



THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

The Travelling Cribs have begun their journey. They will be paying a visit to your family in the coming weeks. Each pack contains a set of beautiful wooden figures, and additional items, to enable every family in our school to have an overnight visit from the Holy Family. Please make time to enjoy this experience, whichever day you receive the Travelling Crib, and send the pack back to school the next day, so that everyone has a turn and can be included.

Last week, our Faith Friends went with Mrs Rourke to Stockport Catholic schools' Together in Faith Day. They brought back lots of information about the things they did there and presented it to the school in assembly. Hopefully, they can help to run a Faith Week in school in the next few months to share their experiences with all of our pupils.

Staff INSET tomorrow is a special day to celebrate the Feast of St Ralph Sherwin, the patron saint of our trust. Teachers and support staff will be attending a gathering of all of our schools. We are taking with us the prayer intentions of all of the children in school for the family of schools to pray for.

Nativity rehearsals are in full swing. The Guiding Lights are running a competition to design the front covers of the Year 1 and 2 and Reception and Nursery programmes.

Father Bill will be in for an Advent service on Wednesday 5 December at 10.00am. Families are invited to join us.

We will be sending cards and other things to Father John in the coming weeks. If you would like to send a Christmas card to him, we will be happy to include it in our post pack. Drop them in at the office.

STOCKPORT AUTISM TEAM

As part of our continuing work on respect, we have people from the Stockport Autism Team coming into school on Monday to talk to the children about what it is like to live with autism. The team is made up of four adults with autism, plus a member of the support service in Stockport. They will visit classes for about twenty minutes and talk to the children. I have asked teachers to talk about autism and show parts of the videos in this list in advance:

Age 5-7

Pablo – episodes of programme 'Pablo'. Pablo is autistic child and this combines animation with live action to show how he perceives the world.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/pablo>

This page explains the different characters and the different behaviours that they represent.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/pablo-talking-to-your-child-about-autism>

Age 8-11

My Autism and Me – Newsround (15 mins)

Documentary about a girl called Rosie and how autism (Asperger's) affects her life, plus two boys with autism that shows an obsession over a game and physical needs.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15655232>

Amazing Things Happen

Animated film explaining autism and how brains are different. Shows different behaviours autistic children might exhibit during stressful situations. Talks about the role of friends.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JdCY-cdgkl&app=desktop>

We hope it will be helpful to start a conversation in school about differences and how we can be respectful to everyone. If you would like to discuss anything about this with staff, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

ST GEORGE'S CAROLS

We have had 26 children sign up for St George's Carol Concert. They have gone home with a letter today confirming the arrangements.

WINTER WONDERLAND

Winter Wonderland is this Saturday! Town Street will be closed to traffic. Our KS1 children will be singing at this event (see Christmas events letter sent out previously). We will be on stage for 20 minutes from 2.45 pm, so we ask to meet in front of the stage from 2.30 pm. Hopefully, you have returned your letters to let us know if you can make it by now.

EDUCATION SUMMIT

On Thursday 6 December, there will be a special meeting at Marple Hall to get parents engaged and informed regarding the state of funding for Stockport schools. Stockport is one of the 40 poorest education authorities in the country and there is a growing movement in the authority to petition government to provide better funding for the pupils in our schools. Parents, governors and teachers will be in attendance at the event which is 7– 9 pm.

ADMISSIONS AND TERM DATES CONSULTATION

Stockport Council are currently consulting on term dates for 2020-2021. They offer two proposals for term dates, both of which have the option that the school term will finish on August 5 2021. Both proposals have a three week Christmas break planned in (22 December to 11 January). I know a lot of families find finding holiday clubs and other cover during this time difficult. Why they haven't stuck with the two week Christmas break and reduced the summer term by one week, I don't know. As an academy, we do have greater autonomy over our term dates, but for families that have children in other schools, especially those with children that will have to be available for GCSE results, it would be a terrible inconvenience. You can take part in the consultation here: <https://consultation.stockport.gov.uk/policy-performance-and-reform/admissions-consultation/> You can click through the admission consultations if you wish, then find the term dates on the last page. You can agree with one option or neither, as the case may be.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

Will take place on Thursday 13 December. Christmas hats and/or jumpers are encouraged, along with usual school uniform. Orders must be placed with the office before Friday 7 Dec. School Dinners are £2.20.

PTA CHRISTMAS FAIR

The PTA are in need of volunteers to help with the Christmas Fair one of the highlights of the school year: There will be Santa's grotto, games, stalls, raffles, prizes and much more. The fun runs from 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm on Friday 7 December. The PTA cannot run events without your help. If you spare some time, please email ptastmarysmarplebridge@gmail.com or contact your class rep. See competition details at the end of the bulletin.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis	
Fri 30 Nov	Staff INSET
Sat 1 Dec	Marple Bridge Association's Winter Wonderland
Mon 3 Dec	Teddy Bear Donations
Tues 4 Dec	Secret Gift Room Donations
Tues 4 Dec	St Georges Carol Concert
Wed 5 Dec	Bottle Tombola Donations
Wed 5 Dec	10 am Advent service in the school hall with Father Bill
Thurs 6 Dec	Cakes & Bakes Donations
Thu 6 Dec	Compstall Lights Switch On
Fri 7 Dec	PTA Christmas Fair: in school, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm (No assembly)
Thu 13 Dec	Christmas Dinner Day
Fri 14 Dec	Mr Collins' woodwind pupils will perform during 2.30 pm assembly
Wed 12 Dec	Nursery and Reception Nativity 10:00 am and 2:00 pm
Tue 18 Dec	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Performance 10:00 am and 2:00 pm
Fri 21 Dec	School Closes

COMMUNITY NEWS

Centre Stage Academy of Dance Marple is held every Tues at St Martins Church Brabyns Brow Kids Street Dance (6+) and (10+) Kids Aerial Hoop and Adults Aerial Hoop. Book online at www.centrestage-dance.com or tel: 07870 975195.

Mellor Junior Lacrosse Club are one of the UK's leading teams. There are plenty of opportunities to try this exciting game, contact Martin Mochan (Junior Boys Section Lead) mellorboyslax@gmail.com or Jo Noble (Junior Girls Section Lead) mellorgirlslax@gmail.com