



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 32: 12 June 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week's whole-school celebration of the word was beautifully planned and led by our SANCTA Squad and focused on the Feast of Corpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ), which the Church celebrated on Sunday. The children helped us to reflect on the incredible gift of the Eucharist, our Word of the Week, reminding us that Jesus is truly present with us in Holy Communion and that the Eucharist is at the heart of our Catholic faith. Through Scripture, prayer, reflection and song,

pupils considered how receiving Jesus in the Eucharist strengthens us to live as His disciples, showing love, kindness and service to others. We thank the SANCTA Squad for leading such a reverent and prayerful celebration, helping our school family to deepen its understanding of this special Feast and the central place of the Eucharist in our lives.

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.

FAITH IN SPORT – THE WORLD CUP

Yesterday saw the opening of the FIFA World Cup, an event that will capture the attention of millions of people across the globe over the coming weeks. Alongside the excitement, skill and competition, it is striking how many athletes publicly witness to their Christian faith. Whether through prayer before a match, making the sign of the cross, or speaking about the importance of God and family in post-match interviews, many players remind us that faith remains an important part of their lives.



This links beautifully with Pope Leo's prayer intention for June, in which he asks us to pray that sport may be "an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue among cultures and nations" and that it promotes values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.

At St Mary's, we know that sport is about far more than winning trophies. Through football, netball, athletics, cricket and the many sporting opportunities we provide, our children learn perseverance, teamwork, self-discipline, respect and resilience. These are not simply sporting values; they are Gospel values that help our children grow into the people God calls them to be.

As families enjoy following the World Cup together, it offers a wonderful opportunity to talk with children about the qualities we admire in our sporting heroes. What does good sportsmanship look like? How do athletes respond to disappointment? Why is teamwork so important? How can faith help people to remain humble in success and hopeful in defeat?

May this World Cup remind us that sport has the power not only to entertain, but also to unite people, build friendships and inspire us to become the very best versions of ourselves.

ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB



We are delighted to introduce our Pentecost 2 Book Club recommendations and to continue sharing a wide range of high-quality texts across the school. The children have responded very positively to our previous selections, and we are excited to bring them even more fantastic reads this half term. This will be our final Book Club of the year. Please see the attached leaflet with further details.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

This week, our Year 1 children (and some Year 2 children) have completed the national Phonics Screening Check—a short assessment where pupils read both real and pseudo 'alien' words aloud using their phonics knowledge. The check was carried out at each child's own pace in a calm, supportive environment with Mrs Bramhall.



This screening helps us to assess each child's understanding of phonics and identify any additional support they may benefit from as they move into Year 2 and Year 3.

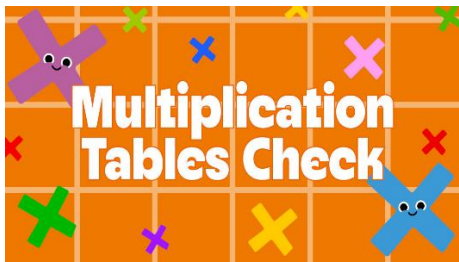
The children have worked incredibly hard in school to prepare for this, and I would like to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support at home—practising reading and reinforcing phonics using the resources we've provided. Your partnership makes a real difference.

There's no need for concern about the check—it's simply one of the ways we ensure every child receives the help they need to become confident readers. [You can find more details in this accompanying leaflet.](#)

A huge well done to all of our Year 1 pupils—they have approached the check with enthusiasm and resilience, and we are very proud of them!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Bramhall or Mrs Thompson, our lead teacher for reading. Screening check results will be shared with parents and carers as part of your child's end-of-year report in July.

YEAR 4 MULTIPLICATION TABLES CHECK (MTC)



Also this week, our Year 4 children, along with their peers across England, completed the online Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). This short assessment is designed to check how confidently and fluently pupils can recall their times tables up to 12×12 .

The purpose of the check is to help schools identify any children who may benefit from additional support in developing their multiplication knowledge. There is no pass or fail, and unlike other national assessments, children are not required to re-sit the check regardless of their score. The results are used nationally to inform overall data trends and are not reported by individual schools. Our Year 4 pupils approached the check with focus, enthusiasm, and a positive mindset—we are incredibly proud of them! To continue supporting your child at home, we encourage regular use of Doodle Maths, which every child at St Mary's can access through their class Teams page. Little and often practice can make a big difference! For more information about the Multiplication Tables Check, [please click here.](#)

CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT - SCIENCE



At St Mary's, science is a cornerstone of our curriculum and a powerful driver of curiosity and lifelong learning. We see science not simply as a subject, but as a vital tool for understanding the world around us.

Through engaging investigations, stimulating questions and hands-on exploration, we aim to inspire our pupils to become inquisitive, confident and independent learners.

Science is taught through dedicated weekly lessons, where children explore a broad and balanced curriculum encompassing biology, chemistry and physics. Our teaching follows the National Curriculum for science, ensuring that all pupils build a secure and progressive understanding of key scientific concepts as they move through school.

A central element of our teaching is developing the skills of *working scientifically*. This means helping children think and act like scientists: asking questions, making predictions, planning and carrying out investigations, observing carefully, recording results and drawing conclusions. This practical, enquiry-led approach makes science meaningful and memorable while also fostering essential life skills such as problem-solving, collaboration and critical thinking. At St Mary's, we are passionate about nurturing every child's natural sense of wonder and encouraging them to explore, discover and make sense of the world through science.

PENTECOST 2 TERM

It's hard to believe we're already in the final half term of the school year...time really does fly! While summer is here, there's still plenty of learning and activity ahead. Far from winding down, our classrooms remain busy with lessons and new learning right up to the end of term. Alongside our core curriculum, we have a packed calendar of events, including sports days, productions, trips, assemblies, and Masses. Children will also be completing their end-of-year assessments, so it's important they arrive on time and ready to learn each day.

For our Year 6 pupils, this is also a time of transition. The team is working closely with secondary schools to ensure a smooth move, with visits and activities planned; please check the class Teams page for updates.

Don't forget to keep an eye on our [Key Events Dates](#) and the weekly newsletter calendar to stay up to date.



HOUSE POINTS



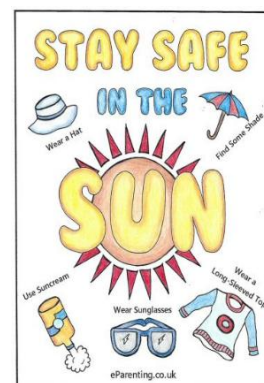
Please see the totals for the month of May. St Mary's House are currently in the lead but there is another week until we reach the end of the half term! Well done to everyone for striving to live out our SANCTA Values and Pocket Principles!

St George	St Peter	St Mary	St Patrick
999	1,025	1,030	969

SUN SAFETY

Now that summer is upon us (hopefully we will see some sun), we want to ensure our children are safe in the sun. Please can you help us to keep the children safe by doing the following:

- ✓ Provide a labelled hat for your child to wear in school.
- ✓ Show your child how to apply their own sunscreen and encourage your child or yourself to apply long lasting sunscreen each morning before they come to school. Adults in school cannot apply suncream.
- ✓ Ensure that hats are clearly labelled with your child's name and their class.
- ✓ Provide water in a transparent plastic bottle, labelled with your child's name. For further NHS advice, [please visit here](#).



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>
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.
2 July	Transition Day (including Stockport Y6-Y7 transition).
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.
6 July	Year 3 celebration of the word 2:30pm. All welcome.
10 July	End of Year Reports issued to parents/carers.
14 July	Report Drop-in Session for parents 3:30-4:30pm.
15 July	Y5 & Y6 End of Year Production 1:30pm and 6:00pm.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.