our hearts for the events of Holy Week and the joy of Easter.



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St Ralph
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HARRYTOWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday, six of our children proudly represented our school at the tennis tournament held at Harrytown Catholic High School. They demonstrated fantastic skill, determination, and enthusiasm throughout the competition, showcasing not only their sporting ability but also their wonderful sportsmanship. Their teamwork and encouragement of one another were a true reflection of our school values, and we could not be prouder of their efforts. A huge well done to all who took part - you played with great spirit and were a credit to our school family.



CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS FOR ST MARY'S



The end-of-season Schools Cross Country Presentation took place last Saturday at Woodbank Park, celebrating the dedication and achievements of our young runners. Eighteen children took part in at least one race, with some competing in all six events. Awards were based on overall rankings and participation levels. A huge congratulations to Lucy in Year 6, who finished 1st overall, and to Harry in Year 5, who secured 5th place - keeping it in the family!

We are also incredibly proud of our Year 5-6 Girls team, who finished 1st overall in the Cross Country League, bringing home the trophy - an outstanding achievement! A special mention goes to Lucy, Harry, Isaac, and Charles, who completed all six races, and to Maria, Florence, Jonah, Daniel, Lucy, Emily, and Buster, who competed in five. Their commitment, often in challenging cold and muddy conditions, earned them well-deserved participation medals.

A huge well done to all our runners - and a special thank you to the dedicated adults who braved early Saturday mornings to support them, especially to Mrs Ashton for her dedication, enthusiasm and expertise in coaching the team to success whilst instilling a love for running and fitness! Looking ahead, the new cross country season starts in September 2025, and we welcome all Key Stage 2 children to take part. Who will rise to the challenge next year?

A WONDERFUL MOTHER'S DAY ASSEMBLY

Our amazing Reception class led us in a truly beautiful Mother's Day assembly, celebrating the love and care of our mums and all those who take on a mother's role in our lives. Through heartfelt words, songs, and prayers, the children reminded us of the special bond we share with those who nurture us, while also honouring Mary, the mother of Jesus, as a perfect example of love and devotion. A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for providing teas, coffees, and biscuits after the assembly, giving our families a chance to relax and enjoy a chat together. It was a joyful and uplifting celebration—well done, Reception!



YEAR 1 MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA



Continuing the Mother's Day theme, a huge congratulations to our fabulous Year 1 class for hosting a truly delightful Mother's Day tea last Friday afternoon. The children put so much effort into planning every detail - from designing menus and table decorations to making delicious sandwiches, scones, and special Mother's Day treats - all beautifully linked to their learning in Design Technology and English. Their hard work, creativity, and enthusiasm made the afternoon so special for all the mums and loved ones who attended. Well done, Year 1 - you showed fantastic teamwork and made everyone feel truly appreciated!

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME LEARNING

The value of home learning can be understood by looking at how memory works:

When we learn something new, it's natural to forget parts of it, but the good news is that each time we revisit that information, we strengthen our ability to remember it permanently.

Relearning in a different context, such as practicing at home, further solidifies our understanding and helps us retain knowledge more effectively.

This is why home learning (homework) is so important. By revisiting what children have learned in school, they reinforce their understanding and improve long-term retention. We recognise that home learning can sometimes be a challenge - children may not always be eager, and it can be difficult for families to find time. However, it is a vital part of the collaboration between home and school, supporting children's ongoing progress. To make home learning more engaging and effective, we encourage families to use *Doodle Learning*, our personalised online platform, which tailors activities to your child's needs. If you ever need support - whether with specific tasks or general strategies for home learning - please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher(s). We are always here to help!



ASSESSMENT AT ST MARY'S



At St. Mary's, we assess learning and the impact of our curriculum in three key ways:

Daily Formative Assessment – This ongoing assessment helps inform and adapt teaching, ensuring that lessons are responsive to the needs of our pupils.

Summative Assessment – Conducted at the end of a series of lessons, this assessment measures the knowledge and understanding children have gained.

Statutory Assessment – These assessments are used to evaluate knowledge and understanding in relation to National Curriculum

expectations at the end of each Key Stage.

For more detailed information on statutory assessments, please follow the links below:

- [Key Stage 1 Phonics Screening Check: Information for Parents](#)
- [End of Key Stage 1 – Year 2 Testing Overview: Information for Parents](#)
- [Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check Overview: Information for Parents](#)
- [End of Key Stage 2 – Year 6 Testing Overview: Information for Parents](#)

These assessments help us track progress and ensure that our children are reaching their full potential in line with national expectations.

HOUSE POINTS UPDATE

Below are the house point totals for March.

St Patrick	1,067
St George	1,151
St Peter	1,230
St Mary	1,094



St Peter's House are currently in the lead but there is still another week until we reach the end of the term! Well done to everyone for striving to live out our SANCTA Values and Pocket Principles! Next Thursday afternoon, this term's winners will be announced and receive a special Easter themed House Points reward.

MARCH ATTENDANCE UPDATE

At St Mary's, we believe that good attendance and punctuality are essential for learners to gain the greatest benefit from their education. Below, you'll find our attendance data for March. Our school target is 97%, and despite the challenges posed by Norovirus, we are incredibly proud of everyone's efforts this month. Since September, we have maintained an impressive overall attendance of 96.6%, well above the national average of 93.4%. Well done, St Mary's! A huge thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support in fostering strong attendance and punctuality habits.



Year R	96.03%
Year 1	97.70%
Year 2	97.21%
Year 3	98.10%
Year 4	95.65%
Year 5	95.24%
Year 6	96.35%
All classes	96.62%

PTA EASTER RAFFLE – FRIDAY 11 APRIL



The next PTA event will be the Easter Raffle. This will take place on Friday, 11 April. Tickets are available from the [PTA website](#) and are priced at £2.00. Each entry will get you *one chance* of winning a stunning and HUGE chocolate hamper! **Friday, 11 April will be a non-uniform day in exchange for bringing in a donation of an Easter egg or some chocolate.**

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>
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	PTA Easter Eggstravaganza. Non-uniform day in exchange for a donation of an Easter egg/chocolate. Tickets are available from the PTA website .
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.
4 May	Mellor March 9:30am registration. https://mellor-march.org.uk
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