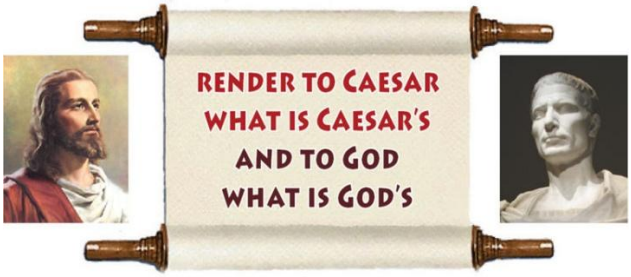
St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

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 7: Friday 23 October 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week, our whole-school celebration of the word was led beautifully by members of our SANCTA Squad, who introduced our theme of *Justice,* drawing inspiration from the Gospel of Matthew (22:15–21). In this Gospel, Jesus is challenged by the Pharisees about whether it is right to pay taxes to Caesar. His wise response, "*Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God,*" reminds us that while we have responsibilities as members of society, our greatest responsibility is to God, in whose image every person is created. This means recognising the dignity and worth of every individual and ensuring that our actions reflect God's love and fairness. Justice is a fundamental virtue of our Catholic faith, calling us to stand up for those who are vulnerable, challenge unfairness and treat everyone with compassion and respect. Our SANCTA Squad helped us reflect on how we can put Jesus' teaching into practice through our everyday choices, recognising that even small acts of courage, kindness and fairness can make a difference. Our mission this week is to identify a situation where something is unfair and consider how we can work together to raise awareness, speak up for others and bring about positive change. By following Jesus' example and putting our faith into action, we can help create a school, community and world where everyone is valued, included and treated with justice and love.

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 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.

OCTOBER HOUSE POINTS

Please see the totals for the month of October. Our Lady of Lourdes House are currently in the lead but there is a long way to go until the end of the term…

Walsingham	Fatima	Lourdes	Knock
1,286	1,199	**1,309**	1,248

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY

Will be held on **Tuesday 24 November**. Preschool siblings are more than welcome to join their sisters and/or brothers who attend St Mary's and can be brought into school via the office entrance from 8:30am.

BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN ON THE ROADS

Please share this important reminder from Stockport Council's Road Safety Team with your children: As the evenings draw in and daylight hours shorten, it's especially important to stay alert and safe when walking or cycling. Encourage your child to wear something bright or reflective, or attach a reflective tag to their school bag, so that they can be easily seen by drivers. If they cycle, make sure their lights are working and switched on. When crossing roads, look for the safest places such as zebra or puffin crossings, and always choose well-lit areas so that both pedestrians and drivers can see clearly. A few simple precautions can make a big difference in keeping everyone safe this autumn and winter.

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.

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 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.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Advent 1 2026 Attendance	
Rec	94.64%
Y1	95.73%
Y2	97.33%
Y3	96.53%
Y4	98.92 %
Y5	98.49 %
Y6	97.07%
Overall	**97.03 %**

At St Mary's we believe that good attendance and punctuality are essential for children to make the most of their learning and enjoy all that school has to offer. We are delighted to share that we have **met our school attendance target of 97% for this half term**, achieving an impressive **97.03% overall**. This means we have reached our target for two consecutive months – a fantastic achievement! Nationally, attendance currently stands at 94.54%, so we are currently performing above the national figure. A huge thank you to all our families for your continued support in promoting excellent attendance and helping every child make the most of their time at school.

2026 POPPY APPEAL

This year, we are once again supporting the Royal British Legion's *Poppy Appeal*, which raises funds to support veterans and their families. Poppies and a selection of child-friendly remembrance items are available from the school office, with a suggested donation of £1 per item. On **Wednesday 11th November**, we will gather together on the bottom playground at **10:50am for our school's Act of Remembrance**. Families are warmly invited to join us for this moment of reflection and prayer. We are grateful to Mrs Groarke-Booth, who will play *The Last Post* during the service. Children who are members of uniformed groups such as the Brownies, Cubs, or Cadets are welcome to wear their uniforms, and any parents or carers serving in the Armed Forces or Emergency Services are invited to do the same as we come together to honour those who have served and continue to serve our country.

PEDAL, SCOOT AND SHINE SUCCESS!

What a fantastic success our recent Cycle & Scoot Week was! It was wonderful to see so many children embracing active travel, choosing to cycle, scoot or walk to school and helping to make our journeys healthier, greener and more enjoyable. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly our brilliant Pedal, Scoot & Shine! Event on Friday 9th October, when children arrived with their bicycles and scooters decorated in an amazing array of colourful, imaginative and eye-catching designs! The creativity, enthusiasm and effort on display were simply fantastic, bringing a real sense of fun and excitement to our school community. A huge well done to everyone who took part and thank you to our families for supporting the event. Of course, our commitment to active travel doesn't stop here! Through our WOW Schools project, children are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school at least once a week, working towards earning a special WOW badge each month. Let's keep up the fantastic momentum and continue making active, sustainable journeys part of the St Mary's Way!

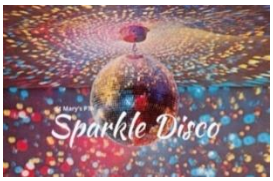
SCHOOL TRIPS SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you so much to those parents that took the time to respond to the school trips survey. 70% of parents replied and the results were overwhelming in the support of the trips that we run in school. The teachers spend a lot of time and effort in choosing suitable visits that link with the curriculum and the children will enjoy. 93% of parents who responded said that they would like to keep two class trips a year. 65% of parents who responded said that they would be happy to pay up to a total of £60, if it means that their child will continue to get 2 class trips a year. 80% of parents who responded said that they would like to keep 2 class trips a year and also have the Panto trip at Christmastime. Based on that feedback we will continue with the current format and a letter will be going out to parents shortly about the Panto, with further information on the class trips as soon as possible.

BIKEABILITY

A huge congratulations to our Year 5 pupils who have successfully completed their Level 1 or Level 2 Bikeability training this week! Throughout the course, the children have demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm, determination and a willingness to develop their cycling skills and confidence. From mastering essential bike-handling skills and maintaining control to learning how to cycle safely and responsibly on local roads, our pupils have gained valuable knowledge that will help them become safer, more independent cyclists. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, positive attitudes and perseverance they have shown throughout the training. A big thank you to the Bikeability instructors for their expert guidance and encouragement. Well done, Year 5, we hope you continue to enjoy cycling, stay safe and put your new skills into practice. Happy cycling!

PTA NEWS



Tickets for our fabulous **Sparkle Disco** are now available to buy. This is taking place the Friday following the half term break on **Friday 6 November**. Tickets are priced at £4 per St Mary's pupil. We are once again having one big family disco from **5:00-6:15pm**. There will be a tuck shop, hot dogs, tattoos and a licenced bar. Sparkly clothing can be worn! Tickets are available via the PTA website.

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH WINE TASTING

Something for the adults! Wine Tasting in aid of HCPT with Dutson's of Marple Bridge. Come along to this popular event, tasting a range of wines at Holy Spirit, Marple on **Friday, 30th October 2026, at 7 for 7:30pm**. Tickets £20 from Liz Foster on 07961 170261, raising funds for HCPT (Hosanna House & Children's Pilgrimage Trust). Wines will be from Dutson's Christmas selection & available for sale at Dutson's after the event. A perfect way to end the Half Term Break.

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

Date	Event *Please note the dates and times detailed below are provisional and may be changed if necessary. New dates in **bold**.*
23 October	School closes for October half term.
30 October	Wine tasting in aid of HCPT at Holy Spirit 7:00 for 7:30pm.
2 November	School reopens following October half term.
6 November	Sparkle Disco. 5:00-6:15pm. Sparkle Disco – St Mary's PTA
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.
30 November	Advent Service 2:40pm. All welcome.

Wishing you all a restful half term break. Mr John Nish.