



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 3: Friday 20 September 2019

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- MARY DAY was a great day of celebration! The usual timetable was put on hold so that we could learn more about our patron saint through art and craft projects, research, liturgical dance and lots of other creative activities. Our picnic-style lunchtime on the top playground helped to emphasise our togetherness as a school family – and made the most of the unexpectedly lovely weather today! We see Mary as an excellent role model, since she heard the Word of God and responded by saying 'Be it done unto me according to thy word' – trusting God and leaving everything in His hands. Mary is famed for her gentleness and care for others, so our Friday certificates today celebrate those qualities in our children.
- Over the summer break we developed a HOLY HUB in school – an area for quiet reflection, meditation and gathering. We look forward to our Faith Friends shaping the area and working alongside our new Lay Chaplain, Chris, to bring new ideas to aspects of school worship.
- Our Y6 pupils had the privilege of an AWAY DAY this week. They travelled by train to New Mills in order to spend time together, conferencing about the changes and expectations in Y6 and considering the responsibilities of becoming a Y6 Special Friend. We look forward to hearing more from them next week at our **Special Friends Friday Assembly**, beginning at the earlier time of **2pm**.

EXCITING NEWS

We have special pieces of news to share this week!

- Our school has, for the fourth consecutive year, won the coveted STOCKPORT LIBRARY SERVICE'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2019! Our children were the highest proportion of pupils in the local cluster of schools to complete the challenge of reading 6 books across the holidays; we also hold the record for the highest proportion of pupils across the whole of Stockport. A new trophy is being crafted currently – since we have retained the trophy from the last three years – and we look forward to a grand presentation in the coming weeks at one of our Friday Assemblies. Our Y6 Book Detectives will no doubt relish welcoming a representative from the Library Service and receiving the trophy on our behalf!
- We have been awarded a Silver Mark in the SCHOOL GAMES AWARDS. Miss Poole filled in the application and had to provide evidence about the range and participation levels of sporting activities in our setting. We are so pleased with this outcome – and the fact that we were judged to be incredibly close to the Gold Mark! We will therefore be aiming over the coming year to increase the number of competitions we compete in, within and outside school, and also provide further evidence of our links with sports clubs in the locality.
- Mrs Ashton and Mrs Boucher will represent our school one evening next week at an event to celebrate sporting achievements in Stockport. We have been invited over the last 4 years – sometimes only in the company of two or three other schools. Watch this space for an update in a couple of weeks!
- Have you read the Marple Review newspaper recently? In the latest edition, there is a super article about last year's Y6 Change Team's 'No Idling' campaign!

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

Harrytown High School will 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!

MUSIC LESSONS

Mrs Felstead will be in school for violin and keyboard lessons all day Monday and on Tuesday morning next week. Please bring your violins in on **Monday** as lesson times will be changed for this week only. Thank you.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE DAY

We ask parents for their support at drop off and pick up time to ensure the health and safety of all at such busy times. In the morning, we ask for no ball games to be played: we do not want adults or children to be dodging balls or – be confined to the edges of the top playground while a small number of children weave in and out playing football. Similarly, at the end of the day, it is important that pupils do not continue to play after being collected by parents and carers – on either playground: Kids Club staff are keen to use the playgrounds as soon as everyone has left the site.



BLUEBELL WOOD CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

The St Ralph Sherwin CMAT has Bluebell Wood as its chosen charity for our region. We are supporting Bluebell Wood in a number of ways:

- Today we collected £1 donations as part of our Mary Day celebrations
- Next week, we have a representative coming to visit school to collect what we have raised this year, and last year, and to tell us more about the charity in a special assembly for the children
- Sean McClafferty, our CEO, and Jacqueline Rodden, Chair of the Trust, are jumping out of an aeroplane at 10,000ft in October to raise money for the Trust's nominated charities – Rainbows and Bluebell Wood.

To sponsor Sean <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/srsrainbowsskydive>

To sponsor Jacqueline <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/srsbluebellwoodskydive>

For Both <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/srskydives>

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.

CYBER SAFETY

During the first half term, every year, in school we cover age-appropriate aspects of cyber safety; this fits in with our curriculum plan for Computing. We are planning to invite parents and carers into school later in the term to follow up the children's work with a session for adults. As parents, family members, teachers... are we all as internet and social media savvy as we could be? This is what we would like to explore. With the changing world online and the growing number of ways social media is accessed, it can be hard to cover this topic without discussion and input from experts. So – watch this space: date to follow!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis	
Wed 25 Sept	Reception Curriculum Evening 18:00
Fri 27 Sept	Special Friends Assembly 14:00, followed by refreshments at the end of the day
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

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Gallery Choir and Poynton Male Voice Choir – wish to entertain you with a joint concert on Friday 11 October at 19.30 at Trinity Church, Massie Street, Cheadle SK8 1DU. Tickets available on the night at the door or to reserve for collection on 456 4266 (Adults £8, Children and Students £5)

Kickstart Drama runs a drama group during term time on Fridays at 4.30 - 6.00pm in the Ludworth W.I. Hall. The sessions are designed for children aged 6 to 11 and incorporate stagecraft, vocal technique, musical theatre and drama games with the aim of developing the children's dramatic awareness and skills in a fun and engaging atmosphere. Spaces are also available in our new group for seniors (12-18 year olds) 6.00pm to 7.30pm. The first session is free and thereafter £10 per week, paid in advance, each half term. All our tutors are working professionals and all hold a current DBS certificate. Anyone who is interested in booking a trial session may contact us via email: kickstartdrama@gmail.com or through our Facebook page #kickstartdrama

Have a great weekend!