



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, our SANCTA Squad led a thoughtful and prayerful whole school worship focused on our Religious Education topic for this half term, *Creation and Covenant*. This unit helps the children understand how God reveals Himself through creation and how He has formed a special relationship, known as a covenant, with His people throughout history. During worship, each year group shared their learning journey. Our younger children in Reception and Key Stage 1 have been discovering the beauty of God's creation and learning that every person is made in His image and loved by Him. In Lower Key Stage 2, the children have been exploring the stories of Abraham and Noah, learning about trust, promise and

faithfulness in God's covenant. Upper Key Stage 2 have been deepening their understanding of how God's covenants with His people prepared the way for Jesus, who brings a new and everlasting covenant of love. The SANCTA Squad led the whole school in prayer and reflection, helping us to see that God's love is constant and that we are all called to live in harmony with Him, with one another, and with creation.

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.

JUBILEE PILGRIMS OF HOPE WALK



Yesterday, our Year 6 SANCTA Squad took part in a special pilgrimage walk from St Mary's, Marple Bridge to St Mary's, New Mills. They were joined by children and staff from St Mary's, New Mills, as well as parishioners from both churches, walking together in faith and friendship. The morning concluded with a beautiful child-led Mass at St Mary's, New Mills, celebrated with Father Gregory, our new parish priest. The children represented our school wonderfully - walking with reverence, joy, and reflection as true pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee Year. A big thank you to the staff, parishioners, and parent volunteers

who supported the walk and helped transport everyone safely back to school. It was a memorable morning of prayer, community, and shared faith.

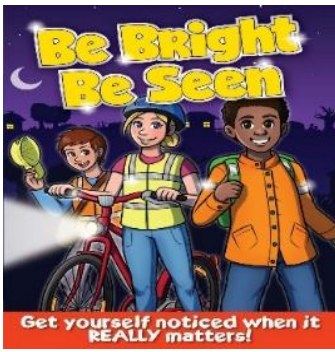
OCTOBER HOUSE POINTS

Please see the totals for the month of October. St Peter's House are currently in the lead but there is a long way to go until the end of the term...

St George	St Peter	St Mary	St Patrick
1,422	1,451	1,368	1,282



BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN ON THE ROADS



Please share this important reminder from Stockport Council's Road Safety Team with your children: As the evenings draw in and daylight hours shorten, it's especially important to stay alert and safe when walking or cycling. Encourage your child to wear something bright or reflective—or attach a reflective tag to their school bag—so that they can be easily seen by drivers. If they cycle, make sure their lights are working and switched on. When crossing roads, look for the safest places such as zebra or puffin crossings, and always choose well-lit areas so that both pedestrians and drivers can see clearly. A few simple precautions can make a big difference in keeping everyone safe this autumn.

DOODLE LEARNING – AUTUMN COMPETITION

Between 20 October and 24 November, Doodle are running an exciting competition where your child could **WIN a Doodle goodie pack!** Designed to encourage a few minutes of daily maths practice, taking part is a fun way to promote healthy learning habits and build their knowledge. Plus, everyone who reaches the star target will receive a **printable certificate AND an exclusive in-app badge** to celebrate their hard work! [Please click here for full details.](#)



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](#).



OPEN EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS/CARERS



There will be an **open morning from 10:00am – 11:30am on Wednesday 5 November** and an **open afternoon from 1:30pm – 3:00pm on Wednesday 12 November 2025** for prospective parents/carers who are considering sending their children to St Mary's in September 2026. If you are in this position, or know of families who are, please spread the word. At both events prospective parents/carers will have the opportunity to visit our wonderful school, meet some of our amazing children and staff, stay and play and see St Mary's in action.

ST MARY'S PARISH MARPLE BRIDGE AND NEW MILLS CHRISTMAS FAIR

The parish of St Mary's, Marple Bridge, and The Annunciation, New Mills, is holding its 2025 parish Christmas Fair and, as part of the parish family, you are warmly invited!

The Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 8 November, from 10:00am to 1:00pm** at the parish hall in New Mills (St. Mary's Road, New Mills, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 3BW). There will be a tombola, cakes, refreshments, music and themed stalls, including a St Mary's school stall.



INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS



Will be held on **Tuesday 25 November**. Preschool siblings are more than welcome to join their sisters and/or brothers who attend St Mary's and can be brought into school via the office entrance from 8:30am.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE



At St Mary's we believe that good attendance and punctuality are essential for children to make the most of their learning and enjoy all that school has to offer. We are delighted to share that we have **met our school attendance target of 97% for this half term**, achieving an impressive **97.49% overall**. This means we have reached our target for two consecutive months – a fantastic achievement! Nationally, attendance currently stands at 95.1%, so we are currently performing above the national figure. A huge thank you to all our families for your continued support in promoting excellent attendance and helping every child make the most of their time at school.

Advent 1 2025 Attendance	
Rec	98.30%
Y1	95.19%
Y2	97.29%
Y3	97.41%
Y4	98.13 %
Y5	98.08 %
Y6	97.68%
Overall	97.49 %

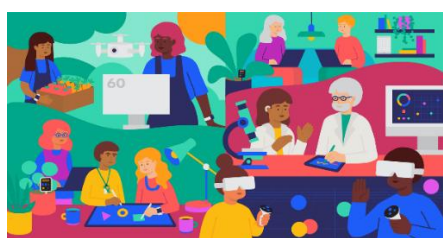
2025 POPPY APPEAL

This year, we are once again supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, which raises funds to support veterans and their families. Poppies and a selection of child-friendly remembrance items will be available from the school office, with a suggested donation of £1 per item. On **Tuesday 11th November**, we will gather together on the playground at **10:50am for our school's**

Act of Remembrance. Families are warmly invited to join us for this moment of reflection and prayer. We are grateful to Mrs Groarke-Booth, who will play *The Last Post* during the service. Children who are members of uniformed groups such as the Brownies, Cubs, or Cadets are welcome to wear their uniforms, and any parents or carers serving in the Armed Forces or Emergency Services are invited to do the same as we come together to honour those who have served and continue to serve our country.



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

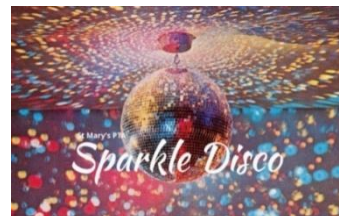
CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

Seventeen children proudly represented St Mary's at the second Stockport Schools Cross Country event held at Woodbank Park on Saturday. The sun was shining, the atmosphere was fantastic, and our runners gave their all on a challenging course. We are very proud of every child who took part, showing great determination, teamwork and school spirit. A special congratulations go to Isaac who finished 10th, Maria and Freddie who both secured 3rd place finishes, and Harry who achieved an outstanding 1st place in his race. The next event will take place on Saturday 22 November and we would love to see even more runners join our team, especially boys in Years 5 and 6 to run alongside Harry and Isaac. Whether you are an experienced runner or just fancy giving it a try, everyone is welcome to take part and represent our school.



PTA NEWS

Tickets for our fabulous [Sparkle Disco](#) are now available to buy. This is taking place the Friday following the half term break on **Friday 7 November**. Tickets are priced at £4 per St Mary's pupil. We are once again having one big family disco from 5:00-6:15pm. There will be a tuck shop, hot dogs, tattoos and a licenced bar. Sparkly clothing can be worn! Tickets are available via the [PTA website](#).



The 2025 St Mary's School Christmas Fair will be Friday 28 November – 3:30pm-5:00pm

A little advance notice... We have started to plan for our fantastic Christmas Fair. Please can you send in the following items over the following dates in November to support the fair and make it an enjoyable and successful event...

Friday 7 November – Any unwanted gifts and wrapping paper for Elfridges.

Friday 14 November - Bottles for the Bottle Tombola. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

Friday 21 November - Chocolates for the Chocolate Tombola.

Monday 24 November – Teddies (any new/great condition teddies for our teddy adoption stall).

Friday 28 November - DAY OF THE FAIR any further donations of unwanted gifts for Elfridges, chocolates, bottles or teddies (*non-uniform day in exchange for donations on 28 November only.*)

We will once again also be having a Teddy Adoption stall so if you have any new/ great condition teddies that you would like to donate please send these in from 2 December. Tickets for Father Christmas will go on sale online in pre bookable slots - details for this shortly on the [PTA website](#). If anyone has any raffle prizes they would like to donate please contact the PTA: pta@stmaryspta.org.uk. The Christmas fair is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and it is a very special afternoon. If anyone would like to help at the fair, please get in touch with the PTA. pta@stmaryspta.org.uk. We particularly need people to help clear and tidy up at the end of the fair. Thank you for your support.

WREATH MAKING - We are running our Festive Wreath making class-this will be run by the fabulous Zoe-of the Marple Flower House on **Sunday 30 November from 3:00pm-5:00pm** at Marple Scout Hut. The cost is £25, and this includes all materials and a glass of fizz/mulled wine/soft drink/ tea/coffee etc. All welcome. Tickets now available on the [PTA website](#).

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>
3 November	School reopens following the October half term break.
5 November	Open Morning for prospective Nursery and Reception parents 10:00-11:30am.
7 November	PTA Sparkle Disco 5:00-6:15pm. Sparkle Disco .
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 restful half term break. Mr John Nish.