



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 11: Friday 28 November 2025

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, our fantastic Year 6 pupils led a deeply uplifting and thoughtful celebration of the word, drawing on their recent PGL residential and the Gospel theme of 'Living Life to the Full' from St John. In connection with the Church's observance of Youth Sunday, they explored what it means to embrace new challenges and to place our trust in Jesus as we navigate life's highs and lows. The children wrote and delivered their own heartfelt prayers, inviting our whole school family to consider how Jesus walks beside us as the Servant King whether we are meeting difficulties head-on or scaling a climbing wall at PGL! A huge well done to Year 6; the celebration was joyful, inspiring, and a wonderful reminder of the

courage and hope our faith offers in every situation. As we prepare to enter the season of Advent next week, we look forward to beginning this special time with an Advent celebration of the word, led by our Faith Friends, at 2:30pm on Monday. Everyone is warmly invited to join us.

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

WOOD STREET MISSION CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Our Year 2 children have shown wonderful generosity this week as they collected toy donations for the Wood Street Mission, their chosen class charity. Their contributions to the Christmas Appeal will help bring joy and comfort to local families who may be struggling at this time of year. We are incredibly proud of the children for living out our SANCTA values so beautifully through their support and willingness to think of others. A heartfelt thank you to all Year 2 families for your support - your generosity will make a real difference this Christmas.



RECEPTION PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026



If you are applying for a school (Reception) place for next September, applications should be made by the **15th January 2026** via the [Stockport Admissions website](#). Please note: *if you child*

attends St Mary's Nursery, this does not guarantee your child a place in the school. You will need to complete the application form using the link above by the closing date.

INSET DAY

A reminder... **next Friday, 5 December**, our school will be closed to children as staff gather for an INSET day focused on the Catholic life of the school and the embedding of the new Religious Education Directory (RED) and Prayer and Liturgy Directory (PLD) issued by the Catholic Education Service and the Bishops of England and Wales. These documents guide how we teach Religious Education and celebrate worship in Catholic schools.



DIocese OF
NOTTINGHAM

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St Ralph
Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

It was wonderful seeing all the children and their siblings beaming for their school photographs yesterday – the children look so smart. You should have received a proof of your child's photograph which has a web link and QR code to order copies. You have 14 days to place your orders.

TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY

Y5/Y6 GIRLS' FOOTBALL



On Tuesday afternoon, eight of our Year 5 and 6 girls represented St Mary's at the borough-wide football tournament held at Hazel Grove High School. They played against schools from across Stockport, showing fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout every match. We are incredibly proud of their effort, enthusiasm and the way they supported one another on and off the pitch. Well done, girls—you were excellent ambassadors for our school!

DOODLE WINTER (ADVENT) CALENDAR

The *Winter Calendar* will soon be arriving in Doodle, a seasonal event where your child can earn festive in-app rewards by Doodling 'little and often'! Between the 1st-24th of December, your child can open the calendar doors by completing at least one exercise a day in Doodle Maths and/or Doodle English. They'll find festive goodies hiding behind each one – and if they open them all, they'll receive a virtual Winter Calendar badge!



CHRISTMAS POSTBOX

The St Mary's Christmas post box will open on Monday 1st December, and we kindly ask that all cards are posted by Monday 15th December. Please make sure each card is clearly labelled with the child's name and year group so we can deliver them smoothly.

TRAVELLING CRIBS ARE ON THEIR WAY...

Our Travelling Cribs started their journey this week. Each pack contains a set of beautiful wooden figures, and additional items, to enable every family in our school to have an overnight visit from the Holy Family. Please make time to enjoy this experience, whichever day you receive the Travelling Crib, and send the pack back to school the *next day*, so that everyone has a turn and can be included before we break up for Christmas.



CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT



Some of the children who have received individual/group music tuition will be performing for the school on **Thursday 11 December at 9:00am**. If you are free, you are more than welcome to join us for a few festive renditions and to celebrate the children's hard work in music. The concert will last approximately 1 hour.

IT'S PANTO SEASON... OH NO IT'S NOT! OH YES IT IS!

Our whole-school trip to see the pantomime *Cinderella* at the Romiley Forum on Monday 8th December is fast approaching, and excitement is building! This much-loved outing is always a highlight of our Christmas celebrations, offering the children a wonderful chance to enjoy live theatre filled with fun, magic and festive cheer. It's a special moment in the year when we can experience the joy of the season together as a school community. However, at the moment we have only received permission slips and payments from around half of our pupils. For the visit to go ahead as planned, we do need further payments to be made. Thank you for your support in helping us bring this memorable experience to all our children. [Please follow the link to give permission for your child to attend](#). The payment is active on Parent Pay at a cost of £15.50 per child.



CRUCIAL CREW VISIT



Our Year 6 pupils took part in the annual *Crucial Crew* programme at the end of last week, engaging in a series of practical, scenario-based workshops designed to help them understand how to keep themselves and others safe. The children learned about personal safety, emergency procedures, and responsible decision-making through interactive activities led by local emergency services and community professionals. Their behaviour and participation were exemplary, and they returned to school with increased confidence and a deeper awareness of how to stay safe as they prepare for secondary school.

ONE STOCKPORT FAMILY HUB APP

For an absolutely HUGE range of family support we can't recommend highly enough the One Stockport Family Hubs app which can be [downloaded here](#). The app includes more than 2,000 expert-written videos and articles to support you from pregnancy through to your child's teenage years.and it's all free!!!!



WREATH MAKING



The PTA are running a 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 still 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>	
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 today from 3:30-5:00pm. Mr John Nish.