



# St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

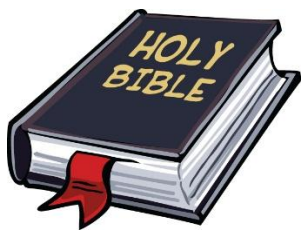
<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

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

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

**Bulletin Number 18: 30 January 2026**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week in our celebrations of the word, we focused on the theme that scripture is the living word of God. Through our reflections, pupils explored how the Bible is a collection of sacred writings that tells the story of God's great love for humanity and reveals His plan for our lives. Using the Gospel reading from Matthew 4:12-23, which describes Jesus calling his first disciples, the children were encouraged to listen carefully to God's call in their own

lives. Our mission this week invited everyone to seek out a Gospel passage they had not read before and to reflect on what it might mean personally. This is something you might like to do at home with your child, taking time together as a family to enjoy, pray with and reflect on God's Word, which continues to guide, comfort and inspire us in our daily lives.

**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.

## SNOW CENTRE WINTER SPORTS

On Monday, a group of our key stage 2 pupils had the exciting opportunity to attend a special all-day visit to the Snow Centre in Trafford, organised in partnership with Stockport Shapes. The day was packed with fun and challenge, as the children took part in a range of activities including skiing, tubing, problem solving and climbing, all designed to build confidence, encourage teamwork and, most importantly, be thoroughly enjoyable. Pupils were supported throughout the day by school staff and travelled safely to and from the venue with them. It was a fantastic experience that many children will remember for a long time, and we are delighted to have been able to offer such a positive and enriching opportunity. One child said: 'I never thought I would get the chance to ski and this has been an amazing day getting to try new sports.'



## GREAT ATHLETES VISIT TO ST MARY'S



It was fantastic to welcome a Great Athletes visitor, Danny Butler, into school yesterday and see just how hard the children worked... staff included! The sessions were full of energy and inspiration, with pupils learning important lessons about perseverance, teamwork and resilience, as well as the importance of keeping active. Thank you to families for all of the sponsorship raised so far. However, fundraising was not the main aim of the day. The purpose of the visit was to inspire the children through meeting a world-class athlete and to help them understand that hard work, aspiration and perseverance are key to

achieving our goals. Regardless of funds raised, all children will receive a reward for their effort and participation. Should you wish to, [sponsorship can be made online](#) or by returning cash with the sponsorship form by next Thursday.



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## SET UP SAFE GUIDE

Once again Internet Matters have put together a brilliant new resource for parents and carers. This time it's a Set Up Safe guide which simplifies all the confusing tech/device settings advising that online safety works best when it's shaped around how children actually use their devices, it's all about 'layering'. Download and read the [Internet Matters Layer Up for Online Safety Guide](#).



## NSPCC NUMBER DAY 2026



We are looking forward to celebrating NSPCC Number Day on **Friday 6 February**, a fun and meaningful way to support the vital work of the NSPCC. On the day, children are invited to come to school wearing an item of clothing featuring a number, shape or pattern, in exchange for a £1 donation. Throughout the day, pupils will enjoy a range of engaging, number-themed activities designed to build confidence, curiosity and enjoyment in maths. We can't wait to see everyone's creative outfits and thank you, as always, for your generous support of this important charity. More information about the day can be [found here](#).

## DOODLE BACK TO SCHOOL

From **Friday 30 January to Thursday 12 February**, children at St Mary's are taking part in the Doodle Back-to-School Challenge. By completing just **10 minutes of Doodling each day**, children can fill gaps in learning, build strong habits and earn fun virtual badges along the way. Research shows that pupils who keep a daily streak make real progress – 30 days of Doodling adds up to **five extra hours of learning a month**. We'd really appreciate your support at home by encouraging your child to take a *little and often* approach each day. At the end of the challenge, winning classes across the Doodle subjects will receive educational prizes – good luck and happy Doodling!



## 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.

## PTA FILM NIGHT

The PTA are excited to invite all children from Reception to Year 6 to our first ever Film Night! Join us after school on Wednesday 11 February to watch **Paddington (rated PG)**. Tickets are £5 per child, which includes a drink and a snack. Children are welcome to bring PJ's or onesies to change into after school and enjoy the movie in comfort! If your child has a ticket, they will be taken to watch the film straight from class as the PTA will supervise during the film and you can then collect them at **5:00pm**. Emergency contacts and collection details will need to be provided for each child when you purchase a ticket. Tickets will be available to purchase via the [PTA website](#).



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

| Date                 | Key Event  |
|----------------------|--|
|                      | <i>Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary. New dates in <b>bold</b>.</i> |
| 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.   |
| <b>9-13 February</b> | <b>Children's Mental Health Week.</b>  |
| 9 February           | Year 1 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.   |
| <b>11 February</b>   | <b>PTA Film Night 3:20-5:00pm in the hall. Tickets available via the <a href="#">PTA website</a>.</b>                            |
| 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 and happy quizzing! Mr John Nish.