



# St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Bulletin No 8: Friday 1 November 2019

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Today we celebrate the feast of All Saints' Day, taking the saints in heaven as role models for our lives and remembering that we are all called to be saints. Fr Bill joined us yesterday for Holy Mass, where pupils from across the school led us in prayer and scripture. Those who attended gave great feedback, praising the children's singing and participation and acknowledging the lovely, welcoming, child-friendly way with which Fr Bill leads us in worship. Today, our Y5 class represented the school in our parish Mass, joining the parishioners and Fr Daniel at St Mary's church.

Our Lead Lay Chaplain, Joe Hopkins, visited on Wednesday. He was mightily impressed with the work going on in school related to Collective Worship, thanks to our Faith Friends, Mrs Emery and our own chaplain, Chris. The Holy Hub is being increasingly well used; our key stage gatherings on Thursdays are enthusiastically received by the children; the pupils' target, to sing more lively hymns, is certainly having a positive impact.

### MRS MICHELLE JONES

Mrs Jones has been part of the St Mary's family for over 16 years – initially as a parent, and then as a member of staff working as both a Teaching Assistant and our Midday Supervisor. She will be finishing at our school at the end of next week – Friday 8 November – to pursue new avenues and share her talents more widely. On behalf of all the children and families Mrs Jones has supported over her time in school, and the contribution she has made to the school community and staff team, I wish her all the very best for the future – and hope she will remain a frequent visitor!

### REMEMBRANCE IN NOVEMBER

Thank you to all those talented children who have made, painted and crafted poppies for our November entrance display. We have poppies and British Legion memorabilia for sale at the school office. For those of you who would like us to remember your loved ones in our prayer during November, please come to place their names in our special book next week.

### SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

We were privileged to have Mrs Wood's expertise at our Cyber Safety evening on Monday. Those in attendance gave excellent feedback: they appreciated the wealth of support provided in terms of open conversation and advice about topics such as parent/ child phone contracts, apps to safeguard your children when using devices (and how to set these up), sexting, grooming, what to look out for as your children get older and become more independent online, useful websites... and lots, lots more. The benefits of attending were immeasurable. Mrs Wood has kindly agreed to repeat this type of session in the Lent term for those of you who were unable to join us. There are some booklets in the school entrance hall entitled 'Digital Parenting' which are free for you to collect, should you wish to read further about this important topic.

### CROSS COUNTRY

Please remember to return your permission slips to attend the Cross Country event at Marple Hall School on Tuesday 5 November, by Monday 4 November. Thank you

### PARENT/ TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

The teachers are looking forward to meeting parents over the next two Wednesday evenings in the school hall. Our partnership with parents is paramount: it is no surprise that, when school and teachers are spoken about positively at home, and mutual support is nurtured and respected, children are happy and can do well; where support is required for learning or emotional needs, we



are definitely stronger together with our families! Thank you in advance for your continued support. Please contact the office if you have not yet made your appointment.

### **PARKING**

We have had a number of complaints from neighbours and parents of children in school recently about inconsiderate and unsafe parking. These have included one person having the wing mirror damaged three times in the last few weeks and a child being injured. It is vital for us that we have the safety of our children and families at the forefront of our thinking at all times in and around school and that we maintain good relationships with our neighbours. Unfortunately, we have asked for co-operation in this matter many times over the years and the problem just seems to be getting worse. We ask you again that if you drive to school that you park responsibly, with the safety of others and respect for our neighbours foremost in your minds, and to share this message with grandparents and other family members who might not read this message. We thank you in advance of your co-operation and support in this matter.

### **SCHOOL EMAIL**

Over the coming days, we will be moving to a new internet provider and email service. The email addresses will stay the same, but we are conscious that there might be some disruption to services. Next week, if you have an urgent matter, please contact the office in person or by telephone.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

The photographs taken on Wednesday were sent home yesterday for you to see. Any orders required need to be made – preferably on line following instructions on the order form – by Friday 8 November please. Ordering on line gives us a better commission! Thank you.

### **DRUMZALLOUD**

We had such an exciting experience across the school on Tuesday when the children accessed a unique drumming experience! Each class had a 45 minute slot in the hall - wearing PE kits, fortunately, as it was such an active session! Following the talented facilitator, the children learned techniques and routines while keeping fit and moving to music – it was a real 'feel-good' experience. Ask your children to tell you more about it. If it is popular, we'll invite Drumzaloud back to school!

### **RALPH SHERWIN TRUST CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION**

The Trust is running a Christmas card competition: children are asked to draw/ make an A5 sized holy picture to front the Trust Christmas card. If these come into school ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER, Mrs Boucher can hand them into the office on Tuesday.

### **PTA**

**BOUNCE DAY: Wednesday 6 November.** Pupils can only take part if the permission slip has been completed and returned to school. Don't forget your sponsorship forms on the day!

Christmas Social Evening **Friday 29 November** with Fish and Chip supper, tombola, Christmas quiz and a special visitor! This will be in the school hall from 17:30 to 19:30. Tickets will be available from Monday.

### **BOOK BUS**

This event was due to happen on Tuesday 5 November, but unfortunately it has had to be changed to **Wednesday 13 November**. The bus will be in school from 8:30 until 16:00. Parents can visit the bus at any time, the children will be looking around it during the day. Orders can be made on line at [thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost](http://thebookpeople.co.uk/bigbookboost)

### **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.

Dates on the next page.

<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis</b>	
<b>Wed 6 Nov</b>	PTA Bounce Day
<b>Wed 6 Nov</b>	Parent Teacher Meetings 16:00 – 19:00
<b>Wed 13 Nov</b>	NEW DATE for the Book Bus 8:30 – 16:00
<b>Wed 13 Nov</b>	Parent Teacher Meetings 16:00 – 19:00
<b>Fri 29 Nov</b>	PTA Christmas Social 17:30 – 19:30
<b>Sat 7 Dec</b>	Winter Wonderland: KS1 children will be singing at 2.45pm on Town Street-more details later
<b>Thurs 12 Dec</b>	Christmas Dinner day
<b>Wed 18 Dec</b>	EYFS Nativity 10:00 and 14:00
<b>Thurs 19 Dec</b>	KS1 Nativity 10:00 and 14:00
<b>Fri 20 Dec</b>	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](mailto:kickstartdrama@gmail.com) or through our Facebook page #kickstartdrama

***Have a great weekend!***