



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 34: 26 June 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week's whole-school celebration of the word was beautifully led by Year 1 on this week's theme of *Acceptance*. Through prayer, reflection and worship, the children helped us to explore the message of the Gospel reading from Matthew 10:26–33, reminding us that we are all loved and valued by God who has 'counted every hair on our heads'. Year 1 encouraged us to think about how we can show acceptance in our daily lives by recognising the dignity of every person and treating others with kindness and respect. As part of their celebration, they set the whole school a mission: *We will be kind. We will include others. We will treat everyone with dignity and respect.* This powerful message challenged us all to follow the example of Jesus by creating a welcoming and inclusive community where everyone feels valued, supported and loved.

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.

GOING FORTH MASS

On **Friday 3 July at 10:00am**, we will gather as a school family at St Mary's Church for our annual First Holy Communion Thanksgiving Mass. This special celebration will provide an opportunity for our First Communicants to come together once again following their recent First Holy Communion celebrations in their parishes, giving thanks for the gift of the Eucharist and reflecting on this important milestone in their faith journey. We warmly invite parents and carers of children who have made their First Holy Communion this year to join us for the Mass. Children who have celebrated their First Holy Communion are asked to wear their Holy Communion clothes for this special occasion. We look forward to celebrating together and giving thanks for the many blessings received through this sacrament. Please see the letter sent on 24 June for further details.



SPORTS DAYS 2026



We are really looking forward to our rescheduled 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, 30 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, 1 July** from 9:30am. Please see the Nursery newsletter for further details.

TRANSITION/MOVE UP DAY

We will hold a 'Move Up' day on **Thursday 2 July**, when the children will spend time in their next classroom and their new teacher/s; there will also be other activities to support our children as they start to prepare for the changes ahead and to make the process as smooth as possible. Most of our Year 6 pupils will also be visiting their secondary schools on that day. It is an exciting time all round!



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QUAD ATHLETICS EVENT



On Wednesday morning, a group of Year 4 and Year 6 pupils represented St Mary's at the Quad Athletic Event held at Woodbank Park. The children took part in a variety of athletics-based activities, including the long jump, target throwing, hurdles, an obstacle race and throwing 'howlers' (javelins). The event provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to participate in sport in a safe, inclusive and non-competitive environment, focusing on personal achievement, enjoyment and teamwork. Throughout the morning, the children demonstrated excellent cooperation, encouragement and determination, supporting one another and celebrating each other's successes. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school and would like to thank Mrs Ashton and Mrs Norburn for accompanying and supporting the children throughout the event.

SPOTLIGHT ON... END OF YEAR REPORTS

At St Mary's, our teachers are currently hard at work preparing your child's end-of-year report. These reports are designed to give parents and carers a clear and meaningful overview of each child's academic progress, personal development, and wider achievements throughout the school year. Each report highlights your child's strengths, areas for further growth, and the progress they have made across the National Curriculum subjects, including English, Maths, Science and RE. In addition to attainment and progress, we also value and report on effort, engagement, attendance, and learning behaviours, recognising the many ways children grow and thrive beyond academic measures.

One of the most rewarding parts of the report for our teachers to write is the 'Personal Comment' section. This allows us to reflect on your child's social development, emotional wellbeing, and their contribution to the wider life of our school community.

End-of-year reports are not just a summary of the year gone by they are also a chance to celebrate achievements and identify goals for the future. They provide a valuable reference point, especially for pupils moving into a new year group or on to a new school, helping their next teacher to build a well-rounded picture of their journey so far. We look forward to sharing these special reflections with you on Friday 10 July.



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.

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](#).

2026 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

This summer, The Reading Agency invites children to turn up the volume on reading with Read to the Beat, the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge. Brought to life with vibrant illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator Harry Woodgate, this year's theme celebrates the joy of music and sound, exploring how music and storytelling can inspire, connect and spark the imagination. As part of the National Year of Reading, the challenge is being delivered in partnership with public libraries across the UK and is completely free to take part in. Children can discover new books, set their own reading goals, earn rewards and enjoy a range of exciting library activities throughout the summer holidays. The challenge officially launches at your local library on Saturday 4 July so head down to sign up or visit summerreadingchallenge.org.uk to start your reading adventure!



PTA NEW TO YOU BOOK FAIR – THANK YOU



Our PTA's New to You Book Fair today was a tremendous success and a wonderful celebration of reading and sustainability. Children throughout the school thoroughly enjoyed browsing the wide selection of pre-loved books and choosing a new story to take home. The event not only encouraged a love of reading but also highlighted the importance of reusing and sharing resources, giving books a new lease of life. It was fantastic to see the excitement on the children's faces as they discovered new authors, genres and favourite titles recommended by their friends. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the PTA for organising such a successful event and to all the families who donated books, helping to make the fair such an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for everyone.

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>
30 June	Sports Day Reception – Y6 1:15-3:00pm.
1 July	Nursery Sports Day and Parent Picnic 9:30am-12:30pm.
2 July	Transition Day (including Stockport Y6-Y7 transition).
3 July	Going Forth Mass for children on the Sacramental Programme. 10:00am in St Mary's 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.
23 July	Leavers' Assembly 10:00am – 11:00am.
23 July	Bubbles and Confetti 2:50pm – 3:10pm.
23 July	Leavers' Disco 5:30pm – 7:00pm.
24 July	Leavers' Mass 10:00 – 11:00am in school.
24 July	School closes for children for the Summer Break at 3:20pm.
1-2 September	INSET days for staff. School closed to children.
3 September	School reopens for children following the summer break. (Y1-Y6). Nursery and Reception children, please see induction information.
8 & 10 September	Meet and Greet Class Teachers 3:30-4:00pm.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.