



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

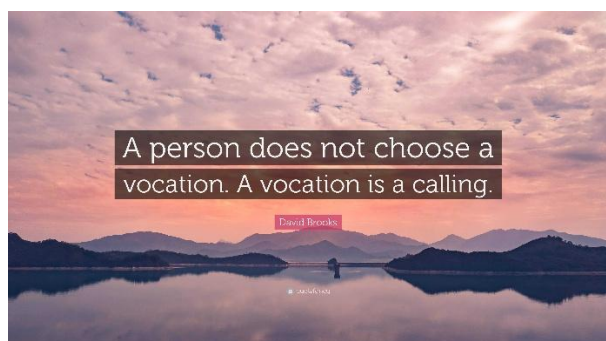
<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

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

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

Bulletin Number 28: 1 May 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, our SANCTA Squad led a beautiful celebration of the word centred on the theme of *vocation*, linking it thoughtfully to Sunday's Gospel of the Good Shepherd. They reminded us that vocation comes from the Latin word meaning "to call", and that, just as the Good Shepherd knows and calls each of his sheep by name, God calls each one of us personally and lovingly. By listening carefully to His voice, we begin to discover the unique path He has planned for our lives, one that leads to true happiness and fulfilment.

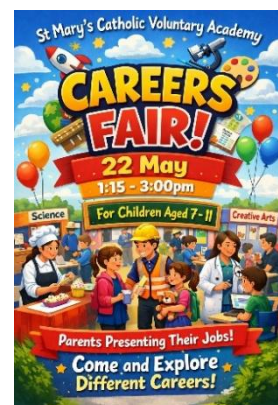
Through prayer and reflection, the children explored how God guides and walks alongside us as we grow. As part of this week's mission, we encourage everyone to spend some time talking with others about what you feel called to do with your life, and how you can use your gifts in the service of others.

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.

KEY STAGE 2 CAREERS FAIR

Linking to this week's celebration of the word theme, 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.



NO BALLS BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL ON THE PLAYGROUND



We would like to remind all families that balls and sports equipment must not be used on the playgrounds before or after the school day. Despite recent reminders to the children, we have had an incident this week where a younger pupil was accidentally hurt by a football. The safety of all our children, particularly our youngest, is paramount. Staff have spoken with pupils about expectations and the importance of looking after one another, and we ask for your support in reinforcing this message. Please ensure that your child does not bring or use any sports equipment on the playground at the beginning or end of the day and is supervised at all times. Thank you for helping us keep our school family safe.



DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM

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St Ralph Sherwin

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

OUR SCHOOL STREET NEEDS YOU!

St Mary's School Street **cannot go ahead without volunteers**. If even a small number of parents, carers or local residents can help occasionally, the scheme can launch after half term and create a safer, calmer street for children. Volunteering is simple and flexible. The street has just one closure point and needs **one or two people for around 30–40 minutes** at drop-off or pick-up times. You don't have to help every day, sharing the role across the community keeps the commitment manageable. If volunteers do not come forward soon, St Mary's risks missing out on this opportunity and related future support for road safety and active travel initiatives. If you can help, even occasionally, please inform the School Office or contact the School Streets team at schoolstreets@stockport.gov.uk for further information. Full training will be provided. Please see the attached leaflet for details.



GIRLS' FOOTBALL PROJECT



On Tuesday morning, a group of our pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in a girls' football project at St James' High School. The project aims to promote football amongst girls, encouraging greater participation and inspiring confidence in the sport. The children represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent teamwork, enthusiasm and determination throughout the session. They developed their skills, built confidence and enjoyed working alongside pupils from other schools in a supportive and encouraging environment. We are very proud of their positive attitude and excellent behaviour—well done to all involved!

GOLF TOURNAMENT AT MARPLE HALL

On Tuesday, a group of our Key Stage 2 children took part in an after-school golf tournament at Marple Hall School. The event provided a fantastic introduction to the sport, giving pupils the opportunity to develop new skills while enjoying a fun and supportive environment. The children demonstrated great enthusiasm, focus and sportsmanship throughout, and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they engaged with the activities. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all staff who supported the event, and in particular Mrs Bramhall for her continued commitment to ensuring the incredible range of sporting opportunities available to our children.



MINI MARATHON



On Monday, the children were treated to an inspirational assembly led by Mrs Wall, who shared her personal experience of competing in the Istanbul Triathlon. She spoke enthusiastically about the determination, resilience and commitment needed to train for and complete in such a demanding challenge. To bring the triathlon to life, two children were invited to take part in a fun, interactive demonstration. Wearing swimming caps, helmets and trainers, they travelled around the hall, much to the delight of the audience. The assembly provided a fantastic lead-in to our mini marathon event on Monday morning. On this theme I would like to congratulate Mrs Ashton who successfully completed yet another London Marathon last Sunday! Mrs Ashton is truly an inspiration to us all and continually reminds us of living our SANCTA values, especially aspire and achieve!

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>



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.
5-7 May	Industrial Action – see letter of 28 April for details.
9 May	First Holy Communion Mass at Holy Spirit parish. 11:00am.
11 May	Year 4 celebration of the word 2:30pm. All welcome.
11-14 May	Year 6 SATs week. Y6 children can arrive at 8:30am each day for a light pre-SATs breakfast (juice and croissant) and wellbeing/mindfulness session.
17 May	First Holy Communion Mass at St Mary's parish. 11:30am.
19 May	Scooter Workshops for all classes.
22 May	Careers Fair for Y2-Y6. 1:15-3:10pm.
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 an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend. Mr John Nish.