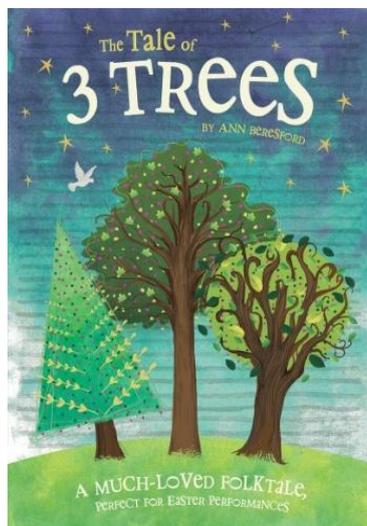




RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, our celebration of the word was led by our Year 3 and 4 children through their beautiful Lenten and Easter production of *The Tale of the Three Trees*. Through a moving combination of song, drama and prayerful reflection, they shared this powerful story, helping us to reflect on Christ's journey of love, sacrifice and the hope of the Resurrection. The story of the three trees reminded us that God's plans are often greater than we can imagine, encouraging us to trust in Him and recognise His presence in our lives. The children's performance demonstrated not only their deep understanding of the Easter message but also their confidence and enthusiasm in sharing their faith. Their singing filled the hall with joy, their acting brought the story to life with sincerity, and their reflections invited us all to prepare our hearts during this Lenten season. Moments like these are a true testament to the faith-filled community we continue to nurture at our school.

A heartfelt thank you to our staff for their dedication in preparing the children so thoughtfully, ensuring they understood both the story and the message they were sharing. Thank you also to our families for your continued support; it was wonderful to see so many of you join us in this special act of worship. As we continue our Lenten journey, may we be inspired by the faith and enthusiasm of our children, strengthened by the promise of Easter, and reminded of the light of Christ in our 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.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

A reminder that next **Monday, 23 March, at 2:00pm** each class will complete a prayer walk around our school and church grounds in order to support CAFOD with their Big Lent Walk and raise vital funds for communities around the world. This will end our Lenten pilgrimage. As we complete our virtual pilgrimage to Assisi. We



have arrived in Italy and are on target to reach Assisi for the end of our BIG Lent Walk on Monday! To support our almsgiving efforts, we ask children to bring in a suggested **donation of £1** to support CAFOD on that day. Parents/parishioners are more than welcome to join us at 2:00pm and take part in the prayer walk with the children and staff. This is a wonderful way to live out our Lenten promises of give, act and pray. Every £1 we raise will help us be there for people fighting extreme poverty globally. Donations can also be made on [St Mary's CAFOD JustGiving page](#). You are all very welcome to join us for this final leg of our Big Lent Walk.

EASTER GARDENS

Thank you so much for all the beautiful Easter gardens that have been created at home. Each one is unique and truly reflects the care, creativity, and thought that has gone into them. The gardens have now been taken across to St Mary's church, where they are proudly on display. You are warmly invited to visit and view the gardens during the upcoming Masses. Mass times can be found on the [church website](#). Thank you again for your wonderful contributions and for helping to make this season of Lent so special.

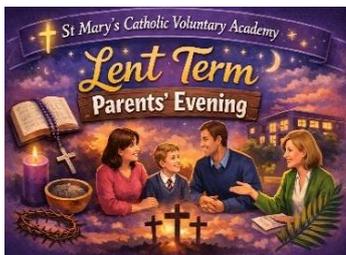


YEAR 5 TO LEAD STATIONS OF THE CROSS –



Next week our children will have the opportunity to reflect on the events of Jesus' final days on Earth, leading up to His Crucifixion. Through the Stations of the Cross, guided by powerful retellings from Jesus' perspective, we will journey together in prayer and contemplation. These reflections will be led by our Year 5 children in the school hall on Monday and Friday morning at 9:00am and 2:15pm on Friday afternoon at the start of our celebration assembly. We warmly invite all families to join us in this special time of prayer as we prepare our hearts for the events of Holy Week and the joy of Easter.

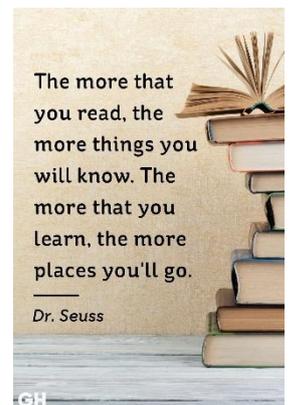
LENT TERM PARENTS EVENINGS



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.

NEW READING BOOKS

At St Mary's we love to read, and we try to ensure we have lots of exciting books for the children to enjoy and engage with. A kind donation from Mr Reynold's company has meant that we have been able to purchase new books for KS2. To help us keep our shelves full of exciting stories for everyone, we kindly ask that books are returned to school once your child has finished with them. If a book doesn't make its way back, we'll send a small reminder slip home in your child's bag with the details. If a book is not returned after the reminder, we will ask for a £5 contribution to help us replace the missing book, so we can continue offering a wide range of books for all our pupils. Thank you for helping us keep our book band boxes thriving — your support makes a big difference and helps keep the joy of reading alive in our school community!



BOOK CLUB FEEDBACK



As we come to the end of another great term of reading and discussion around books, we're inviting all families to share their views on the St Mary's Book Club recommendations. Your comments help to shape future recommendations and ensure they continue to be enjoyable and inspiring for our pupils. Thank you for your support and for helping us nurture a love of reading at St Mary's. Please follow this link to provide your feedback: [St](#)

[Mary's Book Club – Parent & Pupil Feedback – Fill in form](#)

RECEPTION MOTHER'S DAY ASSEMBLY

Our Reception children delighted families with their beautiful Mother's Day Assembly, celebrating the love and care shown by mothers and special people in their lives. Through songs, prayers and thoughtful words, the children shared a heartfelt message of gratitude and appreciation. It was a lovely and joyful occasion, and we are very proud of how confidently and enthusiastically the children shared their celebration.



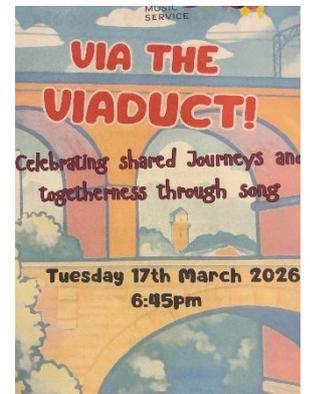
Year 1 MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA



Year 1 also enjoyed a very special Mother's Day Afternoon Tea with their families. The hall was filled with smiles as children welcomed their guests and spent time together celebrating this special occasion. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to share time in school and enjoy the thoughtful scones, drinks and gifts the children had lovingly made.

VIA THE VIADUCT CONCERT

On Tuesday evening, our school choir proudly took part in the Via the Viaduct concert at Stockport Town Hall. Performing in the magnificent ballroom, the children sang both as a school choir and alongside pupils from five other schools across Stockport, in front of a large and appreciative audience. The theme of the evening, celebrating shared journeys and togetherness through song, was beautifully reflected in their performance. The choir represented the school exceptionally well, demonstrating confidence, teamwork and a real joy in singing. We are incredibly proud of their commitment and the way they came together with others to create such a memorable and uplifting event.



SCHOOL STREET UPDATE



As you know we have been working with Stockport Council to investigate the option of closing Lowry Drive to become a School Street to enable pupils to get to school safely at school drop off and pick up times and encourage the choice of active travel modes to school. I am pleased to say that following the consultation, the support in favour of the scheme was very positive

and as such we are now going to be launching the scheme. We have chosen to do this in the summer term and so the first day for the school street to take place will be Monday 8th June.

However, we cannot do this without your support, we are looking for volunteers to help us. Could you spare 30 minutes in the morning or afternoon to help to close Lowry Drive? There is no specific commitment, just a willingness to help out our school family and hopefully, if enough people volunteer, the job can be shared amongst many.

A council representative will be available to have a chat to at our parents evenings on Monday 24th and Wednesday 26th March, so please do have a chat to them if you would like to find out more.

NURSERY PLACES – SEPTEMBER 2026

We have limited places in our wonderful nursery available for September. Please contact school on 0161 427 7498 if you would like to look around our early years provision. Please pass on this information to any parents of children who might be looking for a school nursery place. [Click here for more information about our nursery](#). Applications are made through [Stockport Council Admissions](#) and the deadline is 31 March 2026 for a September admissions.



STOCKPORT CLIMATE ACTION DEBATE



On Tuesday morning, Florence and Edward from Year 6 represented St Mary's at Stockport Town Hall, taking part in a debate and vote with pupils from schools across Stockport. Organised by Stockport Council's Climate Action group, the event gave children a voice in shaping future environmental plans. Pupils took part in thoughtful discussions on a range of ideas, including introducing a walk or wheel to school Wednesday, reducing energy use through light monitors, creating community sewing workshops to promote repairing clothes, rolling out a meat-free day across schools, and planting fruit trees to support biodiversity, reduce flooding and provide food for people and wildlife. They also explored opportunities to learn more about climate-related careers. We are especially proud that our idea of planting fruit trees was presented so convincingly that it was voted as the winning idea among primary schools across Stockport. Florence and Edward spoke with great confidence and represented our school brilliantly as ambassadors for caring for our common home.

PTA NEWS

Family Ceilidh Night 🎵

Friday 17 April - £15 per family - Marple Sports Club

<https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/ceilidh/>

Easter Raffle 🍫

On Friday 27 March (last day before Easter Holidays) the PTA are asking for each child to bring in an Easter Chocolate for our Easter Raffle. In exchange for bringing in an Easter Chocolate donation, children can wear their own clothes to school on that day (Fri 27 March). The raffle will be drawn on the afternoon of the same day. Buy your tickets to win an amazing chocolate hamper here:

<https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/raffle/>

PTA 200 Club ★

For those of you yet to sign up to our PTA 200 Club for £4 a month, please consider doing so. We hold a monthly draw and it's a great way to raise money for the PTA and you can win up to £200 in prize money. Sign up here: <https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/200>

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>
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.