



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 29: 8 May 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



We keep in our prayers all of the children from St Mary's who are making their First Holy Communion over the next two weekends in their respective parishes. Children from Holy Spirit Parish will celebrate their First Holy Communion tomorrow at the 11:00am Mass, while children from St Mary's Parish will receive the Sacrament during the Sunday Mass on 17 May at 11:30am. We thank Dan, our wonderful lay Chaplain, for leading the preparation sessions in school with such care and dedication since October, and we are also grateful to all parishioners, especially Mrs Ashton, who have supported the preparations for these special Masses in church. As a school family, we look forward to

celebrating together at our annual 'Going Forth' Mass on Friday 3 July at 10:00am in church, when all of our First Holy Communicants of 2026 will be invited to wear their First Holy Communion clothes and enjoy a class celebration following the Mass.

WEDNESDAY WORD

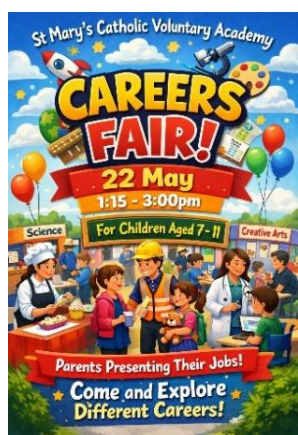
The latest version of the Wednesday Word can be accessed [here](#). Please enjoy spending some time sharing the Word of God with your children.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT

A group of children from Year 3 and Year 4 proudly represented St Mary's at an inter-school tennis competition held at Brabyns Tennis Club on Tuesday. Competing against several local schools, the children showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and skill throughout the afternoon. The pupils were a credit to the school, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship by scoring fairly, encouraging one another and shaking hands respectfully at the end of each match. Staff were extremely impressed by their positive attitudes and behaviour throughout the event. A special congratulations to our Year 4 team, who performed exceptionally well and have successfully progressed to the next round of the competition. We wish them the very best of luck in the next stage.



KEY STAGE 2 CAREERS FAIR



We are very much looking forward to our Key Stage 2 Careers Fair on **Friday 22nd May from 1:15pm** in the school hall. We would like to say a huge thank you to the parents who have already volunteered to support the afternoon and share their professions and experiences with the children. Their willingness to give up their time is greatly appreciated and will help make the event both engaging and inspiring for our pupils. To help provide an even wider variety of careers and experiences, we are still looking for another three or four parent volunteers to take part. If you would be interested in speaking to the children about your job or career pathway, we would love to hear from you. Bringing along props, uniforms, tools or resources that help showcase your role is strongly encouraged, as the children always enjoy these hands-on experiences. If you are able to help or would like further information, please contact Mrs Thompson or the school office. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



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St Ralph Sherwin

Catholic Multi Academy Trust

YEAR 6 SATS NEXT WEEK

As we approach SATs week 2026, we would like to wish all of our Year 6 pupils every success as they take part in their assessments next week. The children have worked hard throughout the year, showing determination, maturity and resilience in all that they do, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. While SATs are an important milestone, they are only one small part of each child's journey. Their talents, creativity, kindness, faith and character are seen and celebrated every single day at St Mary's, and no test can measure the wonderful young people they have become. We kindly ask families to help the children feel rested and prepared by ensuring they get plenty of sleep, enjoy a healthy breakfast and arrive at school on time each morning. To support a calm and positive start to the day, we will once again be offering a light breakfast (croissants and juice) and mindfulness sessions in school from 8:30am each morning during SATs week. Thank you to our dedicated Year 6 team and staff for the care, encouragement and commitment they have shown in helping the children feel confident, prepared and ready to shine. Year 6 believe in yourselves, do your best, and remember that we are all incredibly proud of you. We are all behind you every step of the way!



SEND UPDATES



You may recall, back in February, the Government posted a blog about proposed changes to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) system. In case you missed it, the blog is available [here](#). These changes are designed to fix, what many would describe as, a 'broken SEND system' which is struggling due to a huge growth in need against a context of workforce pressures and financial constraints. In addition to the proposed national changes there is lots of work going on locally, within Stockport Council, to design, trial and implement changes to the SEND system across our Borough over the next 12 months. This work involves engagement with parents/carers, health, social care, schools and voluntary organisations and it aims to deliver timelier, more joined up and consistent inclusion and SEND support for children in Stockport. We will, of course, keep you updated with any local and national changes as they emerge. However, I would also encourage parents/carers to sign up [here](#) to receive Stockport's SEND newsletters which are emailed out monthly. This will keep you updated with any news, updates and changes. At St Mary's, we continue to embed and develop our inclusion work to ensure the very best for the children at our school. Therefore, we welcome any changes which support this.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2026

Next week (11–15 May 2026), we will be marking Mental Health Awareness Week with this year's theme of 'Action', focusing on how we can all take positive, meaningful steps to support our own wellbeing and that of others. Throughout the week, children will be encouraged to take action through kindness, connection and care, taking part in class discussions, creative activities and practical acts of kindness that strengthen our school community and promote a sense of belonging. Pupils will explore how small everyday actions: checking in on a friend, including others, offering encouragement and showing compassion can make a real difference to mental health and wellbeing. The week will conclude on Friday 15 May with a Wear Green Day, where children are invited to act by wearing something green as a visible sign of support for mental health; this could be an item of clothing, socks, a ribbon, badge or accessory of their choice, with participation entirely optional. For those taking part, we suggest a £1 donation, which will go towards further developing our mental health books and resources.



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.



NEURODIVERSITY TRANSITION FROM Y6-Y7



The Neurodiversity Team are hosting a transition webinar on **Tuesday 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>	
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 Communions during the Parish 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 weekend. Congratulations to the Holy Communicants of Holy Spirit Parish.
Mr John Nish.**