



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 7: Friday 18 October 2019

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- We ended our week in school with a beautiful day of Adoration. Fr Bill joined each class for a 10-15 minute time of reflection, prayer, song and a chance to see the Blessed Sacrament at a time other than during Mass. The children were able to enjoy an age-appropriate spell of silence, enjoying sitting quietly with God and each other.
- Chris, our Lay Chaplain, has been a regular visitor each Thursday – and we love to see him in school. He has spent time each week with our Faith Friends, as well as moving around the school so that all classes have chance to plan some worship with him. Yesterday he supported our Faith Friends as they wrote a Rejoice Litany for our Adoration day: it is so beautiful that it is included here. Enjoy!

When we need a friend, we rejoice with Christ. When we're lonely, we rejoice with Christ. When we need comfort, we rejoice with Christ. When we're worried, we rejoice with Christ. When we're joyful, we rejoice with Christ. When we cannot contain our excitement, we rejoice with Christ. When we don't know what to do, we rejoice with Christ.

- As you may remember, or have seen/ heard on the news, Cardinal John Henry Newman was canonised last weekend in Rome. In honour of this occasion, we would like to rename one of our House Groups as Newman House. This begs the question – after which saints shall we name our other three houses? We would like our children to decide: get researching! **Please write a letter to Dr O'Brien, our Chair of Governors, telling him why you think the saint you have chosen is the best.** What qualities does s/he have? Why would they be a good role model for us at St Mary's? After the half term break, we will hold an election process to choose our favourite saints.

REMEMBRANCE IN NOVEMBER

We usually make and sell crafted poppies each November – and plans are in place to continue this tradition. We would also like to fill our entrance hall with poppies to mark the month of November, so if any children would like to make, draw, paint or craft any poppies over the half term break, that would be wonderful. We will display all the pictures and models we receive. We will also open a book of remembrance on 1/11/19 so that we can continue to pray for all those, known and unknown, who have died.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

- **CYBER SAFETY: DON'T FORGET** that parents are invited into school on **MONDAY 28 OCTOBER** at 18.30 to find out more about cyber safety and staying safe online. There are crucial messages to share with our families, if we are to support and enable our children to thrive in the modern world. Thank you in advance to Mrs Claire Wood for offering her area of expertise to us on this day.
- **DISABLED PARKING:** We need to look after all our families who have a member with an ongoing, or temporary, disability. Please do not use the disabled parking bay in the school carpark, at any time, if you do not warrant this space. On the rare occasion that the carpark is full, please drive and park nearby instead.
- **SAFETY IN THE CARPARK:** Cars are permitted to enter the carpark before and after the school day to pick up and drop off at Kids Club, or for other reasons during the school day – e.g. collecting a sick child. If we are to continue to offer this openly, we must insist on safe, slow driving at all times. Pedestrians have priority in our carpark.

BLUEBELL WOOD CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

Sean McClafferty, our CEO, and Jacqueline Rodden, Chair of the Trust, had to postpone their Skydive at the weekend! It had to be rescheduled...but took place yesterday, in all that lovely sunshine! They are mightily relieved to have completed it and thank any donors for their generosity, having exceeded their target of £1,000.

FOOTBALL

On Wednesday, Mrs Britton took some Year 6 boys to a football tournament at Cheadle Town Football Club. The boys did really well to get out of the group stage and only go out at the semi-final stage to a narrow defeat. We're really proud of how they did.



GARDENING

Our fantastic, committed gardening group have put together a newsletter to update the school community on all of the fantastic projects that they have up and running. You will find this attached today.

RALPH SHERWIN TRUST CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

The Trust is running a Christmas card competition; see recent bulletins for more details. The closing date is **Monday 4 November**. If children return their entries (holy pictures, A5 size) by Friday 1/11/19, we will forward these on your behalf.

PTA

The PTA have distributed the annual Sponsored Bounce letters. The bounce day itself will take place on Wednesday 6 November. All permission slips need to be returned by Monday 4 November, with sponsorship forms brought into school on the day. The funds raised will aid the purchase of equipment for the children to play with outdoors in the playgrounds and during reward times. All items will be shared within the school – by pooling the resources we can purchase better quality and more appropriate items.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

We will enjoy our Christmas Dinner in school on Thursday 12 December. If your child has a packed lunch normally but would like a Christmas dinner on this occasion, please let Mrs Biggs know by sending £2.20 in a named envelope by Friday 29 November. If usually your child has a school dinner, a Christmas dinner will automatically be provided.

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES: SEPTEMBER 2020

Parents of Y6 pupils: please note that the closing date for secondary school place applications is coming quickly! SMBC will be sending out letters shortly. Applications are now open at www.stockportadmissions.gov.uk

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	
Mon 28 Oct	School reopens; Cyber Safety Talk for Parents and Carers at 18:30
Wed 30 Oct	Individual photographs – younger siblings welcome from 08.30
Wed 6 Nov	Parent Teacher Meetings 16:00 – 19:00 Appointments available from 14 October 08:30
Wed 13 Nov	Parent Teacher Meetings 16:00 – 19:00 Appointments available from 14 October 08:30
Thurs 12 Dec	Christmas Dinner day
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

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

Holiday Courses – for football, multi-sports, dance and gymnastics to be held at Brabyn's Prep School, Arkwright Road, Marple 21-25 October 2019. To book visit www.littlesportscoaching.co.uk, or phone 0800 0321806

We wish all our children and their families a restful and enjoyable half term holiday! See you on MONDAY 28 OCTOBER.