



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 35: 3 July 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday afternoon, our school family gathered to celebrate Mass with Father Benjamin for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. During the celebration, we reflected on the remarkable faith, courage and witness of these two great Apostles, who devoted their lives to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their example reminded us that we are all called to be missionary disciples, living out our faith through our words, actions and service to others. Inspired by the Gospel and the lives of Saints Peter and Paul, the children were encouraged to put their faith into action by showing kindness, helping those in need and sharing God's love with everyone they meet. We are grateful to Father Benjamin for leading such a prayerful and inspiring celebration of the Eucharist with our school 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.

GOING FORTH MASS

This morning, our school family gathered at St Mary's Church for our annual 'Going Forth Mass', celebrating with our First Communicants following their recent First Holy Communion celebrations in their respective parishes. It was a joyful and prayerful occasion of thanksgiving as the children reflected on their journey of preparation and the significance of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. Together, we gave thanks for this important milestone in their faith journey and considered how they can continue to live as disciples of Christ by sharing His love through their words and actions each day. We were delighted to welcome parents and family members who joined us for this special celebration. Afterwards, the Year 3 children returned to school to enjoy a party with their classmates, complete with games and treats, providing a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this important occasion together as a faith-filled school community.



SPORTS DAY SUCCESS



Our Sports Day 2026 were a tremendous success, with children across the school enthusiastically taking part in a wide range of athletic and inclusive activities. Alongside traditional events such as sprints, long jump, relays and team games, this year also introduced new challenges including *discus*, which the children approached with great excitement and determination. The field and playground were filled with energy, encouragement and a wonderful sense of teamwork throughout. The children particularly impressed with their sportsmanship, cheering one another on and celebrating every effort and achievement. A memorable highlight once again was the parents' race, which brought great excitement and laughter and is fast becoming a much-loved tradition. Nursery also enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of races and a picnic with their grown-ups, creating special memories together in the sunshine. One child summed up the spirit of the day perfectly: *"I loved trying something new like the discus—it made me feel like a real athlete!"* A huge thank you must go to Mrs Bramhall for her outstanding organisation and leadership of the event, ensuring everything ran seamlessly and that every child had the opportunity to shine. We are also grateful to all staff for their hard work in making the days so memorable for our school community.



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TRANSITION/MOVE UP DAY

Our transition event yesterday was a fantastic success, providing children across the school with a valuable opportunity to spend time in their new classes and begin building relationships with their new teachers for the year ahead. The day was carefully planned with a range of engaging activities, including interactive classroom tasks, creative challenges and collaborative “*discuss and discover*” sessions, all designed to help pupils feel confident, settled and excited about the changes to come. The children approached the experience with enthusiasm and maturity, quickly immersing themselves in their new learning environments and beginning to form positive connections with staff and peers. Feedback from pupils and staff has been extremely positive, highlighting the calm, purposeful and joyful atmosphere throughout the day. At the same time, most of our Year 6 pupils spent the day visiting their new secondary schools, and we were delighted to hear that they made a strong impression—being described as well-prepared, respectful and ready to embrace the next stage of their educational journey with confidence.



COME AND PLAY WITH THE HALLE



Our Year 5 pupils recently enjoyed a memorable visit to the Bridgewater Hall to take part in *Come and Play with the Hallé*, led by the renowned Hallé Orchestra. This year's event featured an exciting World Cup theme, with music inspired by countries and the spirit of international competition, creating a vibrant and uplifting atmosphere throughout the day. The children represented St Mary's brilliantly, showing outstanding participation, enthusiasm and an exemplary attitude as they joined in with the musical activities. Their excellent behaviour and willingness to engage fully in the experience were commented on throughout the event. We are very

grateful to the Year 5 staff and parent volunteers who accompanied and supported the children, helping to ensure the visit was both enjoyable and enriching for all involved.

YEAR 4 CANOEING & ORIENTEERING

On Wednesday, our Year 4 children took part in an exciting outdoor learning experience at Brabyns Park, where they enjoyed a range of adventurous activities including canoeing and orienteering. Throughout the day, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and growing confidence as they navigated the water and worked together to solve a series of challenging orienteering tasks. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, problem-solving skills and encouragement of one another in action, with many children stepping out of their comfort zones and achieving great success. The day provided a fantastic opportunity to develop both physical skills and confidence in the outdoors, while also strengthening friendships and collaboration. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the outdoor education team, as well as Mrs Thompson and Mrs Andersen, for their outstanding leadership and organisation in delivering such a memorable and enriching experience for the children.



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD (HAF) VOUCHERS



With the summer holiday on the horizon, we wanted to remind families of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme. The HAF scheme provides free holiday activities & food for eligible children (i.e. those in receipt of benefits based free school meals & all children with an EHCP). If your child is eligible, you DO NOT need to do anything. However, vouchers were emailed home from Stockport Council on 30.06.26. Families can then book on to any of the HAF schemes running which you can find [here](#).

GREATER MANCHESTER SWIMMING GALA

On Monday, eight of our pupils from Years 4,5 and 6 had the fantastic opportunity to compete in the Greater Manchester Swimming Gala at the Aquatic Centre in Manchester, proudly representing Stockport after winning their local heats. The children performed with outstanding determination, focus and resilience, giving their very best against strong competition from across the region. Throughout the event, they demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship, encouraging one another and showing great respect to fellow competitors, coaches and officials. It was a real honour for them to represent both St Mary's and Stockport borough on such a prestigious stage, and they did so with pride and maturity. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Ashton and the supporting parents who accompanied and encouraged the team, as well as to Mr Walker for his expert coaching and professional swimming tips, which played a key role in preparing the children for success.



DOODLE LEARNING SUMMER CHALLENGE



We're excited to share that our school will be taking part in the Doodle Summer Challenge! Running from now and throughout the summer holidays, this challenge encourages children to keep up their maths and English skills in a fun and engaging way by using the award-winning Doodle Learning apps. Just a few minutes a day can help children stay on track and return to school confident and ready for the new term. All children who take part will receive a pin badge and certificate! Look out for more information on the attached leaflet and via the [Parent Dashboard](#).

PTA NEWS

*Colour Run – It's back! Our final event of the year. A fantastically fun mix of running, powder paint, water guns, music and sunshine to see out the year. This will take place on **Friday 17 July** from 3:30pm on the school field.*

Tickets are available on the [PTA website](#) next week. £7 for one child or £14 for a family ticket. We also require volunteers to help with set up, throwing colours etc, so please let the PTA know if you're free to help. Claire Tognarelli can be contacted on 07857940044. Last year's Colour Run was a vibrant and joyous event, where children, staff, and families came together to celebrate community spirit, raising significant funds for the PTA while having a fantastic time. We know this year will be just as fun! We hope that you can join us.



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>
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 and a great Family Camp! Mr John Nish.