



WE'RE NEARLY AT THE END OF THE YEAR...

As we approach the end of another remarkable school year, this final Friday bulletin of the year offers us the chance to pause, give thanks, and celebrate all that has been achieved. We thank God – and one another – for the support, encouragement, progress and many moments of joy we have shared.

- **Farewell to our wonderful Year 6 cohort** – You have truly been unforgettable. You have excelled as Special Friends, shown real maturity and growth, and made us incredibly proud with your many achievements both in and beyond the classroom. You are more than ready for the next step in your journey, and we know you will shine in your new schools. We look forward to hearing all about your adventures in Year 7.
- **A heartfelt goodbye to Mrs Brown** – After more than 17 years of exceptional and devoted service to St Mary's, Mrs Brown will be retiring this summer. Her contribution to our school has been immense and deeply appreciated. We wish her a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement, with plenty of adventures in the camper van ahead!
- **Thank you to...**
 - **Our dedicated staff** – Your care, professionalism, and commitment have made a lasting difference in the lives and learning of our pupils.
 - **Our governors** – Your time, wisdom and steadfast support have helped guide us through another successful year.
 - **Our parents and carers** – Your continued partnership, understanding and encouragement make our work possible – thank you for walking this journey with us.
 - **Our brilliant children** – You are the heartbeat of St Mary's. Your enthusiasm, joy and resilience make every day a blessing (and lots of fun too!).
 - **Our amazing PTA** – Your tireless fundraising and wonderful events have brought our community together and enriched the lives of our children, all while raising vital funds for our school.
 - **Our partners and outside agencies** – We are grateful to Nottingham Diocese, the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust, and Stockport Local Authority for their invaluable advice, guidance and expertise throughout the year.



As the summer holidays begin for our children next Thursday afternoon, staff will remain in school to prepare for the year ahead. We look forward with hope and excitement to welcoming new children and families, embracing new opportunities, and beginning another year filled with promise and potential in September.

WEDNESDAY WORD

The holiday version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word of God with your children over the summer.

DOODLE LEARNING SUMMER CHALLENGE



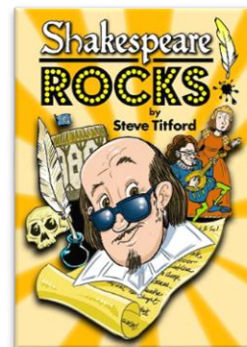
The Doodle Summer Challenge
1st of July - 31st of August 2025

We're excited to share that our school will be taking part in the *Doodle Summer Challenge*! Running from now and throughout the summer holidays, this challenge encourages children to keep up their maths and English skills in a fun and engaging way by using the award-winning *Doodle Learning* apps. Just a few minutes a day can help children stay on track and return to school confident and ready for the new term. All

children who take part will receive a certificate, and there are exciting prizes up for grabs too! Look out for more information on the attached leaflet and via the [Doodle platform](#).

SHAKESPEARE ROCKS!

Wednesday saw our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils take to the stage for their spectacular end-of-year production, *Shakespeare Rocks!* – and what a performance it was! With wit, energy and plenty of Shakespearean flair, the children delivered outstanding acting, singing and storytelling, breathing new life into the Bard's world. From rousing musical numbers to clever comedy and confident character work, every child shone with talent and enthusiasm. A huge well done to all of our brilliant performers – you truly rocked! Thank you also to the dedicated staff team whose creativity, support and hard work brought the production to life. It was a joyful celebration of Shakespeare with a modern twist, and a wonderful way to mark the end of the school year.



YEAR 6 LEAVERS EVENTS



As we approach the end of term, it's almost time to say a fond farewell to our magnificent Year 6 class. However, before they begin their next exciting chapter, we have a number of special events planned to celebrate their time at St Mary's. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for these memorable moments as we reminisce, give thanks, and celebrate all that our Year 6 pupils have achieved. We look forward to marking this important milestone together and giving our wonderful Year 6 the send-off they truly deserve.

Key Dates and Events:

- **Wednesday 23 July 2025 – 10:00am**
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly in the school hall – parents and carers welcome.
- **Wednesday 23 July 2025 – 2:45pm to 3:15pm**
Reception and Year 6 Special Friends: Confetti and Bubbles Celebration – a joyful moment to mark their special bond.
- **Wednesday 23 July 2025 – 5:30pm to 7:00pm**
Year 6 Leavers' Disco in the school hall – pupils can dance the evening away! Parents and carers are welcome to stay, socialise, and enjoy light refreshments.
- **Thursday 24 July 2025 – 10:00am**
Leavers' Mass in school – a reflective and prayerful farewell celebration; all parents and carers invited.

WELLBEING LIBRARY WISH LIST 2025

At our recent SEND Champions meeting, parents once again suggested a meaningful alternative to end-of-year staff gifts: donating a book to our *Wellbeing Library*. Located in the school entrance hall, the Wellbeing Library is open to all St Mary's families and offers a carefully chosen collection of books that celebrate neurodiversity and support the wellbeing of both children and parents.

If you would like to contribute, you can select a book to donate from our Amazon Wishlist using the following link: <https://amzn.eu/h3rA7ry>. You might also like to inscribe your chosen book with a message such as: "Donated by the [Your Family Name] family, July 2025."

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Norburn at: anorburn@mmb.srscmat.co.uk.

Thank you for your continued support - your generosity helps us nurture the wellbeing of the entire St Mary's school family.



DIGITAL FAMILY AGREEMENT With the summer holidays just around the corner now can be a great time for parents/carers to talk with their children and set ground rules, boundaries and expectations around technology use. The easiest way to do this is via a digital family agreement and London Grid for Learning have a really useful template which is free for anyone. You can [download the digital family agreement here](#).



AMBASSADORS OF HOPE VISIT

Last Tuesday, Mr Nish and Mrs Ashton accompanied Emily (Y6) and Caio (Y5) to Fenny Bentley in Derbyshire to represent St Mary's at the Trust Ambassadors of Hope meeting. They joined pupils from 25 schools across the St Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi Academy Trust to reflect on the work of the Pupil Parliament this year and to begin looking ahead. Together, they explored how the themes of *Encounter, Discipleship, and Missionary Discipleship* – shared by Bishop Patrick – link with the Trust's mission to *grow in faith, serve with purpose, and transform our world*. They also took part in early planning for a new, child-friendly version of the Trust's 2030 Charter, which will help all pupils understand and live out our shared goals. The event was a celebration of the year's achievements and an inspiring opportunity to meet peers from both primary and secondary schools, strengthening our unity as one body in Christ. The day was led by Jamie, our Lead Lay Chaplain, and Mrs Chapman, headteacher of St Mary's, New Mills. Emily and Caio will be sharing what they learned with their classes and the wider school family.



2025 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



This summer, The Reading Agency invites children to embark on an exciting adventure with **Story Garden**, the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge theme. Featuring vibrant illustrations by award-winning artist Dapo Adeola, *Story Garden* celebrates the wonders of the natural world and the limitless power of imagination. Completely free and available through local libraries and online, the Summer Reading Challenge is a fantastic way to keep children motivated and engaged

with reading over the holidays. By taking part, children can explore new books, earn rewards, and join in with a variety of nature-themed events and activities. The challenge officially launched at your local library on Saturday 5 July - so head down to sign up, or visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk to start your reading adventure!

ADVANCE NOTICE – MEET AND GREET YOUR CHILD'S NEW TEACHER

On **Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11 September from 3:30pm until 4:00pm**, parents/carers are invited to attend an informal meet and greet session in their child's new classroom. This is an opportunity to visit your child's classroom and meet with their class teacher at the start of the school year. This is in addition to our Open Evening held this week.



KEY DATES LIST 2025 – 2026

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We know that schools are busy places and that it can be difficult for working parents/carers to get time off to join in with school activities and events. This is why we have published the attached summary of our main activities or meetings for 2025-2026. We hope that this advance notice will help families plan so that they can attend worship, assemblies and other activities or events. As always, dates are subject to change and this list should be read in conjunction with the dates published each week on the Friday Bulletin (below) and the termly Collective Worship calendar. Please note that PTA event dates for 2025-2026 will follow in September, once agreed.

DINNER MONEY

Please ensure that dinner money is paid by the end of term. If you are unsure of the amount owing, please call in and see Mrs Major or Mrs Towell at the office. Thank you. **From September** meal prices will rise from £3.33 to **£3.38** per day. These prices are set by the catering company not by the school.

FAMILY CAMP CHARITY WORK

Well done to children in Y2, Y4 and Y6 who, through their own initiative created bracelets, bookmarks and made cupcakes and sherbet to sell for charity at Family Camp raising in total £235 for Y2's and Y4's class charities and the DEBRA (epidermolysis bullosa (EB) – butterfly skin) charity. Amazing work! Well done to Ada, Sofia, Eleanor, Zara, Darcy and Margot in Y2, Annabelle, Margot, Florence R, Amelia, Lydia, Aaron, Leo, Mathieu, Florence F and Isla in Y4 and Mary, Nathalie, Ophelia, Emily, Evie, Amber, Matilda, Joseph, Buster and Conor in Y6.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR CHILD'S EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



School's Out
Take an emotional health check

Head into the summer with a better understanding of your child's brain development and their emotional wellbeing as you support them into their next new phase.

FACT
Our brains develop most rapidly in childhood shaping our emotional health and wellbeing for the rest of our lives.

HERE FOR YOU
Online courses developed by clinical psychologists can help you to understand your child, read their behaviour and help them look after their emotional health.

inourplace.co.uk

Understanding your child online course has been paid for by Stockport Family, so you can access it **completely free** using the code **REDROCK**

Short courses on Understanding the impact of the pandemic on your child or teenager also included.

Please find to the left information regarding online courses, developed by clinical psychologists, which aim to help parents and carers (and any adult in a child's life) understand their child better and how they can support their emotional wellbeing. Currently Stockport has a licence that allows all Stockport residents to access these courses free of charge, using the code: REDROCK.

All of the courses can be completed in your own time and it is not necessary to complete a whole course to gain some benefit from it.

The link to access the courses is: www.inourplace.co.uk

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Please see the attached flyer regarding Home Start Hosts Volunteers. This charity are looking for volunteers in the local community to help new parents and families who need some extra support. It's a very worthwhile cause if you are looking at doing some volunteering.

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>	
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.
1-2 September	INSET days for staff. School closed to children.
3 September	School reopens for children following the summer break. (Y1-Y6). Nursery and Reception children, please see induction information.
9&11 September	Meet and greet your child's new class teacher(s) 3:30 – 4:00pm.
16-19 September	Y6 PGL residential.
22 September	Flu vaccinations YR – Y6.
22 September	Year 5 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
26 September	YR & Y6 Special Friends Assembly plus Macmillan Coffee Morning 9:30am.
29 September	Back to School Mass 10:00am in school.
1 October	Nursery and Reception Phonics meeting for parents 5:30 – 6:30pm.
6 October	Jubilee Mission Day.
8 October	Gladiator Workshops.
13 October	Year 4 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
15 October	Y6 Weight and Height checks.
15 & 22 October	Parents Evenings.
24 October	Celebration Assembly 2:15pm. All welcome.
24 October	School closes for October half term.
3 November	School reopens following October half term.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish