



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, we came together for a special celebration of the word to mark the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, a great disciple of Jesus and a wonderful example of how we are called to live out our faith. We were delighted to welcome Brother David, a Franciscan, alongside one of our grandparents, who shared with the children their knowledge of St Francis, the Franciscan way of life and the importance of following Jesus through a life of prayer, service and care for others. The children were encouraged to reflect on how St Francis lived out values that are at the heart of our own SANCTA Values – Support, Aspire, Nurture, Challenge, Trust and Achieve – particularly through his care for others, humility, compassion and deep respect for God's creation. This linked beautifully with our school mission: "We live and learn by journeying with Mary to Jesus, for the greater glory of God." The children joined together in a beautiful Canticle of Creation, giving thanks for the wonder and beauty of God's creation and making a clear connection with their

current RE learning about Creation and Covenant. It was a joyful and reflective celebration, reminding us that, like St Francis, we are all called to be disciples of Jesus and to care for God's wonderful world.

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and Bishop Patrick has once again set us a mission of praying one decade of the Rosary (one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be) each weekday during October. You can track your progress using this [chart](#). We will be help with this by setting aside time in one class worship per week during October to say a decade of the Rosary and also each Monday, members of our SANCTA Squad will lead a Rosary Club at lunchtime.



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

COFFEE AND CAKE SOCIAL

Our first Coffee and Cake Social of the school year, held on Tuesday afternoon, was a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to come together, connect and share in school life. The afternoon began with an informal meet and greet, giving families the chance to chat with members of our school team and one another. We were also delighted to welcome a representative from Stockport Family Hubs, who spoke with parents about the range of services and support available to families across Stockport. The session provided a valuable opportunity for parents to find out more about the support available to them and their children. We then brought the afternoon to a joyful close with a wonderful hymn practice, with parents joining us and singing along to some of our favourite school hymns. It was a warm and uplifting afternoon,



celebrating our strong sense of community and the partnership between home and school. We look forward to welcoming families to our next Coffee and Cake Social later in the school year.

THE 3rd GREAT ST MARY'S BAKE OFF



The third Great St Mary's Bake Off was another huge success, filling the school with the wonderful smell of freshly baked treats and showcasing the incredible creativity and baking talents of our children and families. The standard was exceptionally high, making the judging a very difficult task! Congratulations to all of our winners across the four categories: Biscuits and Cookies – Florence F; Small Cakes – Maja; Traybakes, Brownies and Blondies – Ada and Roman; and Showstoppers – Sophie B. A huge thank you to our chief judge, Dean from All Things Nice, for helping us

to select our winners and for being so impressed by the creativity and skill on display. We are incredibly grateful to our amazing PTA, whose hard work and enthusiasm once again made this much-loved event possible. The event raised £400 which will directly impact provision at St Mary's. On Tuesday, we sold the remaining cakes, with the proceeds, £42, generously donated to Macmillan Cancer Support. It was a wonderful celebration of community, creativity, generosity and, of course, cake!

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2026

Today, we have been marking World Mental Health Day 2026 at St Mary's, with this year's theme, *"Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change."* The theme provided a valuable opportunity for our children to think about the importance of listening to people's experiences, speaking openly about mental health and recognising that everyone's feelings and experiences matter. Throughout the week, the children have been learning about how they can look after their own wellbeing and, importantly, how they can support and listen to others. Our activities have encouraged children to develop their understanding of positive mental health and wellbeing, while recognising the importance of using their voices to help create positive change. We are grateful to everyone who has supported our World Mental Health Day activities and helped us to reinforce the message that every voice matters, every experience should be heard and together we can make a difference. Our fundraising will contribute to Young Minds, a brilliant charity that supports children, young people and families with mental health challenges. We would also like to remind parents and carers of the support available through Young Minds, including online resources (www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/), a helpline open from 9:30am–4:00pm (0808 802 5544), and an online chat service for parents and carers who are concerned about their children's mental health (www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline/). Thank you to everyone who donated £1 - your generosity will help the Young Minds charity continue its vital work supporting children and young people across the country.



ADVENT TERM PARENTS EVENINGS



Our first Parents' Evenings of the year will take place on **Wednesday 14th and Wednesday 21st October, from 3:40pm to 6:30pm**. These 10-minute meetings are pastoral in focus, providing an opportunity to meet your child's new Class Teacher(s), discuss how they have settled into their new year group, and review targets for the year ahead. The booking system via Arbor is still live if you haven't yet booked. If your child has SEND a separate appointment has been made for you via the School Office.

SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

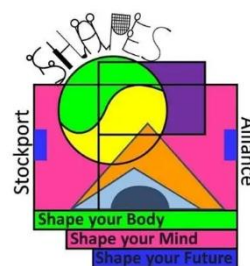


A huge well done to our brilliant Sports Hall Athletics team who represented our school at Harrytown school this week. The children took part in a range of athletic events, including running, jumping and throwing activities, showing fantastic teamwork and determination. They worked incredibly hard, encouraged each other and gave their best in every event. We are delighted to announce that we won the competition and have qualified for the Stockport Finals later in the school year! We are so proud of the children and can't wait to see

them continue to develop their skills.

2026-2027 SPORTS AMBASSADORS

We also have eight new Sports Ambassadors who have completed their training with Mrs Wall from Stockport Shapes. They are now out on the playground at lunchtimes, proudly wearing their caps and taking on their new roles. Our Sports Ambassadors have been leading lots of fun games, encouraging others to join in, and helping children develop their teamwork, confidence and sporting skills. It has been fantastic to see them showing great leadership and enthusiasm and already making a brilliant difference on the playground!



STREET TAG



The new Stockport Schools Street Tag season is now live and runs until **23rd November**. Street Tag is a fun way for families to earn points for our school simply by walking, cycling, scooting, running or wheeling. Every active journey counts towards our school's total, so we'd love as many families as possible to get involved! Please see the attached poster for further details. Don't forget our bonus PE Codes! Each one is worth 1,000 points for our school:

- stockport_YUNN
- stockport_DMRU
- stockport_KQGI
- stockport_SCOW
- stockport_GEAE

To redeem your codes:

1. Open the **Street Tag** app.
2. Tap **Playground**.
3. Select **PE Code**.
4. Enter a code and tap **Redeem**.
5. Repeat for all five codes to claim **5,000 bonus points!**

Let's see if we can climb the Stockport Schools leaderboard together. Thank you for supporting our school and helping everyone stay active!

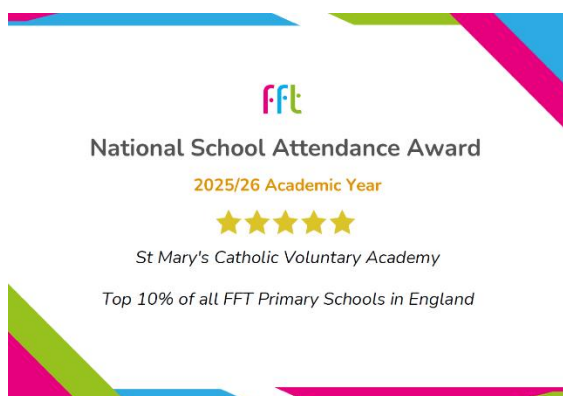
THE STOCKPORT ONLINE SAFETY HUB

Offers information and advice for families and professionals. The hub is free to use and has an extensive library of advice and information including online bullying, screen time guides, individual app guides and advice on gaming. The hub also holds articles and guides that up to date, reacting to changes in the technological world and the most prevalent issues facing families and children.

[The hub can be accessed here](#) or via the QR code to the right.



NATIONAL ATTENDANCE AWARD



We are delighted to share that St Mary's has received a national award recognising us as being among the top 10% of schools in the country for attendance during the 2025–2026 school year. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the commitment of our children, families and staff to ensuring that pupils are in school, ready to learn and able to make the most of every opportunity. Regular attendance is an important part of children's success, wellbeing and sense of belonging, and we are incredibly proud of the positive culture of attendance we have built

together. A huge thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support, and to our children for their commitment to coming to school every day and making the most of their learning. This national recognition is a wonderful achievement for our whole St Mary's community.

WELLSPRING – HARVEST COLLECTION 2026

At St Mary's, one of our SANCTA values is Support, and we believe that living out our Catholic faith means looking beyond ourselves and caring for those in our local community. This Harvest, we are once again supporting The Wellspring, Stockport, by inviting families to donate items that can help people experiencing homelessness or hardship in our local area. Our Harvest collection provides a practical opportunity for our children to put Catholic Social Teaching into action by recognising the dignity of every person, sharing what we have and supporting those who may be facing difficult circumstances. As we give thanks for the food and resources we have, we are reminded that even a small act of generosity can make a meaningful difference to someone else. Thank you for helping our St Mary's community to live out our value of Support and be a source of hope and kindness for others. The Wellspring's [Wish List](#) includes: sugar, coffee, cordial, biscuits, crisps, tinned meat, cereal, butter, pasta sauces and tinned tomatoes. Each class will have a collection bag from **Thursday 1 October until Friday 16 October**. If you are able, please send your child with an item from the [Wish List](#) to support this important cause.



THE MONTH (OR SO) AHEAD...KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event
	<i>Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary. New dates in bold.</i>
12 October	Year 4 celebration of the word at 2:40pm. All welcome.
14 October	Y6 Weight and Height checks.
14 & 21 October	Parents Evenings. 3:40 – 6:30pm.
21 October	PTA Sponsored Bounce.
23 October	Celebration Assembly 2:15pm. All welcome.
23 October	School closes for October half term.
2 November	School reopens following October half term.
6 November	Sparkle Disco. 5:00-6:15pm.
9 November	Year 3 celebration of the word at 2:40pm. All welcome.
11 November	Remembrance Service. 10:50-11:05am. All welcome.
21 November	Parish Christmas Fair – St Mary's, New Mills 10:00-1:00pm.
23 November	Year 6 celebration of the word at 2:40pm. All welcome.
24 November	School Photos.
27 November	School Christmas Fair. 3:30-5:30pm.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend. Mr John Nish.