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 8: Friday 6 November 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Members of our SANCTA Squad led a thoughtful celebration of the word on the theme of *Change*, our word of the week, exploring how small actions can make a big difference. Through the parable of the mustard seed, the inspiring story of St Paul's conversion and the remarkable work of Jadav Payeng, the Forest Man of India, the children reflected on how positive change can grow from the smallest beginnings. They encouraged us all to consider how we can live out our SANCTA values of Support, Aspire, Nurture, Challenge, Trust and Achieve by showing kindness, including others, caring for God's creation and having the courage to make better choices. Their message was clear: we may feel small, like a mustard seed, but with God's help, we can make a big difference. Our whole school community was challenged to put this message into action by making one small, positive change this week.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2026



From **Monday 16 to Friday 20 November**, we will mark Anti-Bullying Week at St Mary's, embracing this year's theme, '*Break the Silence*'. Throughout the week, classes will take part in discussions, activities and reflections to help children recognise bullying, understand the importance of speaking up and know how to seek help if they or someone else is being bullied. We will encourage everyone to have the courage to speak out, listen without judgement and support those who may be struggling. This reflects our SANCTA values, particularly Support, Nurture and Challenge, as we work together to ensure that every member of our school family feels safe, valued and respected. Breaking the silence starts with all of us: telling someone we trust, refusing to join in and standing alongside others can make a real difference. To find out more about Anti-Bullying Week, please visit the Anti-Bullying Alliance website.

ODD SOCKS DAY – MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER



All the children need to do is wear odd socks and the more colourful the better! It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique. National Odd Socks Day is being held on **Monday 16 November** this year during Anti-Bullying Week. During the week in school, we will be looking at some of the Protected Characteristics and talking about respect for all linked to the Anti-Bullying Week theme of '*breaking the silence*'.

DOODLE LEARNING – AUTUMN COMPETITION



Until 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.

ST MARY'S BOOK CLUB – ADVENT 2



We are excited to share our Advent 2 Book Club recommendations. As part of our commitment to developing a love of reading, children will spend time discussing books, sharing their favourite reads and discovering new authors. We have attached this half term's book recommendations for you to enjoy together at home. We hope they encourage children to try new books, talk about their reading and continue to develop a lifelong enjoyment of reading.

CROSS COUNTRY NEWS



Last Saturday, St Mary's attended the 3rd school's cross-country event of the season at Woodbank Park. The weather conditions were perfect for running, no rain and very little mud! Well done to the eight children that took part, especially during the half term break. Special congratulations go to Imogen, Ella, Annie Heney who all finished in top ten positions. The next event is on **Saturday 21st November at 10:15am**. All welcome.

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY

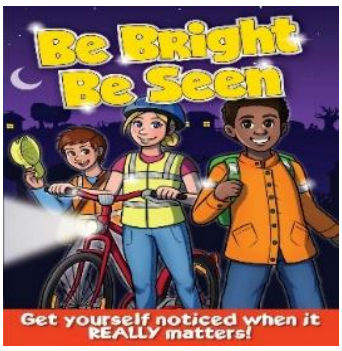
Will be held on **Tuesday 24 November**. Preschool siblings are more than welcome to join their sisters and/or brothers who attend St Mary's and can be brought into school via the office entrance from 8:30am.

ONLINE PARENTING COURSES – FAMILY LIVES

family lives
We listen, support and never judge

Being a parent/carer has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for. The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'. The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents/carers may find themselves lost in a maelstrom of contradictory advice. For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested, please follow this link: https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses. Family Lives offers a confidential and free helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

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.

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.

2026 POPPY APPEAL



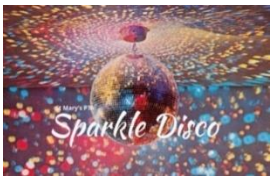
This year, we are once again supporting the Royal British Legion's *Poppy Appeal*, which raises funds to support veterans and their families. Poppies and a selection of child-friendly remembrance items are available from the school office, with a suggested donation of £1 per item. On **Wednesday 11th 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.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



We are delighted to announce that the **Scholastic Book Fair** will be returning to St Mary's from **Thursday 12 November to Wednesday 18 November**. The fair will be open **before and after school in the school hall**, from 8:15am – 8:40am and 3:20pm – 3:45pm offering a wonderful opportunity to explore a wide range of books for all ages. Every purchase helps to earn free books for our school library, so your support makes a real difference in helping us foster a lifelong love of reading among our pupils.

PTA NEWS



Tickets for our fabulous **Sparkle Disco** are still available to buy. This is taking place today, **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.

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****.*
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. Playground. All welcome.
16-20 November	Anti- Bullying Week. Odd Socks Day - Monday 16 November.
21 November	Cross Country at Woodbank Park. 10:15am-12:15pm.
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	PTA School Christmas Fair. 3:30-5:30pm. All welcome.
30 November	Advent Service 2:40pm. All welcome.
9 December	Nursery and Reception Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm.
10 December	Beauty and the Beast Pantomime at Romiley Forum. Y1-Y6.
13 December	Carol Service at Holy Spirit Church, Marple at 4:00pm. All welcome.
16 December	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity 10:00am and 2:00pm
17 December	Christmas Dinner.
21 December	Carol Service 1:30pm-2:15pm in the school hall. All welcome.
21 December	School closes for the Christmas holidays.
4 January	School reopens following the Christmas holidays.

Wishing you all a wonderful sparkle disco weekend. Mr John Nish.