



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



In our RE lessons and celebrations of the word this week, we've been reflecting on the Easter story. The amazing events following Jesus' terrible death on the cross can be difficult to understand. Like Peter, who at first was afraid and unsure, we are reminded that through faith, we can believe in the Resurrection and live with hope and trust in God's promises. The children have responded beautifully to these reflections, sharing thoughtful insights and prayers

as we journey through this Easter season together. Year 5 also led us in the final station of the cross to help bring our learning about the Resurrection to life. The children have been encouraged to understand that:

- Jesus' Resurrection brings renewed hope, joy and peace.
- Even when it's hard to understand, we too can believe in Jesus and His promise of new life.
- We can spread the hope, joy and peace of Jesus through our actions.

## REST IN PEACE POPE FRANCIS

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday, a much-loved and inspirational leader whose words and actions touched the hearts of millions around the world. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy of compassion, humility, and a tireless commitment to justice, peace, and care for our common home. Pope Francis had a unique gift for reaching out to people of all backgrounds, reminding us of the importance of mercy, forgiveness, and love in action. Throughout this week, we have taken time as a school family to reflect on his life and example. In our class liturgies, the children have learned about his dedication to the poor, the marginalised, and to building a more just and compassionate world. On Tuesday morning, we joined with Bishop Patrick and schools from across the Diocese in a special virtual assembly, where we prayed together for the happy repose of Pope Francis' soul. We continue to hold him in our prayers, giving thanks for his extraordinary witness of faith and service.



## 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.

## ST MARYS TO COMMEMORATE VE DAY 80



Next Thursday, 8 May, St Mary's will be commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> 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, a 1940s themed outfit or their uniform for Brownies, Cubs or similar.** 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.



## SPOTLIGHT ON WRITING



At St Mary's, we are incredibly proud of our talented young writers. Over recent years, we have worked hard to embed a consistent and engaging writing process that supports children in developing their skills and confidence. Our writing cycle typically spans two to three weeks and begins with an exciting hook, introducing a clear purpose and audience. Pupils are then immersed in high-quality texts before being taught specific writing skills, which they have the opportunity to practise and apply in their own work.

Teachers carefully plan a wide range of writing genres to ensure learning is creative, purposeful, and fun. For example, children might write a witness statement from one of the Three Little Pigs, a TripAdvisor review of Bury, a persuasive holiday brochure, or even a monologue from an object's point of view—such as *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Teachers also model high-quality writing so that pupils can clearly see what great writing looks like and 'maggie' ideas to use in their own work.

Children are given regular opportunities to share and publish their writing. This might include reading to younger pupils, sharing work with Mr Nish, exchanging writing with another school, or even emailing a piece to a well-known author. Our aim is to ensure that every pupil leaves St Mary's with a strong foundation in English and the skills, creativity, and confidence to express themselves as thoughtful, articulate members of society. To find out more about how we teach writing, please visit the writing page of our [school website](#).

## ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB – PENTECOST 1

Classes will have time each half term to discuss favourite authors and books and listen to book recommendations, which we hope will help our pupils to choose books to read independently, discover new authors and share a love of reading. We have attached our Pentecost 1 book recommendations, which you may like to share and discuss together at home over the weekend. Remember children in Y1-Y6 are invited to attend story time in the library each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime.



## YEAR 2 AND YEAR 6 SATS



Our Year 2 and Year 6 pupils are working incredibly hard as they approach their end-of-key-stage assessments this month. We are so proud of their effort, resilience and positive attitudes. Please continue to support your child with plenty of rest, encouragement, and a calm routine. SATs are just one part of their learning journey, and we know they will do their very best.

## STOCKPORT COUNTY FC

Year 5 have had a fantastic time working with Stockport County Football Club this week and will continue to do so for the rest of this half term. The coaches have delivered excellent sessions focusing not only on physical skills and fitness, but also on teamwork, respect, and leadership. The children have really valued this opportunity and we're grateful for the club's ongoing support.



## CHESHIRE COUNTY CRICKET TASTER DAY



We were delighted to welcome Cheshire Cricket into school on Thursday. They began the day with a lively and inspiring assembly, sharing their passion for the sport and encouraging everyone to get active. This was followed by exciting taster sessions for children across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The children loved learning new cricket skills and had a brilliant time getting involved.

## SKATEBOARDING WORKSHOPS

On Tuesday, children from Years 1 to 6 have been thrilled to take part in exciting skateboarding workshops delivered by Team Rubicon, thanks to generous PTA funding. The sessions have introduced pupils to the basics of skateboarding in a safe and supportive environment, helping them to develop confidence, balance, and resilience—all while having a lot of fun! We're so grateful to our wonderful PTA for making this memorable experience possible.



## THE MELLOR MARCH – SUNDAY 4 MAY



A reminder that the annual Mellor March takes place this Sunday, 4 May, starting from 9:30am. This is always a fantastic community event, and we encourage as many families as possible to take part, enjoying the fresh air, beautiful surroundings, and the opportunity to support a good cause together. Further details and how to register can be found here: <https://mellor-march.org.uk>.

## BANK HOLIDAY – MONDAY 5 MAY

Please remember that school will be closed on Monday 5 May for the Bank Holiday. We hope all our families enjoy the long weekend and the chance to rest and spend time together.

## 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 <b>bold</b>.</i>
4 May	Mellor March 9:30am registration. <a href="https://mellor-march.org.uk">https://mellor-march.org.uk</a>
5 May	May Day Bank Holiday – School closed.
8 May	VE Day 80 <sup>th</sup> Commemoration.
12-15 May	Year 6 SATs.
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.
20 May	PGL meeting for Year 5 parents at 6:00pm.
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.
<b>23 June</b>	<b>Year 1 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.</b>
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.
<b>7 July</b>	<b>Year 3 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.</b>
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.
3 September	School reopens for children following the summer break.

**Wishing you all a very happy Bank Holiday Weekend. Mr John Nish.**