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 9: Friday 13 November 2026

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



This week our word of the week has been Remembrance. On Monday, Year 3 led a beautiful celebration of the word, helping us to understand that in our faith, remembrance is more than simply recalling the past - it's about keeping our connection with God and with our loved ones alive. They reminded us that we remember the saints who came before us, whose examples guide us on our own journey of faith. We remember the sacrifice of Jesus, who gave His life for love of us all. And we remember those who have died, whose love and influence continue to shape who we are today. Year 3 set us a mission for the week: to spend time in prayer remembering those who are important to us and who are no longer with us. They encouraged us to express this remembrance through artwork, and the children have done so beautifully - our school entrance is now filled with moving, heartfelt pieces of art celebrating love, memory and hope. Remembrance at St Mary's has truly been a way for us to honour our past, cherish our present, and hope for our future.

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



On Wednesday 11 November, our school gathered for a moving Remembrance Day service led by our fantastic SANCTA Squad and Faith Friends from each year group. The children led us beautifully in prayer as we paused to honour those who have lost their lives in service to others. We are especially grateful to Mrs Groarke Booth, who played The Last Post and the Rouse with such reverence, and to the parents and grandparents who joined us, especailly Mrs Tadikonda who respresented the Armed Services. It was a powerful reminder of the values of peace, unity, and hope that guide our faith and school family. *We will remember them.*

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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL INSPECTION UPDATE

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, we welcomed two inspectors, Mr Geaves and Mrs Green, from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate (CSI) into St Mary's. It was a really special opportunity to share what makes our school such a wonderful place to learn, grow and live out our faith. Throughout the two days, we were incredibly proud of our children, who spoke so confidently and enthusiastically about their learning, their faith and what it means to be part of the St Mary's family. The inspectors commented extremely positively on the warm welcome they received, the quality of our Catholic Life, Religious Education, Collective Worship, the enthusiasm of our children and the dedication and knowledge of our staff and governors. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to every member of our school family: our children, staff, governors, parents and parishes for the part you played in making the inspection such a positive and uplifting experience. It was a real reflection of the care, commitment and faith that make St Mary's so special. We look forward to sharing the inspection grades and the final report with you once it has been through the quality assurance process. We expect to receive the report in approximately 15 school days. In the meantime, thank you for being such an important part of our St Mary's family.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2026

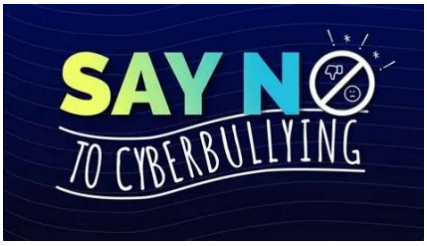


From **Monday 16 to Friday 20 November**, we will mark Anti-Bullying Week at St Mary's, embracing this year's theme, '*Break the Silence*'. Throughout the week, classes will take part in discussions, activities and reflections to help children recognise bullying, understand the importance of speaking 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*'.

CYBERBULLYING ADVICE FOR PARENTS



Children being bullied online, particularly in games and via messaging apps, remains one of the top concerns of many parents and their children. Internet Matters have a range of guides and articles to support parents and carers which I have listed below:

- Talking to children and conversation tips for ages 6-10, 11-13, 14-17 and vulnerable children - **HERE**
- What is cyberbullying and what are the signs - **HERE**
- Helpful ways to prevent cyberbullying - **HERE**
- How to deal with cyberbullying - **HERE**
- Parents experiences of cyberbullying - **HERE**
- Useful parent resources - **HERE**

SPOTLIGHT ON PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS



At school, we believe that every child should feel valued, respected and included. As part of our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, we teach pupils about the nine protected characteristics in an age-appropriate and meaningful way. Through a carefully chosen range of high-quality texts, stories and classroom discussions, children are encouraged to explore and understand differences, celebrate diversity and develop empathy towards others. These texts provide valuable opportunities to consider different experiences, family backgrounds, cultures and identities, helping pupils to recognise the importance of treating everyone fairly and with kindness. Our aim is to nurture a school community where everyone feels that they belong, where differences are respected and celebrated, and where children understand that everyone deserves dignity, fairness and respect.

MATHS HOME LEARNING IDEAS

This November we will be sharing weekly maths home learning ideas. This week's focus is on 'Uno' cards - a resource which can be sourced at a reasonable cost. You could also make your own! This week, we are challenging children to play This or That? at home! The idea is simple: choose two number categories and sort numbers into the correct group. For example, KS1 children could explore Odd or Even? or Multiple of 2 or Not a Multiple of 2? Older children could try Prime or Composite? just like the example! You don't need any special resources. Children can use playing cards or UNO cards to pick their numbers and sort them into the two categories.



How to explain it to your child: Ask your child to imagine sharing a number of counters into equal groups. A prime number can only be arranged into one group of itself or individual groups of one. A composite number can also be arranged into other equal groups. An even number can be shared into two equal groups with nothing left over. An odd number cannot. There will always be one left over.

INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

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.

TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY

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 8:30am – 8:45am 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 - The 2026 St Mary's School Christmas Fair will be Friday 27 November – 3:30pm-5:00pm.



A huge thank you to all our parents and children for the fantastic donations brought into school today for our Christmas Fair. Your generosity and support are very much appreciated! This week each class has been collecting unwanted gifts and teddies, and we will announce the winning class in Monday's assembly. The class that has brought in the most donations will be rewarded with an extra playtime! **But the challenge isn't over yet! We would love every class to get involved and help make this year's Christmas Fair a huge success.** Please continue to support the friendly class competition by bringing in donations on the following dates:

- Friday 20th November: Bottles
- Friday 27th November**:** Chocolates (the day of the Christmas Fair!)

Every donation, however big or small, makes a difference. So please do get involved, encourage your child to take part and help your class go for the win! Your generosity will help us make this year's Christmas Fair a wonderful event for our whole school family! Thank you for your continued support!

WREATH MAKING



We are running our Festive Wreath making class - this will be run by the fabulous Zoe-of the Marple Flower House on **Sunday 29 November at 4:00pm** at Marple Scout Hut. The cost is £25, and this includes all materials and a glass of fizz/mulled wine/soft drink/ tea/coffee etc. All welcome. Tickets and further details are now available on 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**.*
12-18 November	Scholastic Book Fair.
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 weekend.
We'd love to see you at the Book Fair over the next few days. Mr John Nish.