



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



On Monday, our Year 4 pupils beautifully led our whole-school celebration of the word, focusing on this week's Word of the Week: Respect. Through prayer, reflection and our Bible reading about the Ten Commandments, they helped us understand how God calls us to live in a way that shows love and

respect for Him and for one another. The Ten Commandments remind us of the importance of making good choices, treating others with kindness and recognising the dignity of every person as a child of God. Their message linked closely with our school mission, as we continue to journey with Mary to Jesus for the greater glory of God. They reminded us that respect is shown not only through our words, but also through our actions, our choices and the way we care for the world around us. Our mission for this week is to be respectful to the people and places that we encounter, remembering that even the smallest acts of kindness, consideration and care can make a real difference to others and help us to live out our faith each day.

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 helped 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 Dan, our chaplain, 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.

RELATIONSHIPS AND HEALTH EDUCATION CONSULTATION REMINDER – HAVE YOUR SAY



We would like to remind all parents and carers to take part in our important consultation on Relationships and Health Education (RHE) and our new Catholic programme, *Life to the Full* by Ten Resources. As parents are the first educators of their children, your views are invaluable in helping us shape our approach in partnership with you and in keeping with our Catholic faith.

There are two important steps to complete: Step 1: Complete the online Parent Consultation Course. Visit the [Ten Parent Consultation website](#) and work through the short course, which takes approximately 30 minutes. This explains the programme, outlines the statutory requirements and provides important information about the decisions on which we are seeking your views.

Step 2: Complete the online consultation survey. Once you have finished the course, please share your views by completing our [RHE Parent Consultation Survey](#). It is important that you complete the course **before** submitting the survey, as the information provided will help you respond to the questions.

Please complete both steps by 4.00pm on Friday 23 October 2026. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important consultation and for supporting our partnership between home and school.



FIRE SERVICE BONFIRE AND FIREWORK SAFETY TALK

Yesterday, we were delighted to welcome representatives from the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service who visited school to talk to our Y3-Y6 pupils about bonfire and firework safety in the lead-up to Bonfire Night. The firefighters shared important advice on how to stay safe around fires and fireworks, the dangers of handling sparklers, and what to do in an emergency. Pupils listened carefully and asked very thoughtful questions, showing great understanding of how to enjoy Bonfire Night safely and responsibly. The children even volunteered to dress Mrs Freiberg as a Fire Fighter! We are very grateful to the Fire and Rescue Service for their time and for helping our children learn how to keep themselves and others safe during this exciting time of year.



PARENTS EVENINGS



The first parents evening of the year on Wednesday was a wonderful celebration of the children's start to the new school year. A reminder that the second of our parents evenings will take place in person on **Wednesday 21 October 2026 from 3:40pm to 6:30pm in the school hall**. Appointments are scheduled for *ten minutes* and offer you the opportunity to discuss how your child(ren) has settled into their new class, an opportunity to look at aspects of their work to date and discuss key targets for the coming year. If you are yet to make an appointment they can be made via Arbor. We look forward to

meeting with you.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

Each October, we celebrate Black History Month, recognising the achievements, history, culture and contributions of Black people, both past and present. It is an important opportunity to learn about the individuals, communities and events that have shaped our world, celebrate remarkable achievements and ensure that stories that have too often been overlooked are given the recognition they deserve. At St Mary's, learning about Black history extends far beyond October. Throughout the year, our curriculum provides opportunities for pupils to explore diverse cultures, perspectives and experiences. From discovering inspirational scientists, leaders and campaigners to learning about the Civil Rights Movement, exploring the work of diverse authors and celebrating Black artists and musicians, we help our children develop a deeper understanding of the world and the people who have shaped it. Through this learning, we encourage our pupils to question injustice, challenge discrimination and recognise the importance of equality.

Our school mission, "We journey with Mary to Jesus for the greater glory of God," and our SANCTA values remind us of the importance of respecting the dignity of every person, celebrating our differences and ensuring that everyone feels included. As a Catholic community, we recognise that every individual is created in the image and likeness of God and has a unique contribution to make to our world. At St Mary's, every story matters. We are committed to nurturing a community where every child feels seen, heard, valued and respected, and where our pupils learn to celebrate diversity, stand against prejudice and treat everyone with the dignity, kindness and respect they deserve.



ADVENT 2 CLUBS



A reminder to sign up your children to the many clubs running throughout the next half term. All details are in the letter that has been emailed out today. Thank you.

WELLSPRING – HARVEST COLLECTION 2026

A heartfelt thank you to all our St Mary's families for your wonderful generosity in supporting this year's Harvest collection for The Wellspring. Your kindness will make a real and lasting difference to people in our local community who are facing difficult times. We received this lovely message of thanks from The Wellspring team: *"Thank you, Saint Mary's, for your incredible support and generosity. This year's theme, Growing Futures Beyond Homelessness, reminds us that every donation helps to plant seeds of hope. Your kindness provides not just food, but the chance for people to rebuild their lives, find stability, and look forward to a brighter future. Together, we are helping people grow beyond homelessness and into new beginnings."* Your compassion truly reflects our mission to live out the Gospel message of love and service - helping others to grow and flourish with hope.



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2027



The deadline of **31 October** for Year 6 parents/carers to apply for a secondary school place for September 2027 is fast approaching. Applications to enter Nursery, Reception and Year 7 in September 2027 are now open. To avoid disappointment please ensure that you apply by the on-time deadlines: **31 October 2026** for Year 7, **15 January 2027** for Reception, **31 March 2027** for Nursery. Please follow the below links for useful information which you should read before submitting your application: [Nursery and school admissions - Stockport Council](#) and [Admissions explained - Stockport Council](#).

DOODLE LEARNING – AUTUMN COMPETITION

Between 19 October and 20 November, Doodle are running an exciting competition where your child could **WIN a Doodle goodie pack!** Designed to encourage a few minutes of daily maths practice, taking part is a fun way to promote healthy learning habits and build their knowledge. Plus, everyone who reaches the star target will receive a **printable certificate AND an exclusive in-app badge** to celebrate their hard work! [Please click here for full details.](#)



CHARITY FUNDRAISING



I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all our parents and families for your wonderful generosity over the past two Fridays. On Family Fast Day, we raised an amazing **£88** for CAFOD, helping to fund life-changing projects that support communities in need around the world. The following week, to mark World Mental Health Day, we collected **£111** for Young Minds, a charity that provides vital support for the mental health and well-being of children and young people.

Your continued generosity and compassion show the true spirit of our St Mary's school family to nurture and support.

OPEN EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS/CARERS

There will be an **open morning from 10:00am – 11:30am on Wednesday 3 November** and an **open afternoon from 1:30pm – 3:00pm on Wednesday 5 November 2026** for prospective parents/carers who are considering sending their children to St Mary's in September 2027. If you are in this position, or know of families who are, please spread the word. At both events prospective parents/carers will have the opportunity to visit our wonderful school, meet some of our amazing children and staff, stay and play and see St Mary's in action.



ST MARY'S SHINE AT CROSS COUNTRY

Sixteen runners proudly represented St Mary's at the cross-country event at Bramhall High School last week, and we had some fantastic results! A huge shout-out to Freddie M and Maria W, who both achieved an amazing 2nd place in their age categories! We are so proud of all our runners for their effort, determination and sportsmanship. A big thank you to all the parents who supported the event and to Mrs Ashton for organising everything and arranging transport on the day. Your support helps make these opportunities possible!



A FANTASTIC FOOTBALL VICTORY



Well done to our Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 boys who represented St Mary's in a football match against Warren Wood on Tuesday after school. The team secured an impressive **10-0 victory**, demonstrating fantastic teamwork, communication and sportsmanship throughout the match. While the scoreline was a brilliant achievement, we were equally proud of the way our pupils played, showing respect for their opponents, supporting one another and representing our school SANCTA values brilliantly. A great result, achieved in exactly the right spirit! Congratulations to all involved!

ST MARY'S PARISH MARPLE BRIDGE AND NEW MILLS CHRISTMAS FAIR

The parish of St Mary's, Marple Bridge, and The Annunciation, New Mills, is holding its 2026 parish Christmas Fair and, as part of the parish family, you are warmly invited! The Christmas Fair will take place on **Saturday 21 November, from 10:00am to 1:00pm** at the parish hall in New Mills (St. Mary's Road, New Mills, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 3BW). There will be a tombola, cakes, refreshments, music and themed stalls, including a St Mary's school stall.



PTA NEWS – BOUNCE FOR YOUR CLASS - 'SPONSORED BOUNCE'



Taking place next **Wednesday 21 October**. We're holding this fun event and asking each child to get sponsorship for how many bounces they can achieve in 1 minute! The funds are being raised specifically for each classes wish list items. The PTA are asking all sponsorship money to be paid via [Go Fund Me](#), so that they can track it easier and benefit from being able to claim Gift Aid. As ever, thanks so much for your support!

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>	
21 October	Parents Evening. 3:40 – 6:30pm.
21 October	PTA Sponsored Bounce. Link to Go Fund Me .
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.