



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, our SANCTA Squad led a beautiful and reflective celebration of the word, focusing on our theme of mercy. They reminded us that mercy is God's love and forgiveness in action, freely given and deeply transformative. During this joyful season of Eastertide, we are called to remember the ultimate act of mercy shown through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection. Last Sunday, we celebrated *Divine Mercy Sunday*, a special time in the Church's year that calls us to reflect on how we show mercy to others, just as God shows mercy to us. Drawing on the Gospel reading from John 20:19–31, the children reflected on Jesus bringing peace and forgiveness to His disciples. Our mission this week is simple but powerful: *to show mercy to everyone we meet, through kindness, forgiveness and understanding.*

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.

YEAR 2 VISIT TO THE STAIRCASE HOUSE MUSEUM

Year 2 had a fantastic and enriching visit to Staircase House Museum on Monday. The children stepped back in time as they explored one of Stockport's oldest townhouses, discovering what life was like in the past. They were fascinated by the building's unique architecture and loved learning about how people lived hundreds of years ago. The visit brought their history learning to life, and the children represented the school wonderfully with their curiosity, excellent behaviour and thoughtful questions throughout the day.



CHESHIRE CRICKET SESSIONS



For this half term, pupils in Years 3 to 6 have the exciting opportunity to participate in weekly cricket sessions led by coaches from Cheshire Cricket. The sessions focus on developing key skills such as batting, bowling and fielding, while also promoting teamwork and sportsmanship. From the first session yesterday, the children showed great enthusiasm and determination, and it was wonderful to see so many pupils actively engaged and building their confidence in a new sport. We are grateful to Cheshire Cricket for providing such a high-quality experience and inspiring our pupils to stay active and enjoy sport.

DOODLE LEARNING SPRING CHALLENGE

It's time to get Doodling! From today, pupils can take part in the exciting Doodle Spring Challenges using Doodle Maths and Doodle English. By joining, children can build positive daily learning habits while working towards fantastic rewards, including exclusive pin badges and certificates. To take part,



parents need to register their child via the Parent Dashboard (after creating or linking their parent account). Pupils then need to earn 450 stars (or 350 for younger children) and complete at least one exercise on seven different days before **30th April**. These days don't need to be consecutive, just consistent! All children who complete the challenge will receive a special pin badge, which will be sent to school in May, and certificates can be downloaded by parents. For further details, please see the attached poster and encourage your child to get started. happy Doodling!

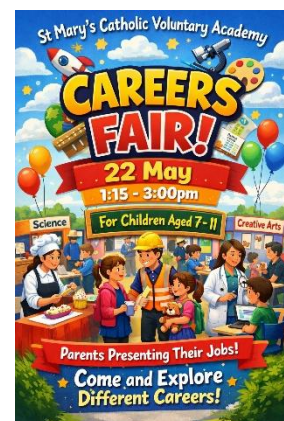
CYCLE TRAINING WITH TfGM



There's a fantastic opportunity for families to get active and build cycling skills with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). A wide range of cycle training sessions are available for all abilities, from complete beginners to confident riders, and most sessions are completely free. If your child (or you as a family!) are new to cycling, the *Complete Beginner* sessions offer a safe, traffic-free environment to get started, with bikes and helmets provided if needed. For those looking to develop their skills, *Confidence Builder* and *Quiet Roads* sessions help riders feel more secure, including learning how to cycle safely alongside other road users. There are also tailored sessions available, including family cycling, route planning and safe cycling for work. Additionally, *Learn to Maintain a Bike* sessions are available (for a small charge) to help keep bikes in great condition. There's no need to own a bike to take part—just come along and give it a go! To book a free session and view the latest spring dates, please visit: <https://tfgm.com/cycling/cycle-training>.

KEY STAGE 2 CAREERS FAIR

We are delighted to announce that our Key Stage 2 Careers Fair will take place on **Friday 22nd May** from 1:15pm in the school hall. This is always a highly successful and enjoyable event, giving our pupils a valuable opportunity to learn about a wide range of careers, ask questions and begin to develop their understanding of the world of work. To make the afternoon as engaging and inspiring as possible, we warmly invite parents and carers to come in and share insights into their own professions. Bringing along props, uniforms, tools or any resources that help bring your role to life is strongly encouraged, as these hands-on experiences make a real impact on the children. If you are interested in taking part or would like further information, please contact Mrs Thompson or the school office. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



TRANSITION TO NURSERY AND RECEPTION



Start Well have organised a free online session for parents of children aged 3–5 due to start nursery or reception in September. Please share with parents who may find this helpful. The sessions will explore:

- Common worries children (and parents) experience
- Simple, practical ways to build confidence
- How to support a smooth and positive start to school

Book a free place via Eventbrite here: [Thursday 7 May, 9.30am – 11.00am](#)

NEURODIVERSITY TRANSITION FROM Y6-Y7

The Neurodiversity Team are hosting a transition webinar on **19th May** for parents/carers of children moving to high school. Please see the attached flyer relevant Y6 parents. The full Neurodiversity Team transition offer is also attached to remind you of the wider offer, within which this webinar sits.



GENERAL NEURODIVERSITY NEWS/SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

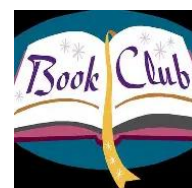


Please find attached information about the upcoming Information and Advice session on **Wednesday 13th May**, along with details of future sessions focused on autism awareness and neurodivergence. We will continue to share updated information with you on a monthly basis. This will include details of Parent Support Groups as well as each month's Information and Advice session, ensuring you are kept informed about the support available. We will also continue to highlight the

5-16 Padlet (link below), which contains a wide range of useful information and resources for families. <https://padlet.com/autismprogrammestockport/stockport-neurodevelopmental-support-for-children-young-peop-vsray0kgugoivc6g>

ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB

We are delighted to share our Pentecost 1 Book Club recommendations, featuring an exciting range of non-fiction texts focused on technology and artificial intelligence, tailored for different age groups across the school. Children have already shown great curiosity for this topic, so we hope these texts will spark thoughtful discussions and questions. We look forward to seeing children enjoying these books together and welcome pupils to join our story times during the week.



PTA NEWS

Family Ceilidh Night 🍷

We are delighted to host our first ever PTA Ceilidh Night tonight, Friday 17 April, at Marple Sports Club from 7:00pm. 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>.

THE MONTH (OR SO) AHEAD...KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

	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 April	PTA Ceilidh at Marple Sports Club 7:00pm. https://www.stmaryspta.org.uk/ceilidh/
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.
19 May	Scooter Workshops for all classes.
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.
24 June	New Nursery and Reception Parents Induction Meeting – 6:00-7:00pm.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Please come and join the Ceilidh tonight from 7pm if you can. Mr John Nish.