



#### **THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR: 2018 - 2019**

Welcome to the new school year. It has been a great start to this term. There are lots of smiling faces around the building and I have seen lots of hardworking children in happy classrooms this week. Of course, this has been a short week for the children, but staff have been working hard in advance of the first day for pupils to make sure we hit the ground running. We will be instigating a few new initiatives this year, more about which will be made available in the coming weeks.

#### **THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

- Once again, the first Sunday after the start of school is Education Sunday. It is almost as if it planned that way! If you attend church on Sunday, I am sure Father John, Father Bill or your own parish priest will have something to say about the role of education in children's lives. We should all take time to be thankful for the privileged position our children are in compared to some others around the world today. We will be working with the Catholic charity Mission Together and using our work towards the Rights Respecting School Award to explore these issues this year and to help other children living in more difficult circumstances.
- We have now officially joined the Saint Ralph Sherwin Catholic Multi-Academy Trust with our partner schools in this corner of the Nottingham Diocese. There has been a slight change in our name, but the day-to-day running of the school has continued as normal. Most of the changes involved in becoming an academy take place behind the scenes in administrative areas. Our children, our families and our staff is what makes our school a special place to live and learn and that will continue uninterrupted. We retain strong links with our partner schools in the local area and the wider Stockport Local Authority, which means that we know have two strong wells of support that we can draw on for training and advice. We are happy to welcome the new CEO of the CMAT, Mr Sean McLafferty, to our school on Monday morning to meet staff and pupils.
- The annual Year 6 residential at Savio House in Bollington is due to take place on Thursday and Friday next week. We will be asking the children to think about what it means to be a Year 6 pupil at St Mary's, building our friendship groups and thinking about special roles that the children might have this year. It is something we are all looking forward to.

#### **SCHOOL BUS SERVICE**

Unfortunately GMPTC have had to officially withdraw the bus service to our school. We had to cope last year with the change in service, and I know it has caused some families a fair amount of inconvenience. Hopefully, most families that used this service in the past have found a satisfactory alternative to travel to and from school. Please bear in mind that there may be increased numbers of cars at drop-off and pick-up times, so we must continue to park considerately on the streets around school, for the safety of our children and to maintain good relations with our neighbours.

#### **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

We are keen to continue to develop the partnership between home and school over the coming year. As a staff, we are always struck by how supportive our families in St Mary's can be and we want to continue to work with you to improve the educational, social and personal outcomes for our children. If you have anything that you would like to communicate to school or would like information about a particular matter then there are variety of ways in which you can liaise with school:

- Catch the Head Teacher/staff member on door duty daily, who can answer any questions or pass on messages
- Attend the weekly open assemblies each Friday at 2.30pm
- Read the Friday bulletin each week
- Complete homework activities set out on weekly sheets from each class teacher
- Attend regular parent/ teacher meetings and information sharing sessions
- Remember that we aim to see parents as soon as we are aware of any issue or concern, including the planning of further informal or formal opportunities to meet staff, as required

In addition, please remember to let us know if there are any changes

- in your family circumstances
- with your child's health
- to your home address – temporary or permanent

## SAFEGUARDING

- Jewellery: earrings are not permitted for children due to health and safety reasons. If your child has recently had their ears pierced, plasters must be worn to cover the holes for the remainder of the 6-week initial period; after this, earrings should be removed ready for the school day and can be replaced in the evening. Swimming and PE lessons cannot be undertaken if pupils are wearing earrings.
- Social media & photos: at school or communal events, we ask parents to take photos only for their own personal use, without uploading them onto social networking sites or the internet. This is vital for the privacy rights of our families. We also expect parents to refrain from using any online forum to discuss school matters, including any reference to staff members. Parents are asked to supervise any use of social media carried out by their children.
- Asthma: if your child has an overnight stay in hospital due to asthma, please inform us at school. We will be checking that all inhalers are in date. If your child needs an inhaler and you think that we do not have one, please make one available to the school office as soon as possible.

## PE KITS: Y1-Y6

Please ensure that your child's PE kit comes into school on Monday, if it is not already here. PE kits should be kept in school. The children require blue/black shorts, a plain white t-shirt and trainers. An outdoor kit should be available once the weather becomes colder, consisting of jogging bottoms, a thin waterproof and a thin fleece, if required. Please ensure that the PE kit is in a soft, squashy pump bag – easier to store than a hard-edged rucksack. Black plimsolls can be used for indoor work, if already purchased.

## St Mary's Building Fund

We are very grateful for your contributions over the years to our building fund which we used to pay our contribution to all capital projects as required as a Voluntary Aided School. Now that we are an Academy and part of a Multi-Academy Trust, our financial systems are changing and the bank account that you have been paying your contributions to will be closed in the next month or so. I would, therefore, be grateful if you would cancel your standing order into the Nat West Account No 47946318 as soon as possible.

## Meet and Greet

From Monday 10 - Friday 14 September, there will be opportunities to meet class teachers after school. Drop in sessions will run from 3.30 pm – 4.00 pm. See the timetable below for staff availability.

Year 1: Miss Poole will be available every day except Thursday.

Year 2: Mrs Bramhall will be available Wednesday to Friday.

Year 3: Miss Davies is available Monday to Wednesday; Mrs Rourke is available Wednesday to Friday

Year 4: Mrs Frost will be available every day.

Year 5: Mrs Mitchell is available Monday to Wednesday; Mrs Wilde is available Wednesday to Friday.

Year 6: Mrs Thompson is available Monday to Wednesday; Mrs Britton is available Wednesday and Friday.

## Gardening at St Mary's

Gardening is thriving thanks to our Green Force team of pupils and adults, with ever more planting and the wonderful poly-tunnel that you all raised funds for last year. To make the most of our grounds, the team are looking for more volunteers to help. Usually Green Force meets on Wednesday morning, but there are opportunities to assist on other days. Please contact school if you can spare some time to help.

| <b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis</b> |  |
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| <b>Thu 13 – Fri 14 Sept</b>   | Year 6 at Savio House  |
| <b>Fri 21 Sept</b>  | New school year 'Welcome' mass with Father John at 10.00am in the school hall. |
| <b>Fri 28</b>   | Year 6/ Reception Special Friends assembly.                                    |
| <b>Fri 19 Oct</b>   | Last day of half term  |
| <b>Mon 29 Oct</b>   | Back to school   |
| <b>Wed 7 &amp; 14 Nov</b>   | Parent/ Teacher consultations  |

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Nature Safari:** Marple Bridge Association are running a Nature Safari walk at Roman Lakes on Sunday. Meet the on Town Street at 11.30 am to walk to the Roman Lakes. You will also get free entry to Roman Lakes Open Day.

**Lacrosse Family Fun and Registration Day:** Mellor Lacrosse are running a Family Fun Day on Sunday 16 September. The day starts at 10 o'clock, with a range of activities throughout the day. See the poster in the office window for more information. We have some information leaflets about the junior teams in the office too.