



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, our Year 6 pupils led thought provoking celebration of the word focusing on almsgiving, our Lenten theme of the week, and linking beautifully to Sunday's gospel of the woman at the well. The children reminded us that Jesus' love is for everyone (he excludes no one) and encouraged us, as followers of Jesus, to show that love through acts of kindness and support for one another. In

keeping with the theme of almsgiving, Year 6 also shared about their class charity, the RSPCA, and invited children and families to visit their craft stall after school on Friday, featuring items made by the pupils. All money raised from the stall will go directly to supporting the RSPCA, demonstrating how we can put our Lenten values into action by helping others in need.

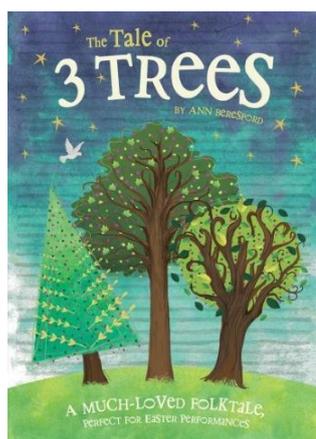
WEDNESDAY WORD The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word of God with your children.

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.



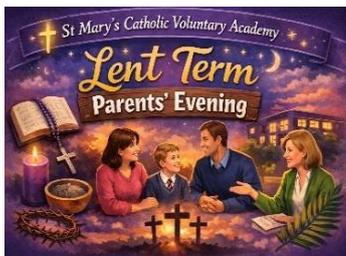
YEARS 3&4 EASTER PRODUCTION



We are delighted to invite parents and carers to this year's Easter production, performed by our wonderful Year 3 and Year 4 children on **Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 10:00am and 2:00pm**. This year they will present *The Tale of the Three Trees*, a moving story brought to life through song, drama and reflection, helping us explore the deeper meaning of Easter. As the story of three little trees unfolds, the children show how their dreams are fulfilled in unexpected ways through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, reminding us that God's plans are often greater than we imagine. The pupils have been working incredibly hard to learn their lines, songs and actions, and we are very proud of their enthusiasm and dedication. Due to fire regulations, we kindly ask that no more than two

adults per child attend each performance.

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.

BLUE CROSS VISIT – DOG SAFETY ASSEMBLY

Last Friday we were delighted to welcome a visitor from the Blue Cross to deliver a special Dog Safety Assembly for the children. Through an engaging presentation and the use of interactive props, pupils learned how to recognise a dog's body language and how to stay safe around dogs. The session explored how dogs communicate their feelings, why it is important to give them space, and the 'Three C's' to remember when meeting dogs outside. Some of our pupils were invited to take part in demonstrations, helping to show how to react safely in different situations. The children were excellent role models and represented the school brilliantly. Following the assembly, each class received a poster to display in their classroom, and pupils were given sticker badges as a reminder of the important messages shared. Our sincere thanks go to the team at the Blue Cross for delivering such an informative and engaging session for our pupils.



DINGLEY DELL REOPENING



We are delighted to share that Dingley Dell is now open! Our newly transformed woodland learning space has been made possible thanks to the generous support of our dedicated PTA and the hard work of Joe Williams, who has redesigned the woodland area and made it far more accessible for our pupils. A beautiful new gateway and steps now provide direct access from the field into the heart of the woods. We are also very grateful to Stephen and Christine Poynter for creating our stunning entrance sign at no cost, and to Chris at Lakeside Tree Care for kindly donating a significant amount of wood chippings to complete the pathways.

Dingley Dell will provide a wonderful environment to support our children's intellectual, social and emotional development, reflecting our commitment to holistic, hands-on learning in nature. From Nursery to Year 6, all pupils will now enjoy regular access to this enriching outdoor space.

LOUISE AUSTIN – AUTHOR VISIT

To mark World Book Day, our Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed an exciting visit from children's author, Louise Austin. During her thought-provoking assembly, Louise explored the importance of storytelling in life, as well as engaging us with some character challenges and everyday items of inspiration. Each class then enjoyed a workshop which focused on character development and the importance of making a reader feeling connected to characters in our writing. Louise was highly impressed by the vivid and imaginative ideas that the children came up with and we are all very much looking forward to reading her trilogy of stories about a young vampire, the first part of which is titled 'Alex Abbott is [Un]dead' and will be released on 23rd April in bookstores and online: [Alex Abbott is \[Un\]Dead: The fang-tastically funny diary of a reluctant vampire aged 11½ : Austin, Louise, Kear, Katie: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)



PARKING CONCERNS

We have recently received further concerns from local residents about parking on the roads surrounding the school at drop-off and pick-up times. We kindly ask all families to park safely and considerately, avoiding blocking driveways, parking close to junctions, mounting pavements or idling so that the area remains safe for our children and respectful to those who live nearby.

Where possible, we encourage families to walk, cycle or scoot to school, or to park a little further away and walk the final part of the journey as part of our WOW – Walk to School Challenge. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our school community safe and maintaining positive relationships with our neighbours. Next week we will share a further update on our proposed School Streets initiative.



EMPOWERING PARENTS SESSIONS



Families may be interested in an upcoming [EPEC Information Session](#) being organised by Stockport Council. This free drop-in event will introduce the *Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC)* programme, which offers free parenting courses designed to help parents build confidence, develop practical skills and connect with other families in the community. The session will also provide information about volunteering opportunities within the programme. EPEC courses

will begin again after the Easter break, and parents can find out more about the different courses and register their interest through the online expression of interest form. Everyone is welcome to attend the information session and no booking is required. **Please see the attached posters for more information.** If you would like further details, please contact the EPEC team at admin.epec@stockport.gov.uk.

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](#).

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>
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 7:00pm.
20 April	Coffee and Cake social time 1:30-3:00pm in the hall. All welcome.
4 May	Bank Holiday – School closed.
11 May	Year 4 celebration of the word 2:30pm. All welcome.
11-14 May	Year 6 SATs week.
22 May	Careers Fair for Y2-Y6. 1:15-3:10pm. Details to follow.
22 May	School closes for half term.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.