



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 2: Friday 13 September 2019

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- We are holding a special Mary Day next week! As part of our celebrations at the beginning of the new school year, and in order to continue the spiritual and social development of our school family (a community which grows and changes each year according to the children, families, staff and governors who belong to us) we are dedicating Friday 20 September to Mary and remembering the church's feast of her birthday last weekend. On Friday, therefore, we will have a non-uniform day and all aim to wear blue/ blue and white. Activities in classrooms will reflect the focus of our patron saint. To add to the festive feel, Mrs Woodward and the kitchen team have agreed to prepare a picnic-style lunch (sandwiches etc) for the school meal children; those having a packed lunch as normal may want to add an extra treat to their boxes! Thank you to all those children who have already brought from home their interpretations of Mary in paint, pencil, collage and 3-D models: they are beautiful and will contribute to the most amazing display in our entrance hall! Keep the artwork coming...
- The St Ralph Sherwin CMAT has appointed a Lay Chaplain for our area – an exciting new role for Chris, a dynamic young man who is an excellent role model for our children. He is going to work with us once a week, dividing his time between ourselves and three other schools. Watch this space for more information!
- The children heard this week that our staff have been given some homework! They are identifying and sharing their favourite Bible passages, which will be displayed around school. Some of the children were interested to hear which phrases, chapters or stories the adults had chosen – and some pupils have been inspired to find their own favourite scripture! Any such quotes would be welcomed.

HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Our Home/School agreement reminds all parties of the strong commitment we share to our continuing and successful working partnership.

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
- A commitment to following up on matters pertinent to your child's success and happiness in school

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 attached a copy of the Home/School Agreement form, which we ask to be signed and returned to school by new parents and those who have not previously completed the form. Copies of this agreement are available on our website and a paper copy supplied, if requested. **We look forward to another successful year together!**

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

We thank Mr Turmeau and Mrs Garratt, the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher of Harrytown, for coming into school on Thursday to meet parents and present information about our feeder high school. We have always had a strong partnership with Harrytown 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.

Harrytown High School will also be hosting an open evening for parents and pupils on **Thursday 26 September from 16:30 to 19:30**. Visitors will be able to have a tour of the school and experience different aspects of life at high school!

Meeting postponed

The school funding summit, planned for 16 September at Marple Hall High School, has been postponed. We will update you with further details when we have news to share.



MEDICAL MATTERS

A member of the supportive school nursing team was in school this week to deliver our annual medical refresher session, covering asthma, allergies and medical matters relevant to our pupils. If your child is ever admitted overnight to hospital in relation to asthma, please let us know. Also let us know if you have any medical updates regarding your child so that we are 'up to speed' with their needs, remembering to talk to us if these change during the school year. Remember that we are unable to administer medicines in school unless they are prescribed and that a dose needs to be taken more than three times a day (since three-times-a-day medication can be administered at home before and after school and at bedtime). We also remind our families that we are a NUT-FREE SCHOOL, so please avoid nutty products, bars and seeded breads whenever sending food into school.

STOCKPORT CROSS COUNTRY LEAGUE

We look forward to hearing from our Y3-Y6 pupils who have offered to represent our school in the Stockport Cross Country runs this year at Woodbank Park!

Please note that there are potentially a couple of access problems for the forthcoming Saturday meetings.

- The junction of Turncroft Lane at Marple Road/Banks Lane/Hall Street is closed until late November. The main access route is via the other end of Turncroft Lane near the filling station at the St Mary's Way end of Hall Street. Access via New Zealand Road is not affected. The main car park at SK1 4BN is still open and is the best one to use.
- There will be additional problems on 14 September due to the Tour of Britain cycling race which passes through Bramhall/Hazel Grove/Marple/Hyde and High Peak. The route will be subject to rolling closure with the time span in Bramhall being 11.35 to 11.40 and approximately 12.00 to 12.20 in Hyde. Road closures will be about 30 minutes before these times.

TOUR OF BRITAIN 2019

How exciting to think that the Tour of Britain cycling race will pass through our area this Saturday! It is a great opportunity for the children to use their map-reading interest/ skills to check the route and consider how Stockport fits into the Greater Manchester area, as well as catch a possible glimpse of famous sporting heroes nearby. Further details of the times are available at: <https://www.tourofbritain.co.uk/stage-eight-timetable/>

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis	
Fri 20 Sept	Mary Day – celebration of our patron saint
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

Have a fabulous weekend!