



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 1: Friday 8 September 2023

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Welcome back to the first bulletin of new school year! We hope that this first newsletter finds you well-rested after the summer break. The beginning of a new school year is exciting and busy, and a time ripe for new resolutions. Children may have mixed feelings as they settle into new routines at school, and you'll be easing back into school-time routines as a family too. I am extremely proud of all the children. They have been amazing in getting to grips with these routines either for the first time or after the summer break – especially given the mini-heatwave we are experiencing at present. On Monday, in our first collective worship of the new school year we started with an opportunity for children to reflect on their relationship with Jesus during the summer holidays and, through an imaginative reflection, consider how they want to follow Jesus during the year ahead. The children were reminded of Sunday's gospel – if we are to be a follower of Jesus, we should choose the right path and say no to the things which will not lead us on the right path.

"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let them forget about themselves and what they want, take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24). At St Mary's we follow our St Mary's Way principles of being respectful, being responsible and being ready to learn. Our Golden rules and SANCTA values remind us how we can choose to follow that path so that we can '*journey with Mary to Jesus, for the greater glory of God*'.



Today, in our collective worship, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity. As Catholics we honour Mary as the first and greatest saint. Mary is our missionary role model for living out our mission and SANCTA values. After our whole school worship, each child placed a flower in our Mary Garden to honour Mary and celebrate her birthday. A wonderful start to the school year! Please see the attached Advent Term collective worship calendar with dates that parents are invited to highlighted in yellow.

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

MEET AND GREET CLASS TEACHERS



On Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th September from 3:30pm until 4:00pm, parents/carers are invited to attend a meet and greet session in their child(ren)'s classroom(s). This is a further opportunity to visit your child(ren)'s classroom(s) and meet with their class teacher at the start of the school year following on from the meetings in July.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Please be aware that an increasing number of pupils in school have severe food allergies. The number of pupils with EpiPens on hand, in case of anaphylactic shock, is approaching 20. Training provided on our INSET



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day provided a refresher regarding medical needs for all staff. We are already a nut-free school, but it can be easy to forget. **No nuts, hummus, seeded breads or similar items are allowed in school, so please bear this in mind when planning packed lunches. We cannot stress the importance of this and we thank you for your co-operation and support in this matter.**

INHALERS

Before the summer break, any inhalers that were almost out of date were sent home. If your child requires an inhaler and we do not currently have this in school, please pop into the office with a new inhaler and spacer.



PTA NEWS



The first PTA meeting this year is on Tuesday 12th September at 8pm, please join via [this link](#).

Meeting ID: 828 4129 6514 Passcode: stYYV3

All parents are very welcome to join us - new and not so new.

BIRTHDAYS

As we are a healthy school, we ask that the children do not bring in sweets to school on their birthday. Due to the increase in allergies also, we feel this is the correct decision to take. As last year, each class will introduce their own birthday traditions to celebrate each pupil's birthday. **To support this drive, we would like to ask that your child(ren) continue to wear their own clothes when it is their birthday. We feel this will allow them to feel extra special and will allow the school community to wish them a 'happy birthday!' If their birthday is at the weekend, or in the school holidays, they can choose to wear non-uniform on the Friday before, or the Monday after. If they celebrated their birthday in August, they can choose a day to wear their own clothes in September.**



HEALTHY SNACKS



On the theme of healthy schools - a gentle reminder about snacks. Children in Key Stage 2 (years 3 -6) will need to bring in a snack for morning break time. This should be a piece of fruit or vegetables, such as carrot/cucumber sticks. The children in Key Stage 1 receive free fruit and vegetables in the morning, as part of the government scheme, however they can bring in a snack of fruit/veg if they wish. If in doubt, check that the snack generates no litter or wrapping other than peel or a core!

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The children all look very smart in their uniforms on their return to school. Please ensure coats, jumpers, ties, shoes, shirts etc. as well as PE kits are all clearly labelled. If you use a biro in the short term, remember to repeat this after doing the washing! Thank you to all those parents who have bought a new school bag for our KS2 children. [Bulldog Fashion](#), Glossop have stock for those who were unable to buy a bag in the holidays. Details of our school uniform policy can be found on the [school website](#).



MORNING ARRIVAL



School doors will open at 8:45am and close promptly at 9:00am. If your child arrives after this time, please accompany them to the school office. All late arrivals must be signed in via the office, so that we can keep an accurate register.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU



Please find attached to this email a copy of the school lunch menu, as previously noted we can only accommodate changes to a lunch pattern at the start of each half term. Please note that the menu may occasionally change due to supply chain issues.

SCHOOL ABSENCE

Please note that school needs to be notified of all absences before 9am. Please email Mrs Towell AND Mrs Major if you are unable to get through on the phone. The government have issued the following guidance regarding illness in children <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Professor Chris Whitty has also issued a letter; he says that attending school can help alleviate symptoms of anxiety, and that prolonged absences are likely to heighten anxiety about attending. You can read the letter in full [here](#). Please note that absence during term time can only be authorised exceptional circumstances, such as the death of an immediate family member. Holidays during term time, regardless of the circumstances cannot be authorised. Please see the [attendance and punctuality policy](#) for further details.



SCHOOL PARKING

A polite reminder... As school returns, the surrounding roads around St Mary's are likely to be busier. Please share with family members our agreed parking rules: if another person is picking up/dropping off your child, you may need to share the following points. Please do not park on Lowry Drive and ensure safe parking on neighbouring roads; avoiding parking over drives. Please avoid mounting the kerb, parking in the bus bay and parking on the corners of Lowry/ Constable/ Hogarth. Thank you for your ongoing support. Please see the attached 'did you know' leaflet regarding parking around school sites issued by Stockport Council.



THE MONTH 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.</i>	
12 September	PTA Meeting via Zoom link at 8pm. All welcome.
12 & 14 September	Meet and Greet Class Teachers (3:30pm – 4:00pm in classrooms).
20 September	Harrytown Catholic High School information meeting for parents of children in Y5 and Y6. 5:30pm in the school hall.
25 September	Year 5 Collective Worship at 2:30pm in the hall. All welcome.
29 September	Special Friends Assembly – Reception and Y6 children. 9:30am in the hall.
29 September	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon 2pm in the hall. Cake donations to be brought into school on the morning of the 29 th September.
6 October	CAFOD Family Fast Day – Wear something green - £1 donation.
13 October	World Mental Health Day. (Wear an item of yellow with their uniform - £1 Healthy Young Minds).
18 October	PTA Sponsored Bounce.
20 October	Coffee and Cake with Mrs Bradbury 2pm in the hall.
20 October	School closes for the October half term break.
30 October	School reopens following the October half term break.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you that you are with us on the path ahead. Thank you that you help us up the mountains in our lives. Thank you that you are with us when life is going well. Thank you for helping us to follow you through every step of this school year. Thank you that you are with us and all our family and friends. We will walk with you! Amen.

Thank you for a fantastic first week of term. Wishing you all a restful weekend! J Nish & A Poole.