



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/>

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week we had a special opportunity to honour Mary, our school's patron saint, by gathering in our beautiful Mary Garden for the traditional May Crowning. This cherished Catholic tradition, celebrated during the month of May, allows us to reflect on Mary's vital role as the Mother of Jesus and of the whole Church. Throughout the week, each class took part in a quiet time of prayer and reflection with our Chaplain Dan, and the Faith Friends from each class. The children crowned Our Lady with a floral wreath and offered flowers and marigolds, that they planted earlier in the year as part of their gardening work, as a sign of love and devotion. The atmosphere was reverent and joyful, with every year group showing deep respect and singing with angelic voices during their service. During the worship, the children reflected on Mary not only as Jesus' mother but as our mother too. They thought about the importance of their own mums, how they show them love, especially on Mother's Day, and offered their prayers to God through the intercession of Mary, Queen of

Heaven. A special thank you to Mrs Buckley for creating the stunning floral crown that adorned Our Lady and to the gardening volunteers who helped the children with the marigold planting.

Also this week, Year 2 led a beautiful celebration of the word focused on Mary, in honour of the special devotion shown to her throughout the month of May. With great reverence and confidence, the children helped us reflect on Mary's role as the Mother of Jesus and our Mother too. Through heartfelt prayers, thoughtful readings, and joyful singing, they reminded us of Mary's love, her 'yes' to God, and how we can turn to her in times of need. The time of worship also encouraged us to think about how we show love and gratitude to our own mothers and those who care for us. Year 2 led us with warmth and faith, helping the whole school to draw closer to Mary, Queen of Heaven, during this special time.

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 3 VISIT QUARRY BANK MILL

Year 3 stepped back in time this week during their exciting visit to Quarry Bank Mill in Styal. Dressed in amazing period outfits, the children looked the part as they explored life during the Industrial Revolution. Through engaging hands-on activities and guided tours, they deepened their understanding of history by learning about the working conditions of children in the mill and how life has changed over time. Their geography learning was also brought to life as they explored the local area, the importance of rivers in powering the mill, and how the landscape shaped industry and community. It was a fantastic day of immersive learning, with Year 3 showing great curiosity, enthusiasm, and respect throughout the trip.



CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 6 ON COMPLETING YOUR SATS



A huge well done to our fantastic Year 6 children who completed their SATs this week! We are incredibly proud of the focus, determination, and resilience they have shown throughout. Each child approached the week with a calm and positive attitude, supporting one another and giving their very best. Their hard work and preparation over the year have truly paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of the way they have represented themselves and our school. We now look forward to the exciting final half-term of primary school, filled with opportunities to celebrate their journey and make lasting memories together.

YEAR 2 SATS AND ASSESSMENTS

Since 2024 Key Stage 1 SATs (taken in Year 2) are no longer statutory, giving schools the option to administer them. At St Mary's, we have chosen to continue using these assessments as a helpful tool to support teacher judgment and identify any areas where further support may be needed as children prepare to move into Key Stage 2.



We approach all assessments with the wellbeing of our children at the heart of our practice. Our aim is to ensure pupils feel calm, confident, and proud to demonstrate what they've learned. Over the past week, Year 2 have taken part in Reading and Maths assessments as part of their normal classroom routine. Most children didn't even realise they were taking a test, which is exactly what we strive for! Well done to all of Year 2 for your fantastic effort and positive attitude.

Assessment outcomes will be shared with parents in the End of Year Report, which will be sent home in July. Looking ahead, after the half-term break, Year 1 and some Year 2 pupils will take the Phonics Screening Check, and Year 4 children will complete the Multiplication Tables Check. These are to be completed during the week commencing 9 June.

CELEBRATING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2025

This week, the whole school came together to mark Mental Health Awareness Week 2025, exploring the powerful theme of *Power in Community*. Through assemblies, class discussions, and creative activities, children reflected on how friendship, kindness, and support from others can have a positive impact on our mental wellbeing. From writing thank-you notes to celebrating acts of kindness in our school community, every class explored the importance of belonging and looking out for one another. The week reminded us all that we are stronger together, and that even small acts of care can make a big difference. Well done to all our pupils for engaging so thoughtfully and showing how powerful our school community can be when we support each other. It was wonderful to see a sea of green today as we stood together as one community recognising the importance of positive mental health and for your generous £1 donations which will help to further resource our wellbeing garden and mental health provision.



APPS AGE RESTRICTIONS



As you will be aware, from previous communication, we recommend that children do *not* have access to smart phones. However, if they do, we rely on parents/carers to actively monitor and manage these so that children don't access apps which have age restrictions. You can see age restrictions for common social media apps by [clicking here](#).

FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)

Previously, if a child was registered with Stockport Council for FSM then they would keep this entitlement (i.e. the free meal) until the end of primary school regardless of whether the financial circumstances of the parents/carers changed. However, since 1 April 2025, the Government has changed the rules which means FSM eligibility will be checked every month (only for those eligible from this date). This check will be undertaken by Stockport Council and you will be notified if your child is no longer entitled to FSM. If you have any questions, please contact the School Office.



WATER SAFETY TALK FROM GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE SERVICE



Today, we were pleased to welcome representatives from Greater Manchester Fire Service, who delivered an important Water Safety talk to our children in Years 3 to 6. Being situated in Marple Bridge, with our proximity to the canal and other open water, it's vital that our pupils understand how to stay safe near water - especially as we head into the summer months. The firefighters shared practical advice about the dangers of open water, what to do in an emergency, and how to make safe choices when playing near canals, reservoirs and rivers. The children listened attentively and asked thoughtful questions, showing great maturity. We're grateful to the Fire Service for helping to keep our children informed and safe in our local environment.

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>
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.
19-23 May	National Walk to School week. Please try to park and stride, scoot or cycle.
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.
10 June	PGL meeting for Year 5 parents at 6:00pm (<i>please note change of date</i>).
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. (Y1-Y6). Nursery and Reception children, please see induction information.

We hold in our prayers the children in Years 3 and 4 who are preparing to make their First Holy Communion at the Church of the Annunciation this Saturday. May it be a truly joyful and sacred occasion - the beginning of a lifelong journey of faith, as they receive Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. Wishing you all a very happy weekend. Mr John Nish.