



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



*"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*  
**Micah 6:8**

As part of our Lenten Mission Day with the theme *Walk with Me*, on Monday our children prayerfully journeyed through the events of Holy Week, deepening their understanding of Christ's love and sacrifice. Inspired by the words of Pope Francis, "It is not enough to merely say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words, but with our actions also," pupils explored Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Good Friday and the joy of the

Resurrection through art, drama, reflection and prayer. Mission Days give our school community a precious opportunity to pause, reflect and bring our faith to life beyond the classroom, helping our children to know Jesus more deeply, follow His example, and share His love with others. The day concluded with a beautiful Celebration of the Word, where each child contributed meaningfully, reminding us all that we are called to walk with Christ not only during Lent, but every day.

**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.

## CAFOD BIG LENT WALK 2026

As part of this year's Lenten Mission and in celebration of the Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi, our school family has been journeying together in faith and solidarity through CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. Having already surpassed our original 240km target, we have now extended our virtual pilgrimage from St Mary's all the way to



Assisi, the home of St Francis, whose life of simplicity, peace and care for the poor continues to inspire us. On **Monday 23 March at 2:00pm**, each class will take part in a special prayer walk around our school and church grounds to mark the final stage of our pilgrimage. Parents and parishioners are warmly invited to join us as we walk together in prayer and reflection. This shared act of faith is a meaningful way to live out our Lenten call to give, act and pray, while raising vital funds to support communities experiencing poverty around the world. A suggested donation of £1 would be gratefully received, and further donations can also be made via our [St Mary's CAFOD JustGiving page](#).

## PLAYGROUND MARKINGS



We are thrilled to announce that our school playgrounds have recently been remarked, indicating an exciting step forward in enhancing our outdoor provision and promoting healthier, more active play times for all our children. The project, which included removing old markings and clearing moss from the Daily Mile track on the school fields, has cost approximately £11,000. This significant investment has been made possible entirely thanks to the incredible dedication of our PTA and the generosity of our families and staff in supporting school events. These improvements will not only make our playgrounds safer and more inviting but also encourage more energetic and enjoyable play, supporting the wellbeing of every child in our school family.

This has something we have been focusing on this year as part of our school development planning.



## WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

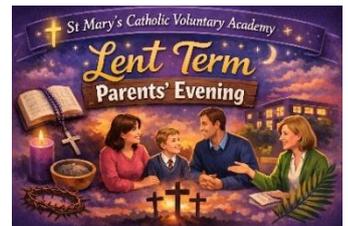


We were delighted to celebrate a wonderful World Book Day yesterday, filled with joy, creativity and a shared love of reading across our school. It was a pleasure to see the children arrive in their pyjamas and bedtime-themed outfits, proudly sharing their favourite stories, while the Sock Character Competition showcased fantastic imagination and effort from so many pupils. A particular highlight was the inspiring visit from author Louise Austin, who worked with our Key Stage 2 children, sharing her experiences as a writer and encouraging them to develop their own storytelling skills.

The week will conclude with the ever-popular PTA World Book Day Disco, bringing our celebrations to a joyful close. Thank you to our staff, families and PTA for supporting such a memorable celebration that continues to nurture a lifelong love of reading in our children.

## LENT TERM PARENTS EVENINGS

Parents Evenings will be held on **Monday, 23 March, and Wednesday, 25 March**, from **3:40pm to 6:30pm**. Appointments are for 10-minute slots, giving you the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and achievements with their teacher(s). The booking link was emailed on Tuesday evening at 6:00pm. If you haven't booked already, you can do so here: [2026 Lent Parents Evening](#)



We look forward to welcoming you and sharing your child's learning journey.

For parents of children on the SEND register, your child's class teacher will contact you to arrange an appointment over the course of this half term.

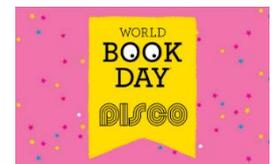
## EASTER GARDENS



Following the email shared last week, we would like to remind families about our Easter Garden project. Pupils are invited to create a small garden depicting the Easter Story (no larger than 30cm x 30cm), ready to be brought into school on Monday 16th or Tuesday 17th March for display in St Mary's Church during Lent. Further details and examples can be found on the attachment. Children will walk to the 10:00am Mass and place their gardens in church on Wednesday 18 March.

## PTA FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Today, **Friday, 6 March** the PTA are holding the World Book Day Disco, 5pm - 6.15pm. Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character for a chance to win a prize. [Tickets are on sale via the PTA website](#). Save the date - on **Friday 17 April** the PTA are holding our first Family Ceilidh at Marple Sports Club. Tickets will be on sale soon, but keep the day free in your diary, we'd love to see you all there!



## 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>
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.
<b>13 March</b>	<b>Reopening of the Dingley Dell following renovations. 10:00. All welcome.</b>
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.
18 March	Y3 & Y4 Holy Week and Easter Production. 10:00am and 2:00pm
23-27 March	Year 5 to lead Stations of the Cross. See Year 5 newsletter for revised timings.
23 & 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.

**Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.**