



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

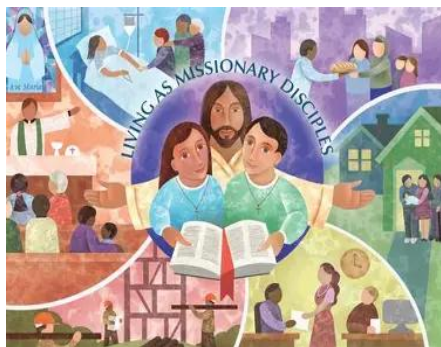
<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

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

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

Bulletin Number 33: 19 June 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Monday's whole school celebration of the word was beautifully led by Year 2, focusing on this week's theme of *Missionary Discipleship*. Through thoughtful reading, joyful song and engaging drama, the children at St Mary's deepened their understanding of what it means to follow Jesus and share His message in our everyday lives. A missionary disciple is someone who follows Jesus closely and shares His love with others through their words and actions. This can be lived out in simple, everyday ways, such as showing kindness to a friend who is lonely, forgiving others, helping at home without being asked, or speaking about

Jesus through our actions and choices. Anchored in the Gospel reading from Luke 9:1–6, the children reflected on Jesus' instructions to His disciples to go out, heal the sick, preach the Good News and proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven. Year 2 helped us to see how we too are called to be missionary disciples by living out our faith through kindness, service and courage in sharing God's love with others. The celebration was a powerful reminder of how Scripture continues to inspire and guide us as a faith community.

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.

RECEPTION VISIT TO THE PLASTIC SHED

On Tuesday, our Reception children enjoyed an exciting and educational visit to the Plastic Shed in Stockport. After travelling by coach and walking through the town centre, the children stopped to admire a colourful mural made from recycled plastic lids before taking part in a range of engaging activities. Working in small groups, they explored how plastic can be reused and recycled by creating their own artwork from recycled materials, sorting different types of plastic and designing a mural inspired by their learning. The visit helped the children develop a greater understanding of caring for God's creation and the importance of reducing waste by reusing materials whenever possible. The children were enthusiastic, creative and full of ideas, making the day a wonderful opportunity to learn about sustainability through hands-on experiences.



ROUNDERS TOURNAMENT SUCCESS AT MARPLE HALL



On Tuesday afternoon, our Year 5 and Year 6 rounders team travelled to Marple Hall to compete in the local rounders tournament. The children represented St Mary's superbly, demonstrating excellent teamwork, positivity, communication and encouragement throughout the afternoon. Their determination, skill and unwavering support for one another helped them to win all of their matches, securing a place in the All-Stockport Finals next Thursday, a fantastic achievement! Equally impressive was the outstanding sportsmanship shown by the team, who played with respect and integrity at all times. We are incredibly proud of their success and the way they embodied our school SANCTA values. A special thank you to Mrs Ashton and Mrs Wilde for accompanying and supporting the children throughout the tournament.

YEAR 1 NEIL ARMSTRONG WORKSHOP

This week, Year 1 enjoyed an exciting and engaging workshop all about Neil Armstrong, linked to their learning in English, Science and History. The children explored the life and achievements of the famous astronaut, learning about the historic Apollo 11 Moon landing and why Neil Armstrong remains such an important figure in history. Through a range of interactive activities, including making rockets, the children developed their understanding of space exploration, asked thoughtful scientific questions and brought their English learning to life through discussion, storytelling and imaginative activities. The workshop provided a wonderful opportunity to deepen their knowledge across the curriculum and inspired great curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.



YEAR 4 TRIATHLON



On Wednesday, our Year 4 children took part in the Brownlee Foundation Triathlon at Hough End in Manchester. The event challenged the children to complete a swim, bike ride and run, encouraging them to show determination, resilience and confidence. The children approached each stage of the triathlon with enthusiasm and supported one another brilliantly throughout the morning. It was wonderful to see them trying their best, overcoming challenges and celebrating each other's achievements as they crossed the finish line to receive their medals and goody bags. The event was a fantastic opportunity

for the children to develop their fitness, perseverance and teamwork while enjoying a memorable sporting experience. A special thank you to Mrs Thompson and Mrs Barnie for taking and supporting the children throughout the event.

SPORTS DAYS 2026

We are really looking forward to our Sports Days which are sure to be fantastic events. Parents/carers are invited (weather permitting) to watch the children in **Reception to Year 6** from 1:00pm (1:15pm start) next **Tuesday, 23 June**. If your child has a t-shirt in their house group colour, they may bring it in to wear. *Please monitor your emails in case we need to postpone due to inclement weather. The reserve date is 30 June.* **Nursery** are holding their Sports Day and picnic on **Wednesday 24 June** from 9:30am. Please see the Nursery newsletter for further details.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)



Last week you should have received a letter outlining changes to FSM arrangements from September 2026. In case you missed it, this is also attached. In summary, the key changes mean that:

- FSM eligibility is being expanded so that any child, from households in receipt of Universal Credit, are eligible
- Eligibility must be re-checked annually

If your child is already receiving FSM, you DO NOT need to do anything. The local authority will complete re-checks in July and will inform parents/carers and the school if your child is not eligible for FSM. This means you will need to pay for meals in September. However, if your child is/will be eligible, but you are not yet registered with the local authority, please complete an application with your

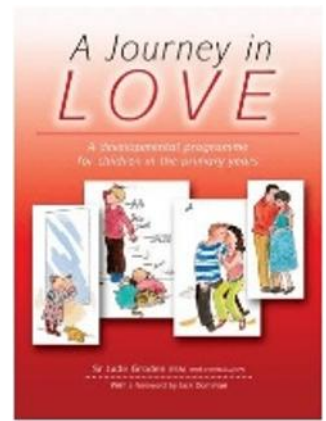
home local authority before the end of term. If you are a Stockport resident, the online applications are available [here](#). Please remember that the FSM scheme is different to the Universal Infant Meal scheme (which means all children in YR/Y1/Y2 receive a free meal automatically). Therefore, you should still register with the local authority to ensure your child can claim discounts on school trips etc when eligible. If you have any questions, please get in touch with our office staff.

RELATIONSHIPS, HEALTH AND SEX EDUCATION (RSHE)

This half term, the children will be working through their Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) scheme, 'A Journey in Love', which is the Diocesan-approved programme for use in Catholic schools. Rooted in the teachings of the Church, this carefully structured and age-appropriate scheme supports children in understanding the importance of love, respect and dignity in all relationships.

'A Journey in Love' explores the full journey of human growth: physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual, helping children to recognise both their own inherent worth and the value of others as unique children of God. Each year group follows a carefully sequenced theme that builds progressively on prior learning. For example, younger children focus on friendships and celebrating individuality, while older pupils explore emotional development, self-respect and the responsibilities that come with growing up.

All content is delivered sensitively and respectfully, in line with Catholic teaching and in partnership with parents and carers. If you would like to know more about the programme or view the materials, [please visit the school website](#) for further information in the first instance.



ARBOR PARENT APP



We are pleased to inform parents and carers that we are introducing the Arbor Parent App as part of our ongoing commitment to improving communication and streamlining school processes. Arbor will provide a secure, user-friendly platform for accessing key information about your child, including attendance, messaging, consent forms and school updates, all in one place. Over the coming weeks, we will be supporting families with the transition to the new system, including guidance on how to download and log in to the app. We are confident that Arbor will make it easier for parents to stay connected with

school life and keep up to date with important information. Initial details and instructions were shared on Wednesday to ensure a smooth and straightforward rollout for all families. Please contact the school office if you did not receive this information.

THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER'S BIG FUTURE QUESTIONNAIRE

This week, as part of their PSHE lessons, children across the school took part in *The Big Future* questionnaire led by Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England. This national survey aims to gather the views of up to one million children and young people about what it is like to grow up in England today. The questionnaire invited children to share their thoughts on the changes they would like to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, their hopes for the future and, most importantly, what they believe a good childhood should look like now and in the years ahead. With plans for 16-year-olds to be eligible to vote in the next General Election for the first time in over 50 years, the survey provides an important opportunity for children's voices to be heard and considered by decision-makers. The Children's Commissioner will use the findings to produce a national report, due to be published in January 2027, helping to shape future policy and support for children and young people across the country.



PRIMARY JIGSAW COURSE



Stockport Primary Jigsaw are offering a series of free short courses for parents and carers of children in Year 6 entitled 'Positive and Confident Children'. These sessions are designed to support families in preparing pupils for the important transition from primary to secondary school, helping to build confidence, resilience and emotional wellbeing during this key stage of change. The courses provide practical advice and strategies for supporting children with aspects such as managing worries, developing independence and maintaining positive routines as they move into Year 7. Full details on how to access the sessions will be shared with families. For more information about these [please click on this link](#).

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH BUILDING WORK

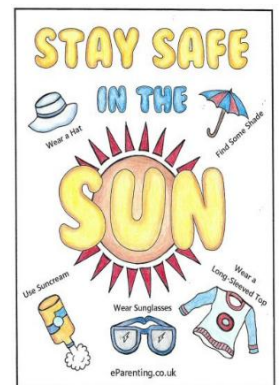


Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Marple is undertaking important building improvement works over the next two months. During this time, the regular schedule of Masses will be reduced to a very limited offering, and even where access is permitted, services may need to be cancelled at short notice due to operational requirements connected to the works. Father Stephen asks parishioners and families to be mindful of these temporary changes and to plan accordingly. For the most up-to-date information regarding Mass times and progress on the building work, please refer to the [weekly parish newsletter](#), which will continue to provide regular updates throughout this period.

SUN SAFETY REMINDER

Sunny and warm weather is forecast for next week. 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 sunscreen.
- ✓ 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](#).



PTA NEW TO YOU BOOK FAIR – 26 JUNE



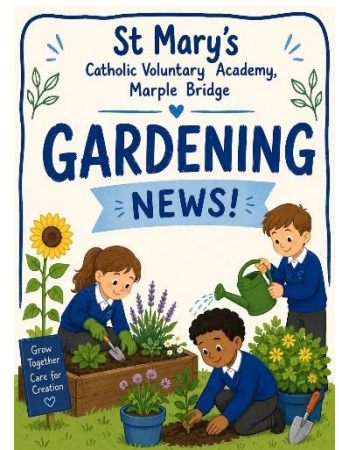
Our PTA is delighted to be hosting a New to You Book Fair on Friday 26 June. This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage a love of reading while promoting sustainability by giving pre-loved books a new home. We are asking each child to donate **one or two used books in good condition** that they no longer read. At the fair, every child who donates a book will have the opportunity to choose a different book that has been donated by another child. Please send all book donations into school by **Wednesday 24 June**. We hope this will be a fun and exciting way for children to discover new stories and share their favourite books with others.

GARENDING NEWS

New Project - The Dragon Courtyard Garden

We have exciting news to share about a new school gardening project. We have been awarded a grant by a fantastic local charity, Oliver's Dragons which will help us to transform our courtyard space into a learning and wellbeing area for Year 1/2 and the wider school. The theme for this new space in honour of our sponsors will be 'The Dragon Garden'. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to revamp this area and are aiming to install the garden before the end of this academic year.

Would you like to get involved? We are hosting some drop-in twilight build sessions on Wednesdays 4.30pm - 7.00pm starting next week, 24th June. We would really value the help and skills of anyone who could assist with the heavier elements of the tasks. Mrs Buckley will share more details of the jobs via the class WhatsApp groups.



School Plant Sale

We were delighted to see so many of our families supporting the work of school gardening and attending the plant sale at the end of last term. We raised an amazing £93.50. It really is wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm of the children showcasing their work. Thank you to all the parents who donated and helpers who assisted with the clear up at the end. We will put the funds raised to good use!

Wellbeing Garden

The School Council have been working hard with the Gardening Team in their venture to refresh the Wellbeing garden area. Thanks to the generous support of the Plant Sale donations and our friends at VIP Pet Supplies, we have been able to purchase some new plants which the children will be installing over the next few weeks. Keep your eyes out to see the progress of the summer display!

World Links - St Francis De Sales PR School for the Deaf

We have been keen to share with the children wider learning in the gardening sessions about environmental changes, food production and where plants come from. We have been really privileged to have the ideal opportunity to learn more about this through a link with a local charity, Reach, who provide support to a school in Jinja, Uganda. Denise Ead from the charity visited the gardening group to tell us about gardening activities at the school. We have been able to set up a twin gardening project to share and compare gardening conditions, plans and progress in England and Uganda. Given the success of generous donations from our school plant sales, we were pleased we could use this income to make a small contribution to the charity to be put towards their gardening activities. This has enabled the school to buy some much needed vegetable seeds and equipment. Everything the school grows is to provide meals for the children. Update will be shared in an upcoming assembly slot.

A PRAYER FOR FATHER'S DAY



We thank you for the gift of fathers and all those who care for us like fathers. Bless them with patience, wisdom and kindness. May they know how deeply they are loved and appreciated, especially when their care is quiet and unseen. Surround all families with your peace and help us to grow in love for one another each day. Amen.

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>
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.
26 June	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Norburn and Mrs Bradbury. 1:30-3:00pm.
30 June	<i>Reserve Sports Day (Reception – Y6) if needed. 1:15-3:00pm</i>
2 July	Transition Day (including Stockport Y6-Y7 transition).
3 July	Going Forth Mass for children on the Sacramental Programme. 10:00am in church.
3-5 July	Family Camp.
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.
17 July	PTA Colour Run 3:30pm – 4:30pm on the school field.



Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and Happy Father's Day. Mr John Nish.