



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

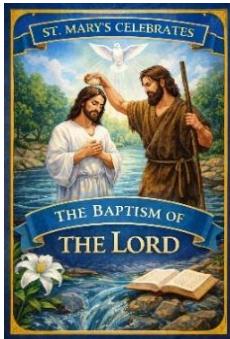
<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

St Mary's Parish: <http://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/>

Holy Spirit Parish: <https://www.holyspiritmarple.com/>

Bulletin Number 16: 16 January 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, the SANCTA Squad led our whole-school Celebration of the Word, focusing on Baptism. The children reflected on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the importance of water, sharing the story of Mortikana from southern Ethiopia. They learned how her life changed when CAFOD built a water tank for her village, removing the need for long daily walks to collect water. This provided a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the CST principle of Stewardship and how we can use water more thoughtfully and avoid waste.

Our mission for this week is to think of one way you can be more like Jesus by living out our Catholic Social Teaching principles.

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

GREAT ATHLETES VISIT TO ST MARY'S

Today, in our Celebration Assembly we revealed the Great Athlete that will be visiting us on **Thursday 29 January** in our school assembly! Danny Butler will be running a fun fitness circuit, followed by an inspirational assembly and Q&A session.

The children have brought home a sponsorship form today, so make sure to check their bags for this! There are even some fun games on the back of the forms – don't forget to enter the Great Athletes competition by emailing a photo of the completed sponsorship form to hello@greatathletes.org.

If you would like to sponsor your child, you can bring in cash with the sponsorship form, or you can donate online by following this link and searching for the school name: <https://sportal.greatathletes.org/events/landing>



SEND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS/CARERS



Please see the attachments for details regarding the following sessions for parents and carers:

- Masking (NB The Teams link for this is attached as a separate document)
- Exploring Autism – for parents/carers of children who have received an Autism diagnosis
- Exploring ND – for parents/carers who have children awaiting assessment or who have suspected ND differences
- A reminder too of the 5-16 Padlet which has links to lots of information, advice and support: [Stockport Neurodevelopmental Support for Children & Young People \(5-16\)](#)

PLAYGROUND SAFETY AT DROP OFF / PICK UP

A gentle reminder to parents that, for everyone's safety, children should not be using playground equipment such as balls before the school doors open in the morning. We have been made aware of a few near misses recently, particularly involving our Nursery children, and we want to ensure the playground remains a safe space for all. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us keep all our children safe.



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NOTTINGHAM

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St Ralph
Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

PUPIL PREMIUM / FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Some families are eligible for additional funding through the UK Government's Free School Meals initiative. Benefits of receiving this include your child receiving free hot dinners every day and also attracting additional funding for the school to enhance broader provision as well as some targeted support for your child. If you would like to find out if you are eligible, you can do so through the [website linked here](#). If you would like any support completing the application form please let us know and we will be happy to support you.

NHS PHARMACY FIRST

The [NHS Pharmacy First Service](#) enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment. Accessing the service may mean that children feel better and are back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into [Boots pharmacy](#) in Marple with their child and ask for help under the service.

Pharmacy First



STAFFING UPDATE



We would like to inform all parents that Mrs Felstead has retired with immediate effect following a period of significant health uncertainty during the Christmas holidays. We are very grateful that she has since received the reassuring news that there are no signs of cancer, and we wish her every blessing as she prioritises her health and wellbeing after nearly 19 years of dedicated service to St Mary's. Due to the timing and swiftness of her retirement during the Christmas break, we have been unable to secure a replacement peripatetic music teacher for this term to cover her lessons. Music provision to replace Mrs Felstead's piano lessons has been arranged for the Pentecost Term, with further details to follow, and any fees already paid for this term will be carried over. We thank parents for their understanding and support.

PTA FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT

Don't miss our Fun Family Quiz Night on **Friday 30 January** from **6:00pm – 8:00pm** in the School Hall! Enjoy a lively evening with child-friendly quiz rounds created and hosted by our brilliant Year 6 children. There's something for everyone, with a reasonably priced bar, delicious pizza and hotdogs, and a tuck shop to keep the fun fuelled. Tickets are just **£4 per family**. Grab your tickets now via the [PTA website](#) and secure your spot for a fantastic family evening.



THE MONTH (OR SO) AHEAD...KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary. New dates in bold .	
19 January	Year 2 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
19-23 January	Year 5 (and Y6 mop up) Bikeability.
29 January	Great Athletes Workshop. Team GB Olympian visit – Danny Butler.
30 January	PTA Family Quiz. 6:00-8:00pm.
4 February	PTA AGM 6:00pm in the school hall.
5 February	Coffee and Cake Social Time. All welcome. 1:30-3:00pm in the school hall.
6 February	Young Voices at the Co-Op Live Arena. Concert at 7:00pm.
9 February	Year 1 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
13 February	End of half term Celebration Assembly. 2:15pm. All welcome.
13 February	School closes for half term.
23 February	INSET Day. School closed to pupils.
24 February	School reopens to pupils.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.