



It has been so lovely to see so many smiling faces around school this week. The children are really settling into their new classes. It is great to have Reception and Nursery with us on full timetables now. I always like to go for a visit to see what they are up to when I have been sitting doing paperwork or talking to adults for too long! I'm still waiting for the biscuit that I made yesterday to be delivered, though. I know we say it every year, but I can't believe how quickly the half term is going. We have got lots of fun things planned to keep learning at St Mary's interesting.

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

Unfortunately, our welcome mass with Father John had to be cancelled today due to water leaking into the school hall. The problem is being investigated and we are hoping that it will be sorted out during today. We will rearrange the mass with Father in the coming weeks so keep checking the bulletin for information.

Our Guiding Lights group is up and running again. At Savio House, the Year 6 children were put into different groups, each one looking after a different aspect of school life: Business Gang, Fair Trade, Green Force, Guiding Lights and Book Detectives. The Guiding Lights look after the prayer and worship aspect of school life and one of their amazing plans is to develop a chapel area in school. All of the groups came up with some initial ideas which have fed in to the school development plan. I will try to give each of them a turn at contributing to the bulletin in the coming weeks.

As it is that time of year when the Catholic Church celebrates Harvest Festival, we are asking for donations to The Wellspring (Stockport). The Wellspring is a charity for the homeless and people at risk of becoming homeless. We have made an annual donation of goods to this charity for many years. This year, we are asking for tinned soups, tinned meats, biscuits, shower gel, coffee and mayonnaise. If you can help with a donation of one of the listed items, then it would be greatly appreciated. The children can bring the items directly into classes, then they will be collected by the office by Friday 5 October.

### **HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENINGS FOR CHILDREN IN YEARS 5 AND 6**

I'm sure many of you visited the Marple Hall High School open evening last night. Don't forget that it is Harrytown's turn next week on **Thursday 27 September**.

Harrytown will also come to St Mary's to host an information evening on **Thursday 4 October at 6 o'clock**. It is a really useful session when Mr Turmeau the Head Teacher and Mrs Garratt, the Deputy Head Teacher will tell you all about their school and answer any questions that you might have.

### **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.

### **ST MARY'S PTA**

The first PTA meeting of the year will take place next week. If you are wondering how to become a member of the PTA, then don't fret as you already are one! All parents and carers of children in our school are automatically members. Next week's meeting is on **Thursday 27 September at 7.30 pm** in the school hall. It would be great to see you there. The PTA do an amazing job of raising funds to enrich the learning experiences of all of our children. It relies on active contributions from parents and carers, both male and female. If you can't come this time, have a look at the calendar dates on the next page and pick one of the PTA dates out that you will be able to offer up an hour or two. I know how busy life can be for families, but helping in this way makes a massive difference to the life of the school.

### **PARISH AMBASSADORS**

One of the targets on our school development plan is to establish Parish Ambassadors. Initially, I was thinking that this would be a member of staff, but in discussion with our very keen governing board on Wednesday night, the idea was suggested that school families could fulfil this role much more organically and successfully. We are looking for families to help us to build links with the parishes of St Mary's and Holy Spirit. At the moment, we see it

as an information sharing role: taking leaflets into church about school events and talking to the parish about things that we have going on in school. It would not be an onerous commitment at all and would fit in with your normal pattern of going to church (or get you going slightly more often!). If you think that you could be a Parish Ambassador for one of our churches, then please get in touch by email or on the website 'Contact Us' form.

### BID WRITING FOR EXTRA FUNDING HELP REQUIRED

We are starting quite a few new big projects this year and therefore we would like to try to access extra funding wherever we can find it. One way of doing that is bidding for grants from public and private bodies. For example, the Foyle Foundation have a fund to revamp school libraries and Aviva have a fund that would help us to improve our playground. If you think you can help in this area, or in any way help us access extra funding for projects in school, contact school or the PTA.

### CINEMA ST MARY

On **Monday 8 October at 3.30 pm**, Cinema St Mary opens its doors for the first time. There will be a free showing of Zootropolis. Look out for the letter about it to apply for tickets. It is a showing for adults and children. All children are to be accompanied by an adult and vice versa!

### TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

We have set up the children with an account for Times Tables Rock Stars. It is a fun website and app that incentivises children to become more fluent in times tables. It is far more interesting than I make it sound though. Each child has a character that is a rock star and the more they play the more famous they get. Log in details will go home next week. Encourage your child to play. Times tables are the key to so much of the maths curriculum and, with compulsory test for times tables coming in to schools in 2019-20, it is ever more important to master them.

### CONSULTATION MEETING ABOUT THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF LUDWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Local councillors are holding a meeting to discuss traffic and parking issues related to the proposed expansion of Ludworth Primary School. The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8pm on Thursday 27th September at the Women's Institute on Lowerfold. Thank you to Mrs Vibert for the information.

### ADMISSIONS

[www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/nursery-and-school-admissions](http://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**

### 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.

<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis</b>	
<b>Thu 27 Sept</b>	Harrytown Catholic High School open evening
<b>Fri 28 Sept</b>	Year 6/ Reception Special Friends assembly at 2pm <b>Please note: Reception children will leave school via the door onto the top playground (next to Year 3) on this day.</b>
<b>Thu 4 Oct</b>	Harrytown information evening for parents of children in Year 5 and 6 6 – 6.45 pm
<b>Fri 5 Oct</b>	St Mary's PTA Family Social: school hall, 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm. Tickets available in school.
<b>Mon 8 Oct</b>	Cinema St Mary. In school 3.30 – 5.30 pm
<b>Fri 19 Oct</b>	Year 6 Fire Service session Last day of half term
<b>Mon 29 Oct</b>	Back to school
<b>Wed 31 Oct</b>	Sponsored Bounce
<b>Wed 7 &amp; 14 Nov</b>	Parent/ Teacher consultations
<b>Thu 22 Nov</b>	PTA Christmas Shopping Night: school hall, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
<b>Sat 1 Dec</b>	Marple Bridge Association's Winter Wonderland
<b>Fri 7 Dec</b>	PTA Christmas Fair: in school, 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm
<b>Wed 12 Dec</b>	Nursery and Reception Nativity 10 am and 2 pm
<b>Tue 18 Dec</b>	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance 10 am and 2 pm

## SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

We have set targets in school for things to work on this academic year. Below, you will find an outline of those areas for development. We do have more detailed actions, but I felt it would be too unwieldy to distribute to homes. We welcome parental input into the school development plan, so if you feel that we should add something or have ideas about how we might best reach our targets, please email or use the 'Contact Us' form to let us know. Feedback about this process and ways in which it could be improved are also welcome. So far, staff and governors have been formally invited to contribute. The Year 6 children have also contributed during their time at Savio House, though I didn't actually say that to them at the time! I will endeavour to produce a more child friendly version to discuss with pupils in the coming weeks. Please take advantage of this opportunity to contribute to the school development plan. We greatly value your thoughts.

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy Development Plan

2018-2019

Priority

Objectives

### **Religious Education and Catholic Life of the School**

1 Pupils grow academically, spiritually, emotionally and socially with knowledge of the love of Christ

1.1 Increase the proportion of pupils meeting age-related expectations in Religious Education

1.2 Increase pupil involvement in planning and participation of whole school and group worship

1.3 Develop different aspects of prayer and worship

### **Leadership and Management**

2 Leadership and management ensures highly-effective outcomes for pupils and staff

2.1 Establish an effective new Senior Leadership Team

2.2 Increase the involvement of pupils, parents and governors in shaping the strategic direction of the school

2.3 Develop links with schools in the SRS CMAT family

2.4 Increase the ability of middle and senior leaders to improve teaching and learning through effective monitoring cycles

### **Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

3 High-quality teaching, learning and assessment processes are embedded

3.1 Increase the proportion of outstanding teaching across the school

3.2 Ensure that school's curriculum offer is vibrant and inspirational

3.3 Increase rates of pupil progress through accurate, informative assessment practices

### **Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare**

4 Pupils are engaged and motivated learners with high levels of respect for themselves and others

4.1 Increase the proportion of pupils with excellent attitudes to learning

4.2 Improve pupils' emotional literacy

4.3 Ensure pupils take pride in their learning behaviours and their contributions to the life of the school and society

4.4 Ensure that pupils feel safe in school and know how to keep themselves and each other safe in a range of contexts

### **Outcomes for Pupils**

5 Pupils make at least expected progress from their starting points

5.1 Increase the number of pupils making expected and accelerated progress

5.2 Increase the proportion of disadvantaged pupils making accelerated progress

5.3 Increase the proportion of children working above age related expectations

### **Early Years Provision**

6 Effective Early Years provision ensures excellent outcomes for pupils

6.1 Improve engagement with parents and carers in pupils' education

6.2 Ensure accurate assessment judgements inform ambitious target setting

6.3 Improve proportion of boys attaining Good Level of Development in Writing by the end of EYFS