



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week's theme was Youth, and our SANCTA Squad led a thoughtful and inspiring celebration of the word. They reminded us that young people play a vital and irreplaceable role in the life of the Church and in the world. Young people bring hope, inspiration and courage, helping us all to see new possibilities and to live the Gospel with joy. The children reflected on how the Church not only welcomes their voices, but needs their voices - their energy, ideas, enthusiasm and leadership. We were reminded that we are all called, whatever our age, to remain *young in our outlook and attitude*, embracing God's gifts with openness so that we may continue to "live life to the full."

We were delighted to welcome Pete Dawson, one of our parents, who works for Tearfund, a charity committed to supporting youth leadership, ending poverty and promoting fairness globally. Together, we explored the Gospel story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, reflecting on how we can share our own resources fairly and become voices of hope for others. It was a powerful reminder that acts of generosity—especially from young people—can transform communities and bring God's love to life. The children certainly enjoyed the Malteaser game demonstrating how resources are not always shared equally! I'm sure the children will enjoy explaining this to you. More details about Tearfund [can be found here](#).

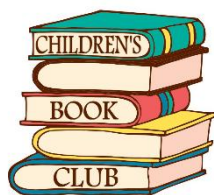
WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word with your children.

CHILDREN IN NEED

A huge well done to our Nursery children for their fantastic effort in supporting their class charity, Children in Need! Through their wonderful Pudsey Bear biscuit-making and sale, they raised a fantastic £50 for this important cause. The children showed great enthusiasm and care as they decorated their biscuits, proudly sharing them with parents at the end of the day. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported this initiative - your generosity has helped us make a real difference to children and families across the UK. What a brilliant achievement and a wonderful example of our youngest children living out our SANCTA values.



ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB



We are excited to share that our St Mary's Book Club continues to grow as part of our commitment to promoting a love of reading. Each class will have time every half term to discuss favourite authors and books, and to listen to recommendations from classmates and staff. We hope this will inspire pupils to choose books independently, discover new authors, and enjoy the wonderful world of stories. Attached are our Advent 2 Book Recommendations, which you may like to explore together at home over the weekend. A reminder that children in

Years 1–6 are warmly invited to attend Story Time in the Wellbeing Garden every Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime - a lovely opportunity to relax, listen and share in the joy of reading.

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

A reminder that school photographs will be held next 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.

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

CHRISTMAS DINNER



Save the date! On Thursday 18 December we will hold our Christmas dinner in school. This traditional festive lunch will comprise turkey with all the trimmings and a festive desert. There is also a vegetarian option. If your child does not normally have a school dinner, but they wish to have one on this occasion as a 'one off', please let Mrs Towell in the school office know by **Friday 28 November** [via completion of this online form](#). After this date it will not be possible to order an extra lunch. £3.38 can be paid on Parent Pay. Christmas jumpers may be worn on Christmas Dinner day. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, do not fear - you are not expected to buy one; you can let your child wear a favourite jumper instead.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH CAROL SERVICE

The children of Years Three, Four, Five and Six have been invited to sing at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Marple Carol Service on Sunday 14 December 2025 at 16:00. If you would like your child to participate [please complete this form](#) by Monday 24 November so we can prepare the children for the performance. Thank you. Parents will need to stay with their child for the duration of the service. The service is expected to last about an hour, with congregational carols, musical performances and readings. The children will perform two carols during the service. We look forward to participating in this Holy Spirit parish event in our preparations for the season of Christmas.



MEDICAL NEEDS & MEDICATION



If your child requires medication during the school day, please remember that we can only administer medicine that has been prescribed by a doctor or non-medical prescriber such as a pharmacist. This means we are unable to give over-the-counter medications, such as Calpol, unless they are accompanied by a prescription. Children should also not bring throat sweets, ointments or any other medication to self-administer in school. For safety, all

medicines must be handed in at the school office, where they will be logged and the necessary forms completed. Staff are required to check prescription details, so please ensure that all medication is sent in its original packaging. For pupils with long-term medical needs, including allergies or underlying health conditions, we work closely with healthcare professionals to create individual care plans. Our staff receive appropriate training, and we are always here to help. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medical needs, please speak to Mrs Major or Mrs Towell, who will be happy to support you.

SHOPPING SCAMS

Every year hundreds of thousands of people here in the UK fall victim to fraud when buying something online. With Black Friday and Christmas sales rapidly approaching, fraud and scams will be significantly on the increase. GetSafeOnline has a plethora of information to help with this such as:

- Information on purchase scams [HERE](#).
- Online buying tips [HERE](#).
- Scam website checker [HERE](#).



Please also see the attached poster from Greater Manchester Police regarding fraud protection.



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

Thank you for your generous donations over the past three weeks. Only one week to go! Please can you send the items below next week to support the fair and make it an enjoyable and successful event...

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 24 November. Tickets for Father Christmas are now on sale online in pre bookable slots - details on the [PTA website](http://pta.stmaryspta.org.uk). 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](http://pta.stmaryspta.org.uk).

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>
24 November	Year 6 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
25 November	School photographs.
26 November	Nursery and Y5 Gardening Club 9:00-11:45. Parents/grandparents welcome.
28 November	School Christmas Fair. 3:30pm – 5:00pm. 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.
3 December	Reception and Y6 Gardening Club 9:00-11:45. Parents/grandparents welcome.
5 December	INSET Day. School closed to children.
8 December	Pantomime at Romiley Forum.
9 December	St Martin's Christmas Tree visit.
10 December	General gardening maintenance. 9:00-11:45. All parents/grandparents welcome.
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.
16 December	Year 3 carol singing at Marple Lodge Care Home.
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. Please come along and support our fabulous Christmas Fair next Friday.
Mr John Nish.***