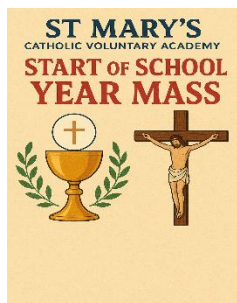




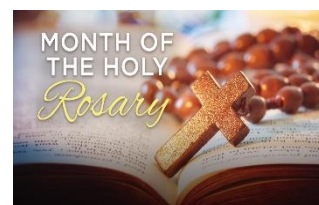
## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, we celebrated our Start of Year Mass together as a school family. We were delighted to welcome Father Benjamin, the new Assistant Priest at St Mary's Parish, who joined us in prayer as we asked for God's blessing on the year ahead. During his homily, Father Benjamin reflected on the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, reminding us how they can guide and inspire us to be true followers of Jesus. The newly formed SANCTA Squad helped with the planning and led the Mass with confidence and care, and were a real credit to the school, showing excellent reading skills. The whole school joined in with beautiful singing and reverent participation, making the Mass a joyful and prayerful start to our school year.

## MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and Bishop Patrick has once again set us a mission of praying one decade of the Rosary (one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be) each weekday during October. You can track your progress using this [chart](#). We will be help with this by setting aside time in one class worship per week during October to say a decade of the Rosary and also each Monday Dan, our chaplain, will lead a Rosary Club at lunchtime.



**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** Next 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.



## 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 is live and an email with the booking link was emailed to you last Monday at 6:00pm. The link is here also: [Parents Evening Advent 2025](#). Please ignore this link if you have already booked a SEND meeting via Mrs Major.



## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2025



Next 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. The theme for Youth Mental Health Day 2025 is "Share Support". This theme encourages young people and those around them to connect, share, and access mental health resources.

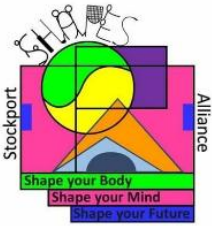


## HIGH 5 NETBALL AT HARRYTOWN

Last Thursday evening, a group of our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in a High 5 netball event at Harrytown Catholic High School alongside seven other schools from across Stockport. The children enjoyed learning new skills and developing their understanding of the game of netball, showing real perseverance and determination as they embraced a new sport. We were particularly proud of the girls' positive attitude, teamwork, and enthusiasm throughout the event, which made it a valuable and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.



## SPORT LEADERS TRAINING



On Monday, St Mary's along with nine other Stockport Primary Schools joined together with the Stockport Sports SHAPES Alliance to train a group of Young Sports Leaders. Ten pupils from Year 5 had a great time learning different games and activities which they can lead at lunchtime for other pupils. The leaders will work closely with Mrs Bramhall and the lunchtime staff to support sport in school, run playtime activities and competitions. Well done to Lydia, Rain, Isla, Elena, Annabelle, Bella, Margot, Florence, Amelia and Grace for successfully completing the training.

## OUTDOORS AND ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES AT LINNET CLOUGH

On Tuesday, ten children from Years 3 to 6 took part in an exciting Outdoor and Adventurous Activities Day at Linnet Clough. They faced a wide range of challenges, including caving, high ropes, and even the leap of faith! Participation levels were fantastic, with every child showing great enthusiasm and courage as they tried something new. Working alongside pupils from four other schools in Stockport, our children demonstrated teamwork, resilience, and a willingness to support others. They were excellent ambassadors for our school throughout the day, making us very proud.



## PANATHLON CHALLENGE



On Wednesday, eight children from Years 3 to 6 represented our school at the Panathlon Challenge held at Aquinas College. A Panathlon is a multi-sport competition designed to give children the opportunity to experience a wide variety of inclusive sporting activities, from target games to relay challenges. Our pupils took part with enthusiasm, working alongside children from other schools across Stockport and showing great teamwork throughout the day. We congratulate all the children on their sportsmanship, perseverance, and determination — they were a real credit to our school.

## BBC 500 WORDS COMPETITION

We are excited to invite St Mary's children to take part in the BBC Children's 500 Words Competition 2025, the UK's largest children's story writing competition. Open to all children aged 5–11, the challenge is to write an original story in 500 words or fewer on any theme or topic of their choice. It's a wonderful opportunity for our budding writers to showcase their creativity and imagination. Entries can be submitted online via the official BBC 500 Words website at [www.bbc.co.uk/500words](http://www.bbc.co.uk/500words). We encourage as many of our pupils as possible to get involved and share their fantastic storytelling talents! The closing date is 7 November at 9:00pm.





## 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. Collections are open until **Friday 17 October**. If you are able, please send your child into school with an item from the [Wish List](#) to support this important cause.

## CAFOD HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY 2025

Today, our school family came together to support CAFOD's Family Fast Day by wearing something green and donating £1. We are delighted to share that the children showed wonderful generosity and solidarity, raising funds to help CAFOD continue its vital work supporting people affected by poverty around the world. This year's theme, "*Carving a better future for the world*," encouraged us to reflect on how our small actions can make a big difference. A big thank you to all families for your support in helping us live out our school values and show care for others. You can read more about this year's campaign [here](#).



**Fast, pray and give**

## COFFEE AND CAKE SOCIAL



Our first Coffee and Cake social on **8<sup>th</sup> October 1:30pm-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 (SEND/CO) 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.

## GLADIATOR 'STEEL' TO VISIT ST MARY'S

Next Wednesday, **8<sup>th</sup> October**, we are very excited to be welcoming Gladiator Steel (Zack George) to St Mary's! Steel will be leading a whole school workout and speaking to the children about the importance of resilience, determination, and always trying your best. He will also share his own personal story of being overweight and lacking confidence as a child, and how he turned this around through sport and a healthy lifestyle. His visit will promote the value of a healthy mindset for young people, encouraging our pupils to believe in themselves, look after their wellbeing, and strive to reach their goals, fitting perfectly with our SANCTA values of *aspire and achieve* and World Mental Health Day which we will also celebrate next week.



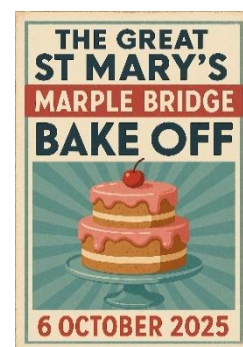
## SCHOOL STREETS CONSULTATION



Stockport Council is proposing to introduce a *School Street* outside St Mary's on Lowry Drive to help make the road safer, reduce congestion, and encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot to school. The consultation runs from 6 October to 17 November, and we would like to hear your views. Parents are warmly invited to a consultation drop-in on **Wednesday 8 October in the school hall between 3:15pm and 6:00pm**, where you can meet the Stockport Council team, find out more about the proposals, and share your feedback. Full details and the online survey can also be found at [www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay). This survey will be live on the 6 October when the consultation commences.

## 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 **4 different categories** to enter: biscuits/cookies, small cakes, brownies/blondies, 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 on Monday.** 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 <b>bold</b>.</i>
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. <a href="#">Parents Evening Advent 2025</a>
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. Happy baking! Mr John Nish.**