



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, our Year 4 pupils beautifully led our whole school celebration of the word on the theme of Inclusion. They helped us understand that inclusion means welcoming everyone as a child of God, regardless of our differences, and creating a community where everyone feels valued and respected. Through prayer, reflection, and storytelling, they reminded us that we can promote inclusion by being open

to others, standing up against discrimination, and ensuring everyone has a voice. Linking their message with Black History Month, Year 4 powerfully retold the story of Rosa Parks and her courageous stand for equality and inclusion. They left us with a meaningful mission for the week — to look for those who might need a friend, speak kindly to everyone, include others in our games, conversations, and prayers, and remember that when we welcome others, we welcome Jesus Himself.

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.

BE INTERNET LEGENDS



Today, our pupils enjoyed an inspiring visit from Google's and Parent Kind's [Be Internet Legends](#) team, who delivered an engaging assembly all about making smart choices online. The programme empowers children to be confident, kind, and safe explorers of the digital world by following the Internet Legends Code: *Be Internet Sharp* (think before sharing), *Be Internet Alert* (check it's for real), and *Be Internet Secure* (protect information). We were also delighted to welcome Lisa Smart MP, who joined us to highlight

the importance of online safety for all children. Lisa met with our amazing Year 5 Digital Leaders to hear how they help promote exciting but responsible use of digital technology across St Mary's.

FIRE SERVICE BONFIRE AND FIREWORK SAFETY TALK

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome representatives from the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service who visited school to talk to our Y3-Y6 pupils about bonfire and firework safety in the lead-up to Bonfire Night. The firefighters shared important advice on how to stay safe around fires and fireworks, the dangers of handling sparklers, and what to do in an emergency. Pupils listened carefully and asked thoughtful questions, showing great understanding of how to enjoy Bonfire Night safely and responsibly. The children even volunteered to dress me (Mr Nish) as a Fire Fighter! We are very grateful to the Fire Service for their time and for helping our children learn how to keep themselves and others safe during this exciting time of year.



PARENTS EVENINGS



The first parents evening of the year on Wednesday was a wonderful celebration of the children's start to the new school year. A reminder that the second of our parents evenings will take place in person on **Wednesday 22 October 2025 from 3:40pm to 6:30pm in the school hall**. Appointments are scheduled for *ten minutes* and offer you the opportunity to discuss how your child(ren) has settled into their new class, an opportunity to look at aspects of their work to date and discuss key targets for the coming year. If you are yet to make an appointment they can be made [here](#). We look forward to meeting with you.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Each October, we mark Black History Month as a time to celebrate the achievements, history, culture, and contributions of Black people, both past and present. It's an important opportunity to shine a light on individuals and events that have shaped our world but may not always have been given the recognition they deserve.

At St Mary's, however, learning about Black history isn't confined to just one month. We believe that exploring different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences should happen throughout the year. Black history is woven into our curriculum, whether through studying inspirational scientists and leaders, learning about the civil rights movement in history, reading diverse authors in English, or celebrating Black artists and musicians.

Our St Mary's Mission and SANCTA Values remind us of the importance of respect, inclusion, and celebrating the uniqueness of every person. We believe that everyone's story matters, and we work to ensure that every child feels seen, heard, valued, and respected in our school community.



WELLSPRING – HARVEST COLLECTION 2025



A heartfelt thank you to all our St Mary's families for your wonderful generosity in supporting this year's Harvest collection for The Wellspring. Your kindness will make a real and lasting difference to people in our local community who are facing difficult times.

We received this lovely message of thanks from The Wellspring team: *"Thank you, Saint Mary's, for your incredible support and generosity. This year's theme, Growing Futures Beyond Homelessness, reminds us that every donation helps to plant seeds of hope. Your kindness provides not just food, but the chance for people to rebuild their lives, find stability, and look forward to a*

brighter future. Together, we are helping people grow beyond homelessness and into new beginnings." Your compassion truly reflects our mission to live out the Gospel message of love and service - helping others to grow and flourish with hope.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2026

The deadline of **31 October** for Year 6 parents/carers to apply for a secondary school place for September 2025 is fast approaching. Applications to enter Nursery, Reception and Year 7 in September 2025 are now open. To avoid disappointment please ensure that you apply by the on-time deadlines: **31 October 2025** for Year 7, **15 January 2026** for Reception, **31 March 2026** for Nursery. Please follow the below links for useful information which you should read before submitting your application: [Nursery and school admissions - Stockport Council](#) and [Admissions explained - Stockport Council](#).



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receive a **printable certificate AND an exclusive in-app badge** to celebrate their hard work! [Please click here for full details.](#)

I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all our parents and families for your wonderful generosity over the past two Fridays. On Family Fast Day, we raised an amazing **£165.65** for CAFOD, helping to fund life-changing projects that support communities in need around the world. The following week, to mark World Mental Health Day, we collected **£128.90** for Young Minds, a charity that provides vital support for the mental health and well-being of children and young people. Your continued generosity and compassion show the true spirit of nurture and support.



 St Mary's
Catholic Primary School
Established 1864

**OPEN MORNING
AND AFTERNOON
SESSIONS**

Learn more about our
wonderfully nurturing school

**Wednesday 5th November -
10:00 to 11:30am**
**Wednesday 12th November -
1:30 to 3:00pm**

School bus - Meet the staff and take
the children to school

Have direct questions, see play
and welcome our E1E classes
and beautiful outdoor spaces

1 Isaac Drive, Mount Pritchard, NSW 5873
02 427 7850 enquiries@stmarys.catholic.nsw.edu.au

**SPARKLE
DISCO**

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER
5PM - 6.15PM

BUY TICKETS ON THE PTA WEBSITE:
WWW.STMARYSPTA.ORG.UK/SPARKLE-DISCO-25
£4 PER ST MARY'S PUPIL

**SPARKLY OUTFITS, TUCK SHOP, HOT DOGS,
LICENCED BAR, GLITTER TATTOOS**

 St Mary's PTA

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SCHOOL STREETS CONSULTATION

Stockport Council is proposing to introduce a School Street outside St Mary's on Lowry Drive. The initiative aims to make the road safer, reduce congestion, and encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Feedback from those who attended the recent drop-in was very positive, with many welcoming the plans to improve safety and promote active travel. The consultation runs from 6 October to 17 November, and you can still share your views by completing the online survey at www.stockport.gov.uk/haveyoursay.



FAMILY FUN AT THE FESTIVAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE



Families are warmly invited to take part in a free half-term event at Manchester Central Library, held as part of the Festival of Social Science. This interactive afternoon is perfect for primary school-aged children and their families, offering a variety of engaging, hands-on activities that bring social science to life in a fun and accessible way. It's a brilliant opportunity to learn, explore, and enjoy time together... and

best of all, it's completely free!

When: Wednesday 29 October, 1:00–3:00pm

Where: Manchester Central Library

Cost: Free

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>	
22 October	Parents Evenings. 3:40 – 6:30pm. Parents Evening Advent 2025
24 October	Celebration Assembly 2:20pm. 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.
28 November	School Christmas Fair. 3:30pm – 5:30pm. All welcome.
30 November	PTA Wreath Making Workshop 3:00pm – 5:00pm. Marple Scout Hut.
1 December	Advent Service 2:30pm – 3:00pm. All welcome.
2 December	Junior Festival of Carols led by Y3. St George's Church, Heaviley at 7:30pm.
5 December	INSET Day. School closed to children.
8 December	Pantomime at Romiley Forum.
11 December	Nursery and Reception Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm
14 December	Carol Service at Holy Spirit Church, Marple at 4:00pm. All welcome.
17 December	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm
18 December	Christmas Dinner.
19 December	Carol Service 1:30pm-2:15pm in the school hall. All welcome.
19 December	School closes for the Christmas holidays.
5 January	School reopens following the Christmas holidays.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.