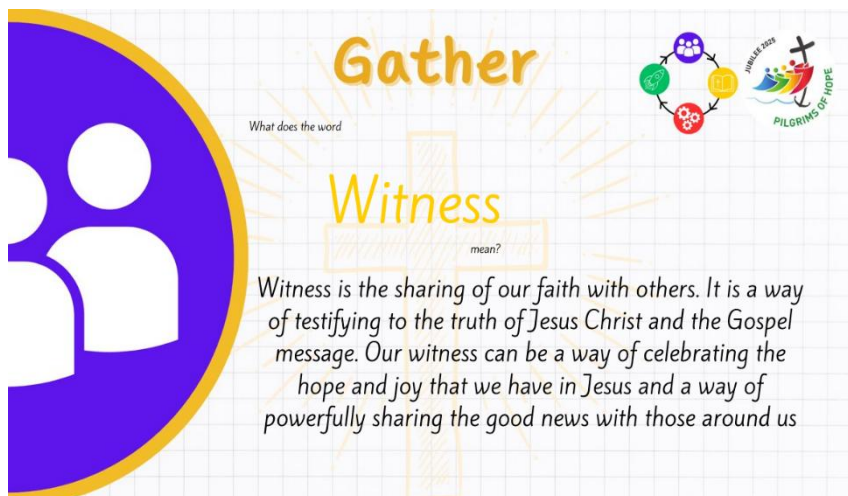




## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



As part of our Catholic Life this week, our Year 4 children led a truly inspiring celebration of the word focused on the theme of 'witness'. With reverence and joy, they reminded us that being a witness means sharing our faith—not just through words, but through our actions. The children reflected on how we can live out the Gospel message in simple yet powerful ways: by being kind, including others, standing up for what is right, forgiving those who hurt us, and telling the truth. They beautifully

echoed Jesus' call to His disciples—to go out and share the Good News - and reminded us that this mission is just as important today. Through their prayers, drama, and reflections, Year 4 gave a shining example of what it means to be witnesses to Jesus in our everyday lives. Well done Year 4.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the children in Years 3 and 4 who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday at either St Mary's or St Christopher's parish. They were truly joyful and reverent occasions, and we are so proud of how beautifully the children read, prayed, and participated in the Mass. They looked so smart and radiant in their Holy Communion outfits, and it was clear to all present how special this Sacrament was to them and their families. We pray that this will be the first of many times they receive Jesus in the Eucharist, drawing ever closer to Him in their faith journey. We also hold in our prayers the children of Holy Spirit parish, who will make their First Holy Communion on 21 June at 11:00am. As a school family, we look forward to celebrating with all the First Holy Communicants at our 'Going Forth' Mass, planned for Friday 4 July at 10:00am in St Mary's Church, Marple Bridge.



## 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.

## APPS AGE RESTRICTIONS

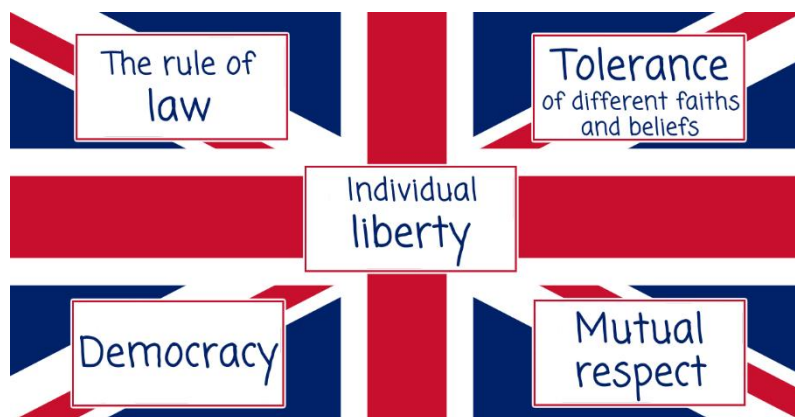


As you will be aware, from previous communication, we recommend that children do *not* have access to smart phones. However, if they do, we rely on parents/carers to actively monitor and manage these so that children don't access apps which have age restrictions. You can see age restrictions for common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



## SPOTLIGHT ON BRITISH VALUES

At St Mary's, British Values are an integral part of our school ethos and curriculum, supporting our mission to nurture respectful, responsible and active citizens. These core values - democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs—are embedded in everyday life across our school. Our assemblies regularly explore these values through real-life stories, historical events, and moral dilemmas, prompting thoughtful discussion and reflection. Children learn about democracy through school council elections, while our 'St Mary's Way' behaviour expectations and class charters help reinforce the importance of laws and shared responsibilities. Through subjects such as PSHE, Religious Education, and history, pupils deepen their understanding of individual rights, diverse cultures, and religious beliefs, helping to create a kind, inclusive, and respectful community. These consistent messages encourage our pupils to make positive contributions to both our school family and the wider world.



## YEAR 5 VISIT TO LONGDENDALE



As part of their geography curriculum, Year 5 enjoyed an exciting and informative river study visit to Longdendale. The children explored the journey of a river from source to mouth, conducted fieldwork to measure flow and depth, and learned first-hand how rivers shape the landscape. Their enthusiasm, curiosity, and exemplary behaviour were a credit to the school, with staff and members of the public commenting on their positive attitudes. One pupil summed up the day perfectly: *"It was amazing to see what we've been learning in class come to life – and getting our feet wet made it even better!"*

## YEAR 6 ROUNDERS FESTIVAL

Last week, we were delighted to host a fantastic Year 6 Rounders Festival here at St Mary's, welcoming pupils from local primary schools including Mellor and All Saints. The event was a wonderful way for children to come together and enjoy some well-deserved fun and friendly competition following the hard work of SATs. There was a brilliant atmosphere throughout the afternoon, with great teamwork, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm on display from all teams. It was a joy to see so many smiling faces and hear cheers of encouragement echoing around the field. A huge well done to all the children who took part and represented their schools so proudly, and a big thank you to the staff and volunteers who helped make the event such a success.



## YEAR 1 CRICKET FESTIVAL



On Tuesday morning, our Year 1 children had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a Cricket Festival at Marple Bridge Cricket Club. The event provided a brilliant introduction to the sport, allowing the children to learn basic cricket skills in a fun and supportive environment. It was also a great chance for them to meet and compete with pupils from local schools, helping to build confidence and teamwork. The children thoroughly enjoyed the activities, showing great energy, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the day. A big thank you to Marple Cricket Club and all involved in organising such a memorable and enriching experience for our pupils.

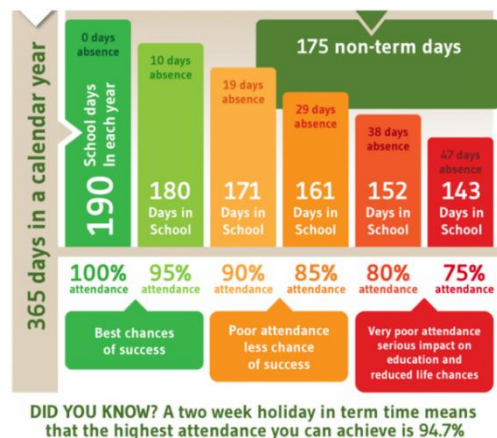


## YEAR 3 & 4 TENNIS FINALS

On Wednesday, children from Years 3 and 4 proudly represented St Mary's in the Tennis Tournament Final held at Kingsway Tennis Club. After progressing through earlier rounds, the team demonstrated fantastic skill, determination and teamwork against strong competition from other local schools. The atmosphere was full of excitement and encouragement, and our children did us proud with their sportsmanship and positive attitude throughout the event. We are incredibly proud of their achievement and the way they represented our school - well done to all involved!



## MAY ATTENDANCE UPDATE



At St Mary's we feel that, if learners are to get the greatest benefit from their education in school, it is important that they have good attendance and arrive punctually. The attendance over the month of May is to the right. Our school target is 97%. Congratulations everyone on your amazing efforts this month. As a school we have achieved a very good **96.77%** attendance.

May 2025 Attendance	
Rec	95.43%
Y1	96.89%
Y2	96.11%
Y3	96.89%
Y4	96.08%
Y5	96.78%
Y6	96.99%
Overall	96.77%

Nationally, attendance stands at 93.7%, so again, well done St Mary's for our strong attendance and thank you

parents/carers for supporting strong attendance habits.

## 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>	
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.
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.
<b>4 July</b>	<i>Going Forth Mass (for children who have made their First Holy Communion this year) at 10:00am in St Mary's Church. Parents of Year 3 children welcome.</i>
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.

**Wishing you all a very safe and happy half term break. We look forward to being back together for the last half term of the year on Monday 9 June. Mr John Nish.**