



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Our whole school celebration of the word this week marks the Church's birthday with the feast of Pentecost. Through a party game and the Scripture reading, children discovered that the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is cause for celebration! In the Gospel, Jesus promised that His disciples would receive the Holy Spirit and Pentecost is the day His promise came true. In a time of prayer, children will also have the opportunity to be filled with the Holy Spirit and reflect on our calling to be the dwelling place of God's presence. *With your child/ren, you may also like to...*

- Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit to be with you in your family prayer time by praying, 'Come, Holy Spirit.'
- Talk about some of the fruits of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23, and discuss how you might grow in these gifts through your thoughts, words and actions.

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 MARY'S CHURCH UPDATE

[Please follow this link](#) to read the latest letter from Bishop Patrick regarding St Mary's Church. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Father Emmanuel for his dedicated service to St Mary's over the past three years. As he prepares to begin his new ministry in Matlock this September, we assure him of our prayers and good wishes. We also look forward to warmly welcoming Father Greg Tobin, who will become the new parish priest for Buxton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, New Mills, and Marple Bridge at the start of the new school year. We keep both Father Emmanuel and Father Greg in our prayers and will share further updates from the Diocese of Nottingham regarding Masses and services at St Mary's, Marple Bridge, as they become available.



CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT - SCIENCE



At St Mary's science is a cornerstone of our curriculum and a powerful driver of curiosity and lifelong learning. We see science not simply as a subject, but as a vital tool for understanding the world around us.

Through engaging investigations, stimulating questions and hands-on exploration, we aim to inspire our pupils to become inquisitive, confident and independent learners.

Science is taught through dedicated weekly lessons, where children explore a broad and balanced curriculum encompassing biology, chemistry and physics. Our teaching follows the National Curriculum for science, ensuring that all pupils build a secure and progressive understanding of key scientific concepts as they move through school.

A central element of our teaching is developing the skills of *working scientifically*. This means helping children think and act like scientists—asking questions, making predictions, planning and carrying out investigations, observing carefully, recording results and drawing conclusions. This practical, enquiry-led approach makes science meaningful and memorable while also fostering essential life skills such as problem-solving, collaboration and critical thinking. At St Mary's, we are passionate about nurturing every child's natural sense of wonder and encouraging them to explore, discover and make sense of the world through science.



PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

This week, our Year 1 children (and some Year 2 children) have completed the national Phonics Screening Check—a short assessment where pupils read both real and pseudo 'alien' words aloud using their phonics knowledge. The check was carried out at each child's own pace in a calm, supportive environment with Mrs Bramhall.



This screening helps us to assess each child's understanding of phonics and identify any additional support they may benefit from as they move into Year 2 and Year 3.

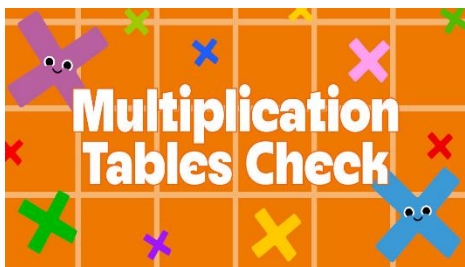
The children have worked incredibly hard in school to prepare for this, and I would like to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support at home—practising reading and reinforcing phonics using the resources we've provided. Your partnership makes a real difference.

There's no need for concern about the check—it's simply one of the ways we ensure every child receives the help they need to become confident readers. [You can find more details in this accompanying leaflet.](#)

A huge well done to all of our Year 1 pupils—they have approached the check with enthusiasm and resilience, and we are very proud of them!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Bramhall or Mrs Thompson, our lead teacher for reading. Screening check results will be shared with parents and carers as part of your child's end-of-year report in July.

YEAR 4 MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK (MTC)



Also this week, our Year 4 children, along with their peers across England, completed the online Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). This short assessment is designed to check how confidently and fluently pupils can recall their times tables up to 12×12 .

The purpose of the check is to help schools identify any children who may benefit from additional support in developing their multiplication knowledge. There is no pass or fail, and unlike other

national assessments, children are not required to re-sit the check regardless of their score. The results are used nationally to inform overall data trends and are not reported by individual schools. Our Year 4 pupils approached the check with focus, enthusiasm, and a positive mindset—we are incredibly proud of them! To continue supporting your child at home, we encourage regular use of Doodle Maths, which every child at St Mary's can access through their class Teams page. Little and often practice can make a big difference! For more information about the Multiplication Tables Check, [please click here.](#)

PENTECOST 2 TERM

It's hard to believe we're already in the final half term of the school year—time really does fly! While summer is on the horizon, there's still plenty of learning and activity ahead. Far from winding down, our classrooms remain busy with lessons and new learning right up to the end of term.

Alongside our core curriculum, we have a packed calendar of events, including sports days, productions, trips, assemblies, and Masses. Children will also be completing their end-of-year assessments, so it's important they arrive on time and ready to learn each day.

For our Year 6 pupils, this is also a time of transition. The team is working closely with secondary schools to ensure a smooth move, with visits and activities planned—please check the class Teams page for updates.

Don't forget to keep an eye on our *Key Events Dates* and weekly newsletter calendar to stay up to date.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2 ROUNDERS COMPETITION

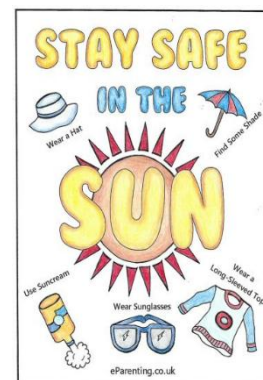


On Tuesday afternoon, a team of children from Upper Key Stage 2 represented St Mary's at the rounders competition held at Marple Hall High School. The event was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to showcase not only their sporting skills, but also their excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. Every child gave their best effort, supported one another throughout, and played with enthusiasm and respect—both for the rules and their opponents. It was wonderful to see such great team spirit and enjoyment on the field. Well done to all who took part—you made us proud!

SUN SAFETY

Now that summer is upon us, we want to ensure our children are safe in the sun. Please can you help us to keep the children safe by doing the following:

- ✓ Provide a labelled hat for your child to wear in school.
- ✓ Show your child how to apply their own sunscreen and encourage your child or yourself to apply long lasting sunscreen each morning before they come to school. Adults in school cannot apply sunscreen.
- ✓ Ensure that hats are clearly labelled with your child's name and their class.
- ✓ Provide water in a transparent plastic bottle, labelled with your child's name. For more advice, [please visit here](#).



SCHOOL PHOTOS

On Friday 20th June, Tempest Photography will be in school to take a whole school group photo. Please can you ensure that your child arrives promptly in full school uniform, also can we ask that the girls wear their summer dress, if they have one. Parents will be able to buy this wonderful memento later in the term, the last time we had a group photo taken was in 2017! Reception and Y6 will also have a class photo taken on Monday 23rd June.

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>	
20 June	Whole School Group photo.
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.
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.
4 July	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 and 4 children welcome.
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 wonderful weekend and a happy Father's Day. Mr John Nish.