



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have had an enjoyable week and that your children have had a great week in school. I have had the pleasure of teaching in Year 1 for one morning this week and they have settled in superbly to life in Miss Poole's class. The staff are working hard to get the children used to the slightly different ways of working and make sure that they have a smooth transition as they move on from the early years curriculum. In assemblies, I have been asking the whole school about what their aspirations are. What do they want to achieve this year? What would they like to be when they are older? We are really keen that everyone in our school community sets themselves high targets both in school and outside. We want to aim high, try our best and be the best that we can be.

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- I write this before our visit to Savio House with Year 6, excited by the opportunity to spend a couple of days with the class at the top of our school. We will be talking about what it means to be a Year 6 pupil at St Mary's: different opportunities, responsibilities, special friends and leading the school in many different aspects, including prayer and worship. The children in Mrs Thompson and Mrs Britton's class have really got off to a flier. They are fabulous role models around school and I look forward to them helping to lead the rest of the children over the course of the school year.
- Father John will be in school on Friday 21 September. He will say mass for the start of the new year in the school hall at 10.00 am. It is always great to have Father John in school as he has such a lovely manner with the children. He has a special way of relating mass very clearly to their lives. If you haven't attended mass in school before, we would love to see you. If you have, we'd love to see you again!

Please note, there will be no Friday celebration assembly on this day.

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS FOR CHILDREN IN YEARS 5 AND 6

- Harrytown Catholic High School will host an open evening for prospective pupils on Thursday 27 September, 2018. The evening will give children the opportunity to walk around the school, finding out about different aspects of the school and curriculum. The children always come back to St Mary's excited about what lies ahead. For parents, it is an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have about the move up to high school and to gather information to enable you to complete your application forms safe in the knowledge that you are applying for the right school for your child. The open evening runs from 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm. You can drop in at any time.
- Marple Hall High School will host an open evening on Thursday 20 September. Again, it is a great opportunity to have a look around and find out about anything you need to know, such as any particular curriculum or after school interests that your child might like to take part in. Lots of last year's Year 6 attended both evenings and it gave them a good chance to compare two local schools. This open evening runs from 4.30 pm until 8 o'clock.

SAFEGUARDING

- Nut allergy: we do have a child in school with a severe nut allergy. Please can I remind parents and carers that we are a nut free school, please refrain from sending in nuts or food containing nuts for snacks or packed lunches. We will reinforce this message in school, but can you also talk to your child about the importance of not sharing any food at the dinner table. Thank you for your help in regard to this matter.

PE KITS: Y1-Y6

Can I ask again that you check that your child has a PE kit in school? It is vital for the successful participation in any PE lesson that the correct clothing is worn. At this time of year, there will be some indoor and some outdoor lessons. Thank you again for your cooperation.

MEET AND GREET

I hope you have had an opportunity to meet your child's class teacher this week. It is great to see people come in during events like this, as it makes us realise that the children and school have from parents, carers and wider family. Please remember, our first priority is the education and welfare of our pupils. If there is anything that you think that we should know about your child, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

ST MARY'S BUILDING FUND

The fund has now closed. Unfortunately, we cannot cancel the transactions ourselves. Please cancel any standing orders to the Nat West Account No 47946318 as soon as possible.

ADMISSIONS

www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/nursery-and-school-admissions

NURSERY: Consideration for January 2019 start: Birth dates between 1 Sept 2015 - 31 Dec 2015: closing date **31 Oct 2018**

Consideration for April 2019 start: Birth dates between 1 Sept 2015 - 31 Mar 2016: closing date **15 Feb 2019**
September 2019 start: 1 Sept 2015 - 31 August 2016: closing date **31 March 2019**

RECEPTION: for children born between 1 Sept 2014 - 3 Aug 2015: closing date **15 Jan 2019**

SECONDARY: for children born between 1 Sept 2007 - 31 Aug 2008: closing date **31 Oct 2018**

If any parents would like to talk about school admissions and/or arrange a tour of the school, you are most welcome to make arrangements to meet Mrs Murphy through the school office.

GARDENING AT ST MARY'S

Green Force are still looking for additional volunteers to help with gardening projects. Please contact school if you can spare some time to help.

PARENTS AND TEACHER ASSOCIATION

I met with representatives from the PTA on Wednesday morning to map out some events for this year (more information to follow). The PTA are always looking for help with various aspects of running the events that they organise. It doesn't have to be a big commitment; any help is greatly appreciated. Contact school or see the Facebook page for further information.

HOLIDAY CLUB:

We are pleased to confirm that we will be running our Autumn Half Term Holiday Club. Booking Forms are available on the website. Book your place with Mrs Young ASAP.

I hope you all have a happy and restful weekend.

Mr Stephen Murphy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis	
Thu 20 Sept	Marple Hall High School open evening
Fri 21 Sept	New school year 'Welcome' mass with Father John at 10.00am in the school hall PLEASE NOTE: No Friday assembly
Thu 27 Sept	Harrytown Catholic High School open evening
Fri 28	Year 6/ Reception Special Friends assembly at 2pm There will be a special event after school on the top playground after assembly to celebrate our new special friends.
Fri 19 Oct	Year 6 Fire Service session Last day of half term
Mon 29 Oct	Back to school
Wed 7 & 14 Nov	Parent/ Teacher consultations
Sat 1 Dec	Marple Bridge Association's Winter Wonderland
Wed 12 Dec	Nursery and Reception Nativity 10 am and 2 pm
Tue 18 Dec	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance 10 am and 2 pm

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

Boogie Babies: Stockport Music Service have started up new baby and toddler sessions. The sessions will help babies and toddlers to develop language, social interaction and motor skills through music, singing and movement. Parents and carers will gain the confidence and skills to help their child develop and learn through music. The sessions will be 45 minutes long and take place between the following dates (excluding half term): 24 September – 3 December, 14 January – 25 March, 29 April – 22 July, Session for children from 0-18 months will be at 10.00 am. For 18 months to 3 years, the sessions start at 11.00 am. The classes take place at Stockport Music Service, The Fairway, Offerton, SK2 5DS. The cost is £50 per term.

To book a place, or for further information use the contact details below.

Tel: 01614837636

Email: music.service@stockport.gov.uk