



# 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 17: 23 January 2026

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



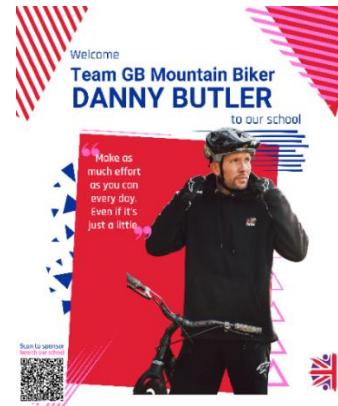
On Monday, the whole school gathered for a beautiful celebration of the word, led with great confidence and reverence by our Year 2 pupils. The theme was *Discipleship*: learning from Jesus, following his example and putting our faith into action in our daily lives. Through the Gospel of Matthew 28:18–20, the children reminded us that we are all called to be followers of Jesus, sharing his message of hope and being a light in the world. The celebration was marked by clear pupil leadership, with thoughtful prayers and engaging drama that brought the message to life and helped us reflect on Jesus' compassion, love and teachings. Our mission for the week was set clearly: to show respect to all we meet and, in every situation, to pause and ask, "What would Jesus do?" or "What would Jesus say?" It was a joyful and prayerful reminder of our shared call to live as true disciples of Christ.

**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

With just a week to go, excitement is building ahead of our **Great Athletes** visit taking place next **Thursday**. We are delighted to welcome **Danny Butler**, who will be leading a fun fitness circuit with the children, followed by an inspirational assembly and a Q&A session. This promises to be a fantastic opportunity for pupils to be active, motivated and inspired by a real-life sporting role model.

Children have brought home a sponsorship form, so please check school bags carefully. There are also some fun activities on the back of the form, and families are encouraged to enter the **Great Athletes competition** by emailing a photo of the completed form to [hello@greatathletes.org](mailto:hello@greatathletes.org). Sponsorship can be given either in cash (returned with the form) or online by visiting the Great Athletes website and searching for our school. If you need help with setting up your sponsorship page, watch this short video on how to set one up: <https://vimeo.com/1148909287>. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in making this exciting event a success.



## CROSS COUNTRY NEWS



Mud glorious mud! True underfoot cross-country conditions greeted our runners at Woodbank Park last Saturday, with a slippery, shoe-sucking course that tested determination as much as fitness. Fourteen children proudly represented St Mary's in the school cross-country event, showing great resilience and team spirit throughout. Congratulations to our top-ten finishers in their respective races: Maria (2nd), Harry (4th), Isaac (8th) and Freddie (9th) - a fantastic achievement. Well done to all of our St Mary's children who took part and ran with such enthusiasm and perseverance.

## BOCCIA AT ST MARY'S

On Wednesday morning, St Mary's was delighted to host a Boccia event, welcoming children from four other Stockport schools for a morning of inclusive sport and friendly competition. The event was filled with teamwork, encouragement and great sportsmanship, as pupils supported one another and celebrated everyone's achievements. It was wonderful to see children of all abilities taking part with confidence and enthusiasm, embodying our shared values of respect, cooperation and inclusion. We are very proud of how our St Mary's pupils represented the school and thank our visiting schools for making the morning such a positive and enjoyable experience.



## WHAT I WISH MY PARENTS OR CARERS KNEW REPORT



We would like to draw parents' and carers' attention to a recently published report by the Children's Commissioner entitled "What I wish my parents or carers knew...", a helpful guide focused on managing children's digital lives. The report captures children's own voices and offers practical advice on supporting them to navigate the online world safely and confidently, including social media, gaming and screen time. It highlights the importance of open conversations, clear boundaries

and understanding the pressures children can face online. We encourage families to take time to explore this guidance, as it provides valuable insights to help us work together to keep our children safe, supported and thriving in an increasingly digital world. The [report can be found here](#).

## YEAR OF READING 2026

The Department for Education (DfE), in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust, has launched the 'National Year of Reading' for 2026. This is a national campaign, to address a steep decline in reading amongst children and young people, which you can [read more about here](#). Do also keep an eye out for activities from us at key points during the academic year. At St Mary's, we recognise the importance of learning to read as we know, as well unlocking the potential for progress across the curriculum, it is also a valuable life skill. This is why our Homework Policy prioritises reading at home.



## PTA FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT



Don't miss our Fun Family Quiz Night next **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.

## PTA AGM

It's that time of year again where the PTA need new members to join us. ALL positions on the committee are up for election. We have a fabulous tradition of PTA events at St Mary's from the Christmas fair to the World book discos and the Colour Run, but it needs people to organise and run them. Please see the attached role descriptions for further details. The AGM is on **Wednesday 4 February at 6:00pm** in the school hall. All are welcome.



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

Date	Key Event
Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary. New dates in <b>bold</b> .	
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. All welcome and all positions up for election.
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.**