



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 28: 11 April 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Congratulations and thank you to our wonderful Year 5 children who, throughout this final week of term, have led us on a deeply prayerful and reflective journey through the Stations of the Cross each morning. With great reverence and creativity, they helped us walk in the footsteps of Jesus through scripture, story, choral response, tableaux, poetry and prayer - reminding us of His sacrifice, forgiveness, and enduring love. This year, the children's beautifully designed Romero crosses have been inspired by the Jubilee Year theme *Pilgrims of Hope*. These crosses symbolise our shared journey

with sisters and brothers around the world who, like Christ, carry their own crosses due to poverty and injustice. We have linked this to our Catholic Social Teaching themes of participation and collaboration and our ongoing support for CAFOD, especially their work in Kenya. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and parishioners who joined us, and to the children for their exemplary behaviour and reverence. The photograph shows a small selection of the stunning Saint Oscar Romero-inspired, hope themed crosses designed by Year 5. Amazing work Year 5!

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

On Monday afternoon, each class, along with parents and parishioners, took part in a beautiful and thoughtful prayer walk around our school and church grounds. Led by our SANCTA Squad and Faith Friends, this special event was held in support of CAFOD's Big Lent Walk—raising vital funds for communities around the world, including Kenya which has been highlighted by Year 5 in the Stations of the Cross.

This year, inspired by the Jubilee Year theme *Pilgrims of Hope*, we set ourselves the challenge of virtually walking from St Mary's to St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City—home of the Holy Door that was opened by Pope Francis for the Jubilee. Our goal was 1,259 miles. We are thrilled to share that we absolutely smashed it, walking over 1,500 miles in total over the past six weeks! An incredible team effort and a true testament to the strength of our school family. So far we have raised £162. We are still accepting donations. Cash donations can be sent into the school office after the Easter holidays, or you can donate online via our CAFOD JustGiving page [via this link](#). Every £1 raised helps CAFOD continue their mission to support people living in extreme poverty around the world. Thank you for your generosity, prayerful presence, and continued support.



HOLY WEEK/EASTER MASS TIMES

	St Mary's Parish	Holy Spirit Parish
Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper)	8:00pm (Marple Bridge)	7:30pm
Good Friday	3:00pm The Passion of Our Lord (New Mills)	3:00pm The Passion of Our Lord
Holy Saturday (Vigil Mass)	8:00pm (New Mills)	8:00pm
Easter Sunday	9:30am (New Mills) 11:30am (Marple Bridge)	9:30am



**DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM**

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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

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.

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



This means that the totals for this term are as follows and **St George's** house group are this term's winners. They attended a treat afternoon with music and games, Easter colouring, biscuits and juice outside on Thursday. This term, over 11,000 dojos have been awarded! Well done children!

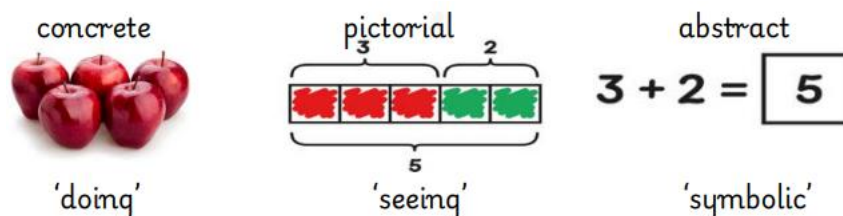
Green	2,828
Red	3,024
Yellow	2,989
Blue	2,758

SPOTLIGHT ON MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is a core subject at our school and is taught daily across all year groups. Our vision is to equip children with a strong foundation in number, logical reasoning, and problem-solving, helping them to develop resilience and confidence as they prepare for the future.

We are proud to offer a high-quality maths curriculum that is both challenging and enjoyable. Our approach encourages children to make meaningful connections across mathematical concepts, promoting fluency, deep reasoning, and the ability to solve increasingly complex problems. We aim for pupils to apply their mathematical knowledge not only in maths lessons, but also across the wider curriculum, including science and everyday life.

From the Early Years Foundation Stage, children are introduced to a variety of strategies through the CPA (Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract) approach. This method is outlined in our Calculation Policy to ensure consistent teaching and progression across the school.



In addition to daily maths lessons, we also deliver focused 'Mastering Number' sessions. These sessions are designed to strengthen pupils' fluency and confidence - and we are already seeing a positive impact, both in terms of attainment and pupil mindset. To find out more about how we teach mathematics, please visit the mathematics page of our [school website](#).

YEAR 2 FOOTBALL SKILLS TOURNAMENT

Twelve of our Year 2 pupils took part in a fantastic Football Skills Tournament hosted by Harrytown Catholic High School this week. The children had a wonderful time developing their dribbling, passing, and shooting skills through a series of fun and engaging activities. They showed great teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship throughout the event. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to build their confidence and enjoy being active alongside pupils from other local schools. A big thank you to Harrytown for organising such a well-run and enjoyable event!



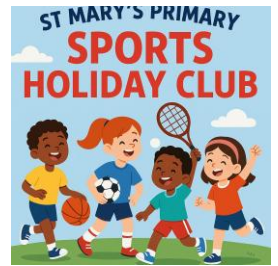
ST MARYS TO COMMEMORATE VE DAY 80



On Thursday 8 May St Mary's will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE day, marking the end of World War II in Europe. **We invite the children to either wear a combination of red, white and blue or a 1940s themed outfit.** During the day we will be holding a street party themed lunch and engaging in history, art, music English and maths activities all with a VE Day theme. We look forward to celebrating the day with the children.

WHIT HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB – BOOKINGS OPEN

We're delighted to share that UK Sports will be running exciting holiday camps at St Mary's during the Whit holidays! Children from Reception to Year 6 are welcome to join in the fun, with sessions in football, multi-sports, and dance taking place on Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th, and Thursday 5th June 2025, from 8:30am to 4:30pm each day. Places are limited, so early booking is strongly advised. UK Sports are Ofsted registered and accept childcare vouchers. To book your child's place and take advantage of a 20% early bird discount (available until Wednesday 30th April), please use the code *TKR686*. Booking links can be found here: [General Booking](#), [Multi-sports](#), and [Dance](#). If this proves successful, further camps are planned for the summer holidays and October half term.



PTA EASTER RAFFLE THANKS



Thank you for supporting the PTA Easter Raffle – the response was exceptional and the hampers were a feast for the eyes and the tummy! There were 25 winning tickets and they have each received a hamper of Easter chocolate delights. Congratulations to all! £844 has been raised from this raffle and the funds will go towards much needed sports and IT equipment as well as helping with school trips. As always, thank you to our PTA volunteers who work tirelessly to support our school.

WE ARE ADVENTURERS COMPETITION

Take Part in the We Are Adventurers Easter Eco-Egg Competition!
Looking for something fun, free, and creative to do this Easter? We Are Adventurers is inviting families to take part in their Easter Eco-Egg

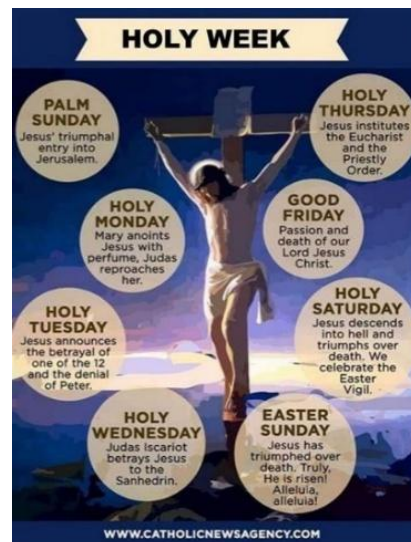


Competition, a nature-based challenge for children of all ages. Here is how it works:

- Download the egg template [here](#) or head to their website.
- Head outdoors and collect natural materials like leaves, twigs, petals, or feathers
- Decorate your egg using your nature finds
- Send in a photo of your creation to adventure@weareadventurers.co.uk for a chance to win a We Are Adventurers merchandise bundle. It's a great way to encourage children to be outside, be creative, and enjoy a mindful Easter break.
- Full competition details and template download are available at <https://weareadventurers.co.uk/eco-egg-competition/>. Entries close on 18th April 2025 and the winner will be announced on 21st April 2025.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR HOLY WEEK

As we enter Holy Week on Sunday, we turn our hearts and minds to the most sacred time in our Christian calendar - the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem knowing that he would soon carry his cross to Calvary. In the same way, we are invited to prepare our hearts for the journey ahead. How often do we pause to pray and thank Jesus for all He has done for us? Prayer is simply spending time with Jesus - and He delights in that time we give. Praying as a family is one of the most meaningful ways to stay close to Him. It might feel challenging at first, but Holy Week offers the perfect opportunity to start or deepen your family's prayer life. Don't be afraid to begin with something small - a short prayer before bedtime or a moment of quiet reflection together. May this Holy Week be a time of peace, reflection, and renewed faith for all our families. Please see page 1 for Mass and service details at both St Mary's and Holy Spirit parishes. *Jesus, you are the light. Help us to live in the light you bring. Amen.*



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 April	School closes for the Easter break at 3:20pm.
28 April	School reopens following the Easter break.
29 April	Skateboarding workshops for Y1 – Y6 classes. (PTA funded.)
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.
8 May	VE Day 80 th Commemoration.
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.
23 June	Year 3 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
1 July	Reception to Year 6 Sports Day 1:15pm – 3:00pm (weather permitting).
2 July	Nursery Sports Morning 9:30am – 11:30am (weather permitting).
3 July	Transition day – Current Y6 children spend the day at their new secondary school.
11-13 July	Family Camp.
15 July	Open Evening/Reports drop in 3:30pm – 4:30pm.
16 July	Y5 & Y6 Production 1:30pm and 6:00pm.
18 July	PTA Colour Run 3:30pm – 4:30pm.
23 July	Leavers' Assembly 10:00am – 11:00am.
23 July	Bubbles and Confetti 2:50pm – 3:10pm.
23 July	Leavers' Disco 5:30pm – 7:00pm.
24 July	Leavers' Mass 10:00 – 11:00am.
24 July	School closes for children for the Summer Break at 3:20pm.

Wishing all our families every blessing as we enter Holy Week, and a joyful and hope filled Easter break. I look forward to seeing our school family back together after the holidays on Monday 28 April. Mr John Nish.