



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

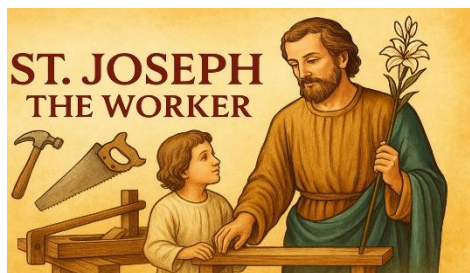
<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

St Mary's Parish: <http://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/>

Holy Spirit Parish: <https://www.holyspiritmarple.com/>

Bulletin Number 3: Friday 26 September 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, Year 5 beautifully supported our whole school in exploring this week's Gospel theme of work. By reflecting on St Joseph, Jesus' earthly father, as a model of humility and service, they helped us to see how work can teach responsibility and discipline, and bring both satisfaction and fulfilment. Through their thoughtful drama, prayer, and song, Year 5 led us to understand that work is a gift from God: a way of sharing in His creative activity. They reminded us to respect the dignity of

workers, to value those who work in service of others across the world, and to use our own talents to make a positive difference. Our mission this week was to *make an effort to do your work to the best of your ability and to help others with their work too*. There have already been many examples of our school family living this out, from children taking extra care with their classwork, to pupils offering help to friends who were struggling. As one Year 5 child said, *"When we help others with their work, we are showing them kindness and making God proud."*

BACK TO SCHOOL MASS A reminder that next Monday, **29 September**, at **2:00pm** Father Benjamin (Assistant Priest at St Mary's parish) will be celebrating Mass in the school hall to mark the start of the school year. You are all warmly invited to attend, and we look forward to celebrating Mass as a whole school family to pray for and offer to God the work, successes and challenges of the year ahead.



WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word with your children.

MARK 10 MISSION DAY On **Monday 6 October**, we are delighted to welcome the Mark 10 Mission team, who will be leading a whole school *Year of Jubilee Mission Day* on the theme of hope. The day will begin with a special act of whole school worship at 9:00am, to which all parents are warmly invited. Throughout the day, the children will take part in class workshops exploring the meaning of hope in our lives and how we can live this out in faith, learning, and service.



SPECIAL FRIENDS ASSEMBLY

One of the much-loved traditions at St Mary's is pairing our Reception and Year 6 children as Special Friends. This unique bond helps our youngest pupils grow in confidence as they settle into school life, knowing they have an older child to look out for them and offer a reassuring smile. For the Year 6 children, being a Special Friend is seen as both an honour and a responsibility, something they eagerly anticipate, often for many months in advance. This morning we held a joyful assembly where the pairs were officially introduced. Throughout the year, the children will have opportunities to spend time together, whether playing, learning, or enjoying special events like the summer picnic. Congratulations to all our new Special Friends. Afterwards, it was a real pleasure to share coffee and cake with parents, during which we raised **£55** for Macmillan. Thank you for your generosity.



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St Ralph
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Catholic Multi Academy Trust

WELLSPRING – HARVEST COLLECTION 2025



At St Mary's, one of our SANCTA values is *support*, and we believe it is important to show gratitude and care for those in our local community. This Harvest, we are once again inviting families to bring in donations for The Wellspring, Stockport, so that together we can share what we have with people who are homeless or facing hardship in our town. This year, The Wellspring's Harvest Festival theme is "Growing Futures Beyond Homelessness", reminding us that by giving generously we can help to plant seeds of hope,

opportunity, and dignity for others. This message also links closely with our Catholic Social Teaching focus for this half term: *care of creation* and the call to build a better future for all.

The Wellspring's [Wish List](#) includes: sugar, coffee, cordial, biscuits, crisps, tinned meat, cereal, butter, pasta sauces and tinned tomatoes. Each class will have a collection bag from **Wednesday 1 October until Friday 17 October**. If you are able, please send your child with an item from the [Wish List](#) to support this important cause.

On **Tuesday 30 September at 5:30pm**, we will be holding an information meeting for parents of Year 6 pupils about the SATs assessments. This session will provide an overview of the tests, explain how the children are supported and prepared in school, and offer guidance on how parents can assist their child at home. We encourage all Year 6 parents to attend so that you are fully informed and able to help your child feel confident and ready for this important stage of their learning as they journey through Year 6.



EARLY YEARS PHONICS EVENING



On **Wednesday 1 October, 5:30–6:30pm**, we will be holding a Phonics Information Evening for parents and carers of children in our Nursery and Reception classes. At St Mary's, we follow [Twinkl Phonics](#), a Department for Education validated scheme. During the session, Mrs Bradbury (EYFS Leader) and Mrs Frost (Reception Teacher) will explain what phonics is, how it supports children with their early reading and writing, and share practical ideas and resources to help you support your child at home. A separate information

session for Year 1 parents will take place later in the year (please see the Key Dates letter for details).

HARRYTOWN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENING



Mrs Pickles, the headteacher of Harrytown Catholic High School visited St Mary's on Thursday and met with Y5 and Y6 children. During the meeting she invited parents and children to their open evening on **Thursday, 2 October, from 4:30pm until 7:30pm**. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore the school, meet the dedicated staff, and learn more about the excellent educational experience Harrytown offers. You and your children will have the chance to see the facilities, hear about the curriculum, and ask any questions you may have about the transition to high school. We encourage you, particularly parents of children in Years 5 and 6, to take advantage of this event to help make an informed decision about your child's future education. The Harrytown community look forward to seeing you there!

CAFOD HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY 2025

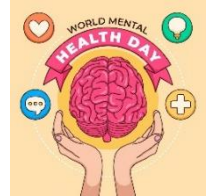


Fast, pray and give

Next **Friday, 3 October** we are asking that children come **dressed in something green** e.g. jumper, t-shirt and donate £1 in aid of Family Fast Day. As you know, CAFOD is a fabulous charity that supports and reaches out to people who are affected by poverty. This year the theme is the 'carving a better future for the world' and we think it is important that we get involved and show our support where we can. You can [read more about this year's campaign here](#).

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2025

The following Friday, **10 October 2025**, we will be celebrating World Mental Health Day at St Mary's, and we are asking all children to wear an **item of yellow with their uniform** and to donate £1. This will form part of our contribution to the Healthy Young Minds organisation. This is a wonderful charity which does so much to support children and young adults. During that week, the children will have a special focus on mental health as part of their learning.



DOODLE BACK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE 2025



Our children are taking part in the *Doodle Back to School Challenge*, designed to help them settle back into routines while building confidence in maths and English. By spending just 10 minutes a day on **DoodleMaths** and **DoodleEnglish**, pupils can fill gaps in knowledge, develop healthy learning habits, and even earn a special virtual badge! There are also exciting prizes on offer: our school will be entered into a national competition, with

the chance to win a bundle of games worth £75. Research shows that short, regular use of Doodle makes a big difference: 10 minutes a day adds up to five extra hours of learning each month. We encourage families to support children in taking part and to celebrate their achievements along the way. The Back-to-School Challenge commences today and runs until 2 October.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES 2025

Today at St Mary's we celebrated the **European Day of Languages**, with this year's theme "*Languages Open Hearts and Minds*" linking beautifully to the *International Day for Peace*. Throughout the week, children created decorated "messages in a bottle" filled with positive peace messages written in different languages, with help from teachers and families. We were proud to celebrate the many languages spoken by our children and their families, recognising that linguistic diversity is a gift which strengthens community and deepens intercultural understanding. This celebration



reflected our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, especially the call to recognise the Dignity of every person. Pupils also brought in books, prayers, songs, and special items in languages meaningful to them, helping us to learn from one another. The day beautifully embodied our SANCTA values, showing Support as we stood together as one global family, Nurture in encouraging one another's gifts and heritage, Challenge through messages that inspire us to build peace, Trust in sharing openly with each other, and Aspiration as we looked beyond ourselves to create a more united and understanding world. One pupil summed it up by saying: "*I loved learning peace words in different languages because it shows that no matter where we come from, we can all share the same message of kindness.*"

TRANSITION ATHLETICS



Eight of our fantastic Year 6 children represented St Mary's at the Stockport SHAPES athletics transition event at Woodbank Park on Wednesday. The morning was designed to help bridge the move from primary to secondary school, with support from secondary Year 7 students across Stockport schools who encouraged and guided the younger pupils throughout the activities. Teams were made up of children from a range of

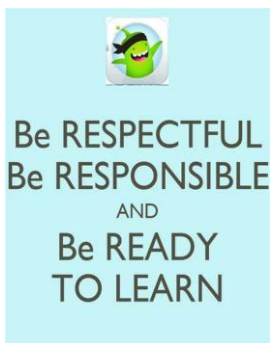
local primary schools, giving our pupils not only the chance to develop their teamwork and sporting skills but also a taster of the new friendships that await them when they move into Year 7 next year. Our children showed great determination, enthusiasm and sportsmanship, and we are very proud of how they represented St Mary's.

COFFEE AND CAKE SOCIAL

Our first Coffee and Cake social on **8th October 1.30-3.00pm** is fast approaching. These get togethers are for **all** parents/carers to attend and take the following format: The first half of the afternoon will be an informal meet and greet with Mrs Bradbury (wellbeing lead) and Mrs Norburn (SENDSCO) followed by your child joining us in the hall with a piece of learning to share with you for ten minutes. The second half of the session we are delighted to welcome Mrs Tanya Cross Stockport Schools Health & Well Being Adviser who will be speaking about online safety and up to date online advice to help keep your child safe online. Father Greg, the new Parish Priest of St Mary's is also hoping to join us. We look forward to our first get together of the school year.



THE SAINT MARY'S WAY



At St Mary's, we have the highest expectations of behaviour for our children. We don't take it for granted that children automatically know how to behave and get along with others so we actively and explicitly teach our children this through our behaviour curriculum: [The St Mary's Way](#). This curriculum outlines key behaviours and routines which help us ensure that the children at St Mary's are ready to learn, are respectful to all and are safe. As parents/carers are a child's first educators, it would be fantastic if you could take a look through this document in order to support our work at home, e.g. by promoting children say please/thank you, showing manners etc. Just like other areas of the curriculum,

we know that children won't just behave in the way that we expect because we teach it in the same way that they don't understand maths following input in a single lesson. We constantly reinforce expectations through our behaviour systems, assemblies and interactions around our school. Information about our approach to promoting positive behaviour is available [on our website](#). Remember, you can monitor your child's behaviour by keeping an eye on their daily Dojo points.

ADVENT TERM PARENTS EVENINGS

Our first Parents' Evenings of the year will take place on **Wednesday 15th and Wednesday 22nd October, from 3:40pm to 6:30pm**. These 10-minute meetings are pastoral in focus, providing an opportunity to meet your child's new Class Teacher(s), discuss how they have settled into their new year group, and review targets for the year ahead. The booking system will go live at **6:00pm on Monday 29th September**, and an email with the booking link will be sent to you at that time.



APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES: SEPTEMBER 2026



We may still be welcoming our new Nursery and Reception pupils into the St Mary's family for this year, but applications are already open for our 2026 cohorts!

NURSERY: for children born between 1 Sept 2022 - 31 August 2023: closing date **31 March 2026**.

RECEPTION: for children born between 1 Sept 2021 - 31 August 2022: closing date **15 January 2026**.

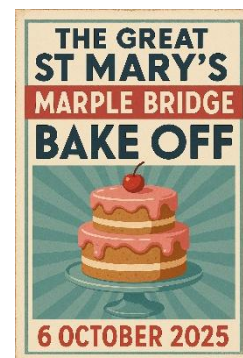
SECONDARY: for children born between 1 Sept 2014 - 31 August 2015: closing date **31 October 2025**.

[All school applications are managed by Stockport Local Authority via this link.](#)

Prospective St Mary's parents are most welcome to attend our open events on Wednesday 5 November 10:00am-11:30am or Wednesday 12 November from 1:30pm-3:00pm. Please spread the word!

PTA NEWS - THE GREAT ST MARY'S BAKE OFF!

The children are invited to bring their Bake Off entry to the school office on **Monday 6 October**. There are 6 different categories to enter: bread, biscuits/cookies, small cakes, brownies/blondies, free from and showstoppers. The entries will be judged by Dean, owner of All Things Nice and winners will be announced in the afternoon at 3:20pm. These delicious treats will then be on sale from the outside classroom on the bottom playground after school. Please be respectful and remember that we are a strict nut free school, this is a NUT FREE ZONE. ONE entry per child, which needs to be labelled with a description and your child's name. Happy Baking! Love the PTA.



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>	
29 September	Back to School Mass 2:00pm in school. All welcome.
30 September	Year 6 parents SATs information meeting 5:30pm.
1 October	Nursery and Reception Phonics meeting for parents 5:30pm.
3 October	CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day – Wear something green - £1 donation.
6 October	Mark 10 Jubilee Mission Day.
6 October	PTA St Mary's Bake Off. 3:20pm. Details to follow.
8 October	Gladiator Workshops.
8 October	Coffee and Cake Social Time with Mrs Norburn and Mrs Bradbury 1:30-3:00pm
8 October	School Streets Consultation Drop-in event 3:15-6:00pm in the school hall.
10 October	World Mental Health Day. (Wear an item of yellow with their uniform - £1)
13 October	Year 4 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
15 October	PTA Sponsored Bounce.
15 October	Y6 Weight and Height checks.
15 & 22 October	Parents Evenings. 3:40 – 6:30pm.
24 October	Celebration Assembly 2:15pm. All welcome.
24 October	School closes for October half term.
3 November	School reopens following October half term.
5 November	Open Morning for prospective Nursery and Reception parents 10:00-11:30am.
8 November	St Mary's Parish Christmas Fair, New Mills. 10:00am – 1:00pm.
10 November	Year 3 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
11 November	Remembrance Service 10:50am – 11:05am. All welcome.
12 November	Open Afternoon for prospective Nursery and Reception parents 1:30-3:00pm.
24 November	Year 6 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
25 November	School photographs.
30 November	PTA Wreath Making Workshop 3:00pm – 5:00pm. Marple Scout Hut.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.