



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 20: 13 February 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, our Year 1 pupils led the whole school in a beautiful celebration of the word on the theme of diversity. The children spoke and sang with incredible heart, reminding us all that while we are each unique, we are all equally special and loved by God. Through their liturgy, they expertly wove together the virtue of prudence and the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of solidarity, showing us how we can walk together in unity. Drawing inspiration from the Sunday Gospel, Year 1 left us with a powerful mission: to be the light of Christ for others. We now challenge ourselves to think, how will we let our own lights shine this week?

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.

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: following the half term holiday 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).



YOUNG VOICES 2026



Massive congratulations to our fantastic school choir following their performance at Young Voices 2026 at the Co-op Live Arena in Manchester last Friday evening! Our pupils were part of an awe-inspiring choir of around 8,000 children from across the North West and Wales, transforming the arena into a celebration of sound, spirit and shared joy. It was an unforgettable evening, and Saint Mary's truly shone! Singing with confidence, commitment and huge smiles, and representing our school with pride. We are incredibly proud of the dedication, effort and enthusiasm shown by every child involved performing to an audience of over 10,000. A heartfelt thank you as well to the staff and parents who supported the children and helped make this special experience possible. What a night to remember. Roll on the next Young Voices adventure!



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NOTTINGHAM

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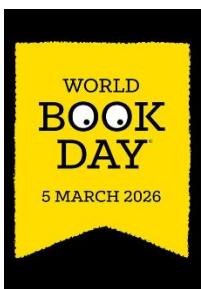
St Ralph
Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

YEAR 6 BOYS' FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday afternoon, our Year 6 boys took part in an exciting football tournament against five other local schools at Warren Wood Primary School. All of the teams showed excellent teamwork and determination throughout the matches, with our boys demonstrating fantastic effort, resilience, and fair play on every pitch. It was a great opportunity for the children to test their skills, build confidence and enjoy competitive sport with their peers. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented the school, showing respect to their opponents and encouraging one another throughout the afternoon. Thank you to the staff, coaches and parents who supported the team, it was a great experience for everyone involved!



WORLD BOOK DAY 2026



We will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 5th March** with a range of fun, reading-focused activities throughout the day and across the rest of the week. Children have already received their World Book Day book token this week. On the Thursday, children are invited to come to school in pyjamas or bedtime-themed clothing and bring along their favourite bedtime story to share. We are also running a Sock Character Competition, with entries to be brought into school on Tuesday 3rd or Wednesday 4th March. Please find more details of the competition on the attached poster. The celebrations will continue with a World Book Day Disco after school on Friday 6th March, hosted by the PTA. We are looking forward to a wonderful celebration of reading and stories.

PTA FUNDRAISING UPDATE

A huge thank you to all parents, pupils and staff for your continued generosity and support of PTA fundraising. Thanks to the fantastic amount raised, the PTA has been able to commit **£21,000** in 2026 to projects and resources that directly benefit our whole school family at a time when school budgets remain under real pressure. This funding is enhancing learning, wellbeing and enrichment across the school, including half-termly curriculum enhancing workshops, class-based curriculum resources, Year 6 access to *The Week Junior* to support oracy and comprehension, new ICT data loggers, additional reading books, forest school interventions for every class, and further SEND resources. The PTA is also funding the completion of the Dingley Dell area and making a significant investment (£11,000) in new playground markings to enrich playtimes and physical activity. We are incredibly grateful for the PTA's commitment to making such a positive difference for our children and families.



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>	
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.
25 February	Year 1 parents phonics meeting 5:00pm – 5:30pm in the Y1 classroom.
2 March	Lent Mission Day – Walk with Me
4 March	Author Visit (Louise Austin) for Years 3-6 to celebrate World Book Day.
6 March	PTA World Book Day Disco 5:00-6:30pm. Tickets available soon from St Mary's PTA .
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.
17 April	PTA Ceilidh at Marple Sports Club.
22 April	Coffee and Cake Social. 1:30-3:00pm in the hall. All welcome!

Wishing you all a safe and happy half term break. Mr John Nish.