



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday we were very fortunate to welcome Mrs Reynolds from CAFOD into school to work with Years 2,4 and 6 on the theme of **A Better World Needs all of us** the children were amazing and showed a fantastic understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and how they can make a difference in the world. In year 2 they were learning about floating gardens in Bangladesh and how this can save the crops when they have a lot of rain. In year 4 they were looking at different CAFOD projects around the world and making links with Catholic Social Teaching and the aims of CAFOD. In year 6 they were being project managers having to decide how they would spend £15000 on projects to support communities around the world. We ended the day with a whole school Celebration of the Word on theme of the Big Lent Walk and how like the crops **Love Grows** focusing on the quote from Pope Leo XIV **"It is always better to do something rather than nothing"** (Dilexi Te/I have loved you) All the children were very excited to get started on the Big Lent Walk which is now a well-established annual event at St Marys.

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.

NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK 2026

As part of National Storytelling Week, children across the school have been enjoying a special focus on storytelling through music, creativity and imagination. Some classes have had the opportunity to take part in engaging online workshops with professional storytellers, authors and musicians. In these workshops the children explored how stories can be told through sound, rhythm, rap and performance. Throughout the week, teachers have also used story time to share activities that celebrate the joy of storytelling and develop children's confidence, creativity and love of reading.



SHAPES FAMILY CHALLENGE 2026



We are excited to invite our families to take part in the Stockport SHAPES Family Challenge 2026: **GO Glasgow GO!**, inspired by the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. This fun, inclusive challenge encourages families to get active together by completing and logging 30 activities of any type, intensity or length, at home, outdoors or through clubs. By taking part, families will earn points, be part of a Stockport-wide celebration of sport and wellbeing, and have the chance to win fantastic prizes. St Mary's is proud to be involved, and families who join in will be celebrated in our Friday assemblies. Sign up is quick and easy using the QR code above, so don't miss out. Let's get moving, have fun, and embrace the Commonwealth spirit together. **GO Glasgow GO!**

TRUST INSET DAY

A reminder: on **Monday, 23 February**, our school will be closed to children for an INSET day focused on teaching and learning. Staff from across the St Ralph Sherwin Trust family of schools will virtually gather to share best practices and further enhance educational provision across our Trust, with a particular focus on SEND (Special Educational Needs/Disabilities).



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2026

From 9–13 February, we will be marking Children's Mental Health Week, with the theme 'This is My Place'. Throughout the week, pupils will be encouraged to reflect on what helps them feel safe, valued and that they truly belong, whether that is in school, at home, with friends or within the wider community. Through collective worship, class discussions and creative activities, we will explore the importance of connection, inclusion and understanding our emotions, reminding children that St Mary's is a place where everyone is known, supported and listened to. Children's Mental Health Week is a valuable opportunity to celebrate wellbeing, promote positive mental health and reinforce our shared commitment to nurturing happy, confident and resilient children.



NSPCC NUMBER DAY 2026



We were delighted to celebrate NSPCC Number Day on Friday 6 February, a fun and meaningful way to support the vital work of the NSPCC. Children came to school wearing creative outfits featuring numbers, shapes or patterns and took part in a range of engaging, number-themed activities designed to build confidence, curiosity and enjoyment in maths. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and creativity on display throughout the day. Thank you, as always, for your generous support and contributions to this important charity.

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!



JANUARY ATTENDANCE UPDATE



DID YOU KNOW? A two week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance you can achieve is 94.7%

At St Mary's we feel that, if children are to get the greatest benefit from their education in school, it is important that they have good attendance and arrive punctually. The attendance over the month of January is to the right. Our school target is 97%. Congratulations everyone on your amazing efforts last month, especially with the numerous winter bugs in circulation which hit a couple of our classes hard. As a school we have achieved a superb **97.1%** and overall, for the year we currently stand at 96.4% - fantastic!

January 2026 Attendance	
Rec	98.1%
Y1	96.9 %
Y2	97.7%
Y3	96.4 %
Y4	98.3 %
Y5	94.8 %
Y6	97.3%
Overall	97.1 %

Nationally, attendance currently stands at 93.3%, so again, well done St Mary's for our strong attendance and thank you parents/carers for supporting strong attendance habits.

HOUSE POINTS

Please see the totals for the month of January. St Mary's House are currently in the lead but there is another week until we reach the end of the half term! Well done to everyone for striving to live out our SANCTA Values and Pocket Principles!

St George	St Peter	St Mary	St Patrick
1,645	1,616	1,773	1,569



SAFER INTERNET DAY – 10 FEBRUARY 2026



At St Mary's, online safety is a regular and important part of our curriculum, helping children to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to stay safe in an increasingly digital world. Alongside teaching pupils, we also provide guidance and support for parents and carers, [available here](#), to help them reinforce safe and responsible online behaviour at home. Each year, we actively support Safer Internet Day through our PSHE and computing curriculum, using it as an opportunity to deepen understanding and encourage open discussion. This year's focus is on the responsible use of AI, exploring how emerging technologies can be used positively, ethically and safely, while helping children to recognise potential risks and make informed choices online.

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 are now 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 bold.</i>
9-13 February	Children's Mental Health Week.
9 February	Year 1 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
11 February	PTA Film Night 3:20-5:00pm in the hall. Tickets available via the PTA website .
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.
25 February	First Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) for all children on the Sacramental Programme. 1:30pm in the school hall. Parents of Sacramental Programme children are very welcome. Further details next week.
25 February	Year 1 parents phonics meeting 5:00pm – 5:30pm.
2 March	Lent Mission Day.
4 March	Author Visit (Louise Austin) for Years 3-6 to celebrate World Book Day www.louiseaustin.com .
6 March	PTA World Book Day Disco 5:00-6:30pm. Tickets available soon.
9 March	Year 6 celebration of the word at 2:30pm. All welcome.
13 March	Mother's Day Assembly led by Reception 9:30-10:00am. All welcome.
13 March	Nursery Mother's Day Stay and Play 9:00-11:30am.
13 March	Year 1 Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 2:00-3:00pm.
17 March	Choir to sing at Stockport Town Hall – Via the Viaduct Concert 6:15-8:00pm.
23-27 March	Year 5 to lead Stations of the Cross 9:00am each day in the hall.
24-25 March	Parents Evenings 3:40-6:30pm.
27 March	Celebration Assembly 2:15pm. All welcome.
27 March	School closes for the Easter holidays.
13 April	School reopens following the Easter holidays.
22 April	Coffee and Cake Social. 1:30-3:00pm in the hall. All welcome!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and a great time at Young Voices! Mr John Nish.