



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Congratulations and thank you to our wonderful Year 5 children who, throughout this final week of term, have led us on a deeply prayerful and reflective journey through the *Stations of the Cross* each morning. With great reverence and creativity, they helped us walk in the footsteps of Jesus through scripture, story, choral response, tableaux, poetry and prayer—reminding us of His sacrifice, forgiveness and enduring love. This year, in celebration of the Year of St Francis of Assisi, the children designed beautiful crosses inspired by St Francis' message of humility, care for creation and love for all of God's people. Their work reflected our call to live simply, act justly and care for our common home, linking closely with our Catholic Social Teaching values and our continued support of CAFOD. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and parishioners who joined us, and to the children for their exemplary

behaviour and reverence. The photograph shows a small selection of the stunning St Francis-inspired crosses created by Year 5, truly wonderful work!

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK

On Monday afternoon, each class, alongside some parents and parishioners, took part in a beautiful and reflective prayer walk around our school and church grounds. Led by our SANCTA Squad and Faith Friends, this special event supported CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, raising vital funds for communities around the world. This year, our prayer stations were inspired by the Jubilee of St Francis of Assisi, linking to our Lenten journey as a school as we virtually walk from Marple Bridge to Assisi. Each station invited us to reflect on St Francis' message of simplicity, peace and care for creation, helping us to grow as pilgrims of faith and compassion. As a school family, we set ourselves the challenge of completing this virtual pilgrimage together, and we are delighted to share that the children have shown tremendous commitment and enthusiasm throughout walking in total over 1500 miles - more than the distance to Assisi. What an achievement! So far, we have raised £164 towards our £250 target, and we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our community. Donations are still welcome. Cash can be sent into the school office after the Easter holidays, or you can [contribute via our CAFOD JustGiving page](#). Every donation, no matter how small, helps support those most in need around the world. Thank you for your continued support, prayerful participation and generosity.



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HOLY WEEK/EASTER MASS TIMES

	St Mary's Parish	Holy Spirit Parish
Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper)	7:00pm (New Mills)	7:30pm
Good Friday	3:00pm The Passion of Our Lord (Marple Bridge)	3:00pm The Passion of Our Lord
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)	7:00pm (Marple Bridge)	8:00pm
Easter Sunday	9:30am (New Mills) 11:30am (Marple Bridge)	9:30am

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.

HOUSE POINTS UPDATE

Below are the house point totals for March.

St Patrick	676
St George	664
St Peter	760
St Mary	678



This means that the totals for this term are as follows and **St Mary's** house group are this term's winners. They attended a treat afternoon with music and games, Easter colouring, biscuits and juice outside on Thursday. This term, over **13,000** dojos have been awarded! Well done children!

Green	3,195
Red	3,312
Yellow	3,467
Blue	3,481

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



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.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE



As technology continues to develop, many children are becoming more aware of and interested in Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as chatbots, image generators and voice assistants. While these technologies can be useful for learning and creativity, it is important that children use them safely and appropriately. During school, pupils are reminded to think carefully about the information they see online and to understand that AI tools do not always provide accurate or reliable answers. We also reinforce the importance of not sharing personal

information online and speaking to a trusted adult if something they see online makes them feel unsure or uncomfortable. We encourage parents and carers to talk with their children about how they use technology at home, including any AI tools or apps. Reminding children to question what they see online and to use technology responsibly can help them develop safe digital habits. If you would like more information about online safety, please speak to a member of staff or visit the [e-safety pages on our school website](#).

PTA NEWS

Family Ceilidh Night 🎵

We are delighted to host our first ever PTA Ceilidh Night on Friday 17 April at Marple Sports Club. All the family are welcome. The bar will be open and Rocco's Pizza will be onsite selling pizza to fuel the dancing. Tickets are £15 per family and can be purchased at <https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/ceilidh/>

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>

PTA EASTER RAFFLE THANKS



Thank you for supporting the PTA Easter Raffle – the response was exceptional and the hampers were a feast for the eyes and the tummy! There were 71 winning tickets and they have each received a hamper of Easter chocolate delights. Congratulations to all! Close to £1,000 has been raised from this raffle and the funds will go towards much needed sports and IT equipment as well as helping with school trips. As always, thank you to our PTA volunteers who work tirelessly to support our amazing school.

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>
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.
22 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.
8 June	School reopens following the half term holidays.
8-12 June	Y1 Phonics Check and Y4 Multiplication Tables Check.
15 June	Year 2 celebration of the word 2:30pm. All welcome.
22 June	Year 1 celebration of the word 2:30pm. All welcome.
23 June	Sports Day Reception – Y6 1:15-3:00pm.
24 June	Nursery Sports Day and Parent Picnic 9:30am-12:30pm.

Wishing all our families every blessing as we enter Holy Week, and a joyful and hope filled Easter break.

I look forward to seeing our school family back together after the holidays on Monday 13 April.

Mr John Nish.