



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 30: 9 May 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Throughout May, we turn our hearts and minds to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as we honour her during this special month in the Church's calendar. Children across the school have been taking part in class liturgies, Marian devotions, and reflective prayer opportunities, all centred on Mary's example of love, obedience, and trust in God. On Monday, each class will have the opportunity to crown Mary and present the marigolds they planted earlier in the year, accompanied by

their personal prayers and intentions. Our Word of the Week has been 'faith' – a particularly fitting theme as we reflect on Mary's unwavering belief in God's plan. Children have been exploring the meaning of faith in their own lives – whether it's having faith in themselves when facing challenges, placing their trust in others, or deepening their relationship with God. It has been truly moving to witness the thoughtful reflections and insights shared during class discussions and recorded in prayer journals. In addition, this week the children have also been learning about the conclave – the sacred process by which the College of Cardinals gathers to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they elect a new Pope. This has sparked rich conversations about leadership, prayer, and the global Church.

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.

VE DAY 80 CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday, the whole school family joined together to commemorate VE Day in a range of meaningful and memorable ways. We began the day by joining a national virtual assembly to reflect on the significance of Victory in Europe Day and to remember the sacrifices made by those who lived through the Second World War, including listening to testimonies of survivors who lived and fought through the war. This was followed by themed curriculum activities in every class, where pupils explored what life was like during the 1940s, the importance of peace, and the resilience shown by past generations. At lunchtime, we enjoyed a street party-themed lunch out on the playground, complete with bunting, music and traditional British treats! Thank you to our amazing PTA who provided a visit from an ice cream van to lift the commemorations further! The sense of community and celebration was wonderful to see, and the day provided a powerful reminder of the importance of peace and unity.



WILD ROADSHOW VISIT



Our Early Years classes had a fantastic visit from the Wild roadshow last week, building on their learning about mini beasts. They were introduced to Merlot the tarantula, held a giant snail and cockroach and millipede and said a special hello to a bearded dragon, Toby! This visit was funded through our amazing PTA. Thank you so much for this invaluable experience.



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SPOTLIGHT ON DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

At St Mary's, we believe that a high-quality Design and Technology curriculum should inspire creativity, imagination and innovation, while enabling pupils to design and make purposeful products for a specific end user. We encourage every child to think critically as they explore ideas, design solutions, and evaluate their outcomes.

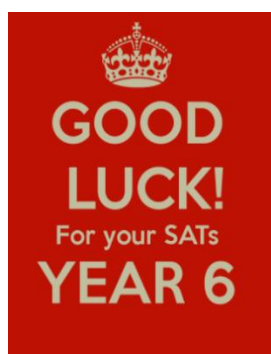


Through this process, children not only refine their technical skills but also develop resilience—learning to adapt, improve, and persevere when things don't go as planned. Key skills are explicitly taught and regularly revisited, allowing children to build a strong foundation and apply prior knowledge with increasing confidence.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, Design and Technology begins through the Expressive Arts and Design strand, where children are encouraged to select materials independently and explore how to shape, join and construct. As they move through the school, pupils deepen their knowledge and skills in key areas including Electrical Systems, Food Technology, Mechanisms, Structures, and Textiles.

Our Design and Technology Lead, Mrs Bramhall, has carefully mapped out a progression of knowledge and skills across the curriculum to ensure pupils build on their learning year by year. This thoughtful planning enables pupils to undertake exciting and varied projects such as creating Viking board games, designing and sewing fabric slippers, preparing seasonal meals, and constructing moving vehicles, to name just a few. Mrs Bramhall is currently reviewing our Design and Technology curriculum with a view to making further enhancements in the next academic year - ensuring that it continues to be dynamic, engaging and meaningful for all pupils. To find out more about our Design and Technology curriculum, please visit the Design and Technology page of our [school website](#).

YEAR 6 SATS NEXT WEEK



We would like to wish all our Year 6 pupils the very best as they prepare for their SATs next week. The children have worked incredibly hard over the past year, showing real commitment and resilience in their learning. We are very proud of each and every one of them. We know that SATs are just one part of their journey, and that their talents, kindness and character shine through in so many ways every day. A gentle reminder to families to ensure the children get plenty of rest, eat well, and arrive on time each day. We will be providing a light breakfast in school each morning at 8:30am to help pupils start the day feeling calm and focused. Thank you to our dedicated staff for all their hard work in supporting the children to be confident and ready. We are all behind you, Year 6!

KEY STAGE 1 OLYMPIC FESTIVAL AT WOODBANK PARK

A group of our Key Stage 1 children had a wonderful time at the Olympic Festival held at Woodbank Park this week. Representing our school with enthusiasm and excellent sportsmanship, the children took part in a range of fun and inclusive activities, including sprinting, hurdles, the long jump and throwing. The event, which brought together eleven schools from across the borough, provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to enjoy physical activity, develop their teamwork skills, and most importantly, have fun! Staff were incredibly proud of the way our pupils supported one another and cheered on their peers. A huge thank you to the staff and volunteers who helped make the afternoon such a success.



YEAR 3 & YEAR 4 TENNIS TOURNAMENT AT BRABYNS TENNIS CLUB



Children in Years 3 and 4 were invited to take part in a tennis tournament at Brabyns Tennis Club this week, and what a brilliant afternoon it was! The festival introduced children to a variety of tennis skills through a carousel of activities and mini matches. From developing hand-eye coordination to working on forehands and backhands, the children approached each challenge with energy and determination. Coaches at the club commented on how engaged and respectful our pupils were – a credit to the school. This event has certainly ignited a new enthusiasm for tennis among our pupils, and we hope many will continue to pursue the sport outside of school. The children won their heat

and will take part in the Tennis Festival final later in the summer! Well done children.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Next week, we will be marking *Mental Health Awareness Week* (12–18 May) with a series of activities and reflections based on this year's theme: 'There is Power in Community.' Throughout the week, children will explore the importance of connection, kindness, and belonging—recognising how strong, supportive relationships with family, friends, classmates and staff can make a real difference to our wellbeing. Through class discussions, creative activities and collective acts of kindness, we'll be encouraging pupils to think about how they can contribute to a caring, inclusive community where everyone feels seen, heard and valued. At St Mary's, we believe that by working together and looking out for one another, we can all play a part in promoting positive mental health. Next Friday, 16 May, we would like the children to wear something green, this can be as simple as a badge, a piece of ribbon in their hair or round their wrist, it could be an item of clothing which is green, socks or a t-shirt. It is entirely up to your child to decide on what they would like to do. For children participating we request a £1 donation. All proceeds will further support our resourcing of mental health books and resources.



SUMMER IS COMING... (HOPEFULLY)



As we journey further into the Pentecost (summer) term, the diary becomes very busy for staff. Alongside teaching and carrying out their day-to-day duties, we are also planning to undertake statutory assessments, working on end of year reports, recruiting staff/planning for the next academic year as well as organising lots of traditional summer events such as Sports' Day or special assemblies. During such a busy time of year, please be patient if you contact staff at school. They shall always reply as quickly as possible but this may take slightly

longer than usual. We also know that there will be events/activities which parents want to attend so do remember to check our 'key dates for your diary' section at the end of each newsletter and the [Key Events list published on our school website](#). Please do ensure your child attends school on time every day during the remainder of this term. We would hate for them to miss out on important or exciting activities due to absence from school. Finally, we have experienced glorious weather of late and in the hope that the sun stays, do please remember that children can now wear their summer uniforms and on sunny days should come into school with their filled water bottle, wearing sun protection and a sun hat.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER – WELCOME POPE LEO XIV

This week, as part of our Catholic Life learning, the children have been reflecting on the recent conclave and the joyful news of the election of Pope Leo XIV. We have explored the significance of this sacred process, where the College of Cardinals, guided by the Holy Spirit, discerned who would be called to lead the global Church. Through prayer and discussion, we spoke with the children about the importance of humility, wisdom, and trust in God's will – all vital qualities for those chosen to serve. As a school family, we give thanks for the gift of Pope Leo XIV and pray that his papacy will be marked by compassion, courage and dialogue. May we all take inspiration from this moment in the life of the Church, remaining open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, and striving to live out our faith with love, hope and charity.



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>
12-15 May	Year 6 SATs.
12-16 May	Mental Health Awareness Week – wear something green on Friday 16 May. £1 donation for mental health resources.
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. Children to be in church at 9:45am.
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.
23 June	Year 1 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
23-27 June	Year 6 Bikeability Week.
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.
7 July	Year 3 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
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 wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.