



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

St Mary's Parish: <http://stmarysmarplebridge.org.uk/>

Holy Spirit Parish: <https://www.holyspiritmarple.com/>

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, our SANCTA Squad led a thoughtful Celebration of the Word focused on the theme of *faith*. They reminded us that faith can sometimes feel challenging, as it calls us to believe in something we cannot always see or prove, especially during difficult times. Yet, as they shared so beautifully, faith has the power to unite us, sustain us, and guide us when we turn to God in prayer. This message linked closely to this week's Gospel reading of the Road to Emmaus, where the disciples, feeling lost and uncertain, came to recognise Jesus walking beside them. In

the same way, we are reminded that God is always with us, even when we do not immediately see Him. Our mission this week is to reflect on something in our own lives that requires faith and to spend time in prayer, asking God to give us the strength and trust we 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.

KS2 CRICKET TOURNAMENT



On Thursday morning, a group of our wonderful Key Stage 2 pupils represented the school brilliantly at the Cricket Tournament held at Aquinas College, competing against four other schools from across the borough. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their cricketing skills in a competitive setting, while also demonstrating excellent teamwork and communication throughout each match. Pupils supported one another, made thoughtful decisions on the field, and showed great sportsmanship, reflecting our school values at all times. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and valuable experience for all involved, and we are very proud of their efforts and conduct.

DOODLE LEARNING SPRING CHALLENGE

It's time to get Doodling! There is still time for pupils to 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!



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FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS IN THE DINGLEY DELL



We are delighted to be launching our Forest School sessions from next Wednesday, led by a qualified Forest School Leader, in our newly reopened Dingley Dell. Over the course of the term, each class will have the opportunity to spend an afternoon in our exciting outdoor environment, developing key Forest School skills such as problem-solving, resilience, teamwork, and a deeper connection with nature. Activities will be carefully planned to ensure a safe and enriching experience for all pupils; there will be no fires, and any tools used will be those already familiar to children in school, effectively applying their Design Technology skills in an outdoor context. We are very much looking forward to seeing the children grow in confidence and curiosity through this valuable experience.

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.



EASTER GARDEN COLLECTION



The children's Easter Gardens are now ready to be collected from the church and taken home. Gardens that are in waterproof pots have been placed outside the church, next to the main door and Fr John's bench, and can be collected at any time. Gardens that were more delicate or likely to be damaged by the weather are on the windowsill at the back of the church and can be collected after Masses. Please collect your gardens by Sunday 10th May. Thank you once again for all the creativity and care that went into making these beautiful gardens.

TRANSITION TO NURSERY AND RECEPTION

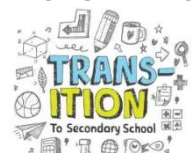
Start Well have organised a free online session for parents of children aged 3-5 due to start nursery or reception in September. Please share with parents who may find this helpful. The sessions will explore:

- 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>



CEILIDH SUCCESS AND THANKS



We are delighted to share that last Friday evening's Ceilidh, held at Marple Cricket Club, was a fantastic success. Organised by our hardworking PTA, the event brought together families, staff and friends of the school for an evening full of music, dancing and community spirit. It was wonderful to see so many people taking part, enjoying the lively atmosphere and supporting one another in learning the traditional dances. Events like this play a vital role in strengthening our school family, and we are extremely grateful to the PTA for their time, effort and dedication in making the evening such an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

COFFEE AND CAKE THANKS

We were delighted to welcome so many parents and carers to our Coffee and Cake afternoon on Wednesday, which was very well attended and created a warm, supportive atmosphere. A particular highlight was the input from Oli from the Stockport Inclusion Service, who shared valuable insights into the use of AI to support children's learning. He explored both the benefits and potential pitfalls, helping families to better understand how technology can be used safely and effectively at home. Thank you to everyone who joined us and contributed to such a positive and informative afternoon. Special thanks to Mrs Bradbury and Mrs Norburn for organising the event.



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>
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.
3 July	Going Forth Mass for children on the Sacramental Programme. 10:00am in church followed by a class Communion breakfast in school. Children to wear their First Communion clothes. Full details to follow.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.