



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 1: Friday 6 September 2019

AN EXCELLENT START TO 2019-2020

You will be pleased to know that the first few days of the term have already been a pleasure. Everyone has made an excellent start this week; the new school year is full of promise!

Thank you for your good wishes, the enthusiasm you show and the support you provide behind the scenes; this is very much appreciated and has certainly contributed to our positive beginning.

By now, you should have received and read the first letter of the school year, distributed on Tuesday. It is worth keeping to hand for reference (information about uniform and PE kits have been included, for example) and a copy will be available on the school website for reference.

The teachers carried out their 'meet and greet' session until 4pm this week, giving those on pick-up duty a chance to pop in to see the classroom and touch base with staff.

Mr Murphy remains in charge of the day-to-day running of the school, building on the excellent work undertaken by him and the team last year. Emails addressed to the headteacher account will automatically arrive in his inbox.

KEEPING IN TOUCH: HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

As another year begins, we renew our commitment to supporting our children and their families, communicating well with parents and other agencies and raising standards and expectations to ensure that our pupils thrive in a happy, loving and purposeful environment.

With this in mind, we aim to keep in close contact with parents in the following ways:

- Head Teacher/staff member on door duty daily, to touch base with everyone and answer any questions or pass on messages
- Weekly celebration assemblies each Friday at 14:30
- Weekly bulletin via the website or email each Friday (let us know if a paper copy is required)
- Weekly homework sheets from each class teachers, available on Fridays
- Regular parent/ teacher meetings and information sharing
- Extending for another year our commitment to having, where possible, an 'open door' policy – whereupon we aim to see parents as soon as we can, in order to resolve any issue or concern
- Informal and formal opportunities to talk to staff, as required

We operate most effectively when we work together. We rely on parents to support us in our work and we are fortunate to already have very positive relationships established throughout the school; this is not a happy accident, but a consequence of the hard work and good will of all involved! In keeping with this, please find enclosed an annual copy of the Home/School Agreement form, which we ask to be signed and returned to school. Copies of the agreement are also available on our website.

HARRYTOWN INFORMATION MEETING FOR YEAR 4, YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6

Mr Turmeau and Mrs Garratt, the headteacher and deputy headteacher of Harrytown, will be in school on **Thursday 12 September at 15:15** to meet parents and present information about their school. We have always had a strong partnership with Harrytown as the Catholic high school that we feed into and it was fantastic to see the great results and hard work of pupils and staff acknowledged by Ofsted who rated them as **GOOD** earlier this year. If you have a child in Year 4-6, this is an opportunity to get to know two of the school leaders and find out what secondary education at Harrytown is all about. The meeting will take place in the Year 5 classroom and if you need to bring your children along, we will make provision for them.

Harrytown High School will also be hosting an open evening for parents and pupils on **Thursday 26 September from 16:30 to 19:30**. You will be able to tour the school and have a go at some of the different things on offer at high school.

SAFEGUARDING

- Staff training: On Monday the teachers attended some school-based safeguarding training which is shortly to be followed up by a statutory session led by Stockport's excellent Safeguarding lead advisor. Our support staff will follow the same programme. This ensures that we are up-to-date with all the latest advice in order to keep our children happy and safe - and provides an opportunity to share examples of good practice.
- Parking: please help us to start the year positively in regard to road safety and consideration of our neighbours. We ask parents not to drive down Lowry Drive but to park further away and walk down to school, ensuring that driveways are not blocked and that the pavement remains fully accessible for pedestrians, buggies/



prams etc. Following an excellent 'no idling' campaign last year, instigated by the Y6 children, we also ask parents not to keep their engines running when stationary.

- 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. Our PTA Facebook page has been established exclusively to advertise and communicate about PTA meetings and events; this should not be used for other purposes.

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. No jewellery can be worn in school: a standard text will be forwarded to parents if earrings are worn, as a reminder of our health and safety requirements, so that they can be removed for the next school day. If your child has newly pierced ears, please let us know; ears should be covered with tape and, after the 6 week period, earrings removed for school in the usual pattern.

FOOD

Water is available in the classrooms for all children, to ensure that they are hydrated throughout busy days! Infant children will continue to receive free fruit daily; our youngest children are also eligible for milk, if parents complete the relevant form. In addition, children who receive free school meals, or have done so at any point in the past, are eligible for milk daily. Junior children (Y3 upwards) are encouraged to bring a piece of fresh fruit (or dried fruit such as raisins/ apricots etc) to eat at playtime, if they wish to have a snack between breakfast and lunchtime. Crisps, bars or other foods loosely connected with fruit are not permitted.

At lunchtime, children who have school dinners are provided with a drink of water or juice. Those bringing packed lunches are asked not to bring fizzy drinks or bottles in their lunch packs; parents are asked to consider healthy lunchbox options in line with the school's 'healthy school' status. We have children in school with nut allergies; we request that parents do not pack lunchboxes with nutty foods (including peanut butter) and breads.

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES: SEPTEMBER 2019

Applications are now open at www.stockportadmissions.gov.uk as follows:

Admission Types	Birth dates between	Application closing date	Offer date
Nursery - Consideration for Jan 2020 start	1 Sep 2016 - 31 Dec 2016	31 Oct 2019	Late Nov 2019
Nursery - Consideration for Apr 2020 start	1 Sep 2016 - 31 Mar 2017	15 Feb 2020	Mar 2020
Nursery - Sept 2020	1 Sep 2016 - 31 Aug 2017	31 Mar 2020	17 May 2020
Primary - Sept 2020	1 Sep 2015 - 31 Aug 2016	15 Jan 2020	16 Apr 2020
Secondary – Sept 2020	1 Sep 2008 - 31 Aug 2009	31 Oct 2019	2 Mar 2020

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 Mr Murphy through the school office.

CLUBS

We hope to offer a number of clubs this term. For after school session, please respond to the relevant letters to sign up as they are distributed (e.g. Cross Country); there will also be lunchtime clubs for children to access covering a range of interests.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis	
Fri 13 Sept	First Friday Assembly of the year – 14:30. All welcome
Fri 20 Sept	Mary Day – celebration of our patron saint's birthday
Fri 27 Sept	Special Friends Assembly 14:00
Fri 18 Oct	Finish for half term
Mon 28 Oct	School reopens
Wed 6 Nov	Parent Teacher Meetings 16:00 – 19:00
Wed 13 Nov	Parent Teacher Meetings 16:00 – 19:00
Wed 18 Dec	EYFS Nativity 10:00 and 14:00
Thurs 19 Dec	KS1 Nativity 10:00 and 14:00
Fri 20 Dec	Party Day / Wear Christmas Jumper / Carols 13:30