



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 12: Friday 29 November 2019

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

As we enter into the church's season of Advent this weekend, the children will be very excited about the big countdown to Christmas! We chatted on Monday in whole school worship about our Advent traditions, which enable us to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth - such as advent calendars, advent wreaths and advent promises, using purple cloths on our prayer tables, linking all these to the liturgical year and our faith traditions. We are also preparing for the many ways in which we share the joy of Advent with each other: our infant children are working hard to share the nativity story with us in 3 weeks' time; Y1 and Y2 will represent us at Winter Wonderland a week on Saturday; our junior children are preparing for the carol festival at St George's church; Y2 will sing their Christmas songs at Smithy Court next week; our Faith Friends have prepared with Chris an Advent service for Fr Bill's visit next week; our Travelling Nativities are coming to all our family homes in turn. Our children have been invited to Holy Spirit's Service of Carols and Readings on Sunday 15 December at 16:00 - KS2 will be singing! We look forward to enjoying all these traditions, events and occasions with you during December.

TRAVELLING CRIBS

Have started their journeys and every family will get a chance to take one home before Christmas. When your child brings a crib home, please use it and return it promptly.

WE HAVE VACANCIES FOR TWO MIDDAY ASSISTANTS from January – please contact Mrs Young for further details.

VLE

Our VLE is no longer compatible with our new provision and we are unable to transfer it over. As only 16% of children have accessed this academic year the cost and time to update it is not viable so we are looking into a more user friendly option for the future.

PARKING

Please read last week's bulletin to familiarise yourself with our parking reminders. It is really important for parking/driving behaviours around our school to improve, so that everyone is safe – on the pavement and on the road. Every person needs to take responsibility for their part: thank you for your attention to this matter.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please remember that you need to contact your Parish Priest (Fr Kevin at St Mary's or Fr Bill at Holy Spirit) to find out about the First Holy Communion Programme for relevant KS2 pupils. The school supports the parishes, but the sacramental preparation itself takes place within the parishes: forms can be collected from the churches.

PTA

OUR CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING takes place tonight and tickets have completely sold out! Thank you to our PTA for planning the launch of our Christmas festivities tonight!



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NOTTINGHAM

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy
Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR
headteacher@st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk
Company No 07937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic M.I.I. Academy Trust

| DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis | |
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| Mon 2 Dec | INSET DAY – children are NOT in school |
| Wed 4 Dec | St George's Carol concert – children to arrive not before 18.50 for a 19:00 start |
| Sat 7 Dec | Winter Wonderland: KS1 children will be singing at 14:45 on Town Street |
| Thurs 12 Dec | Woodwind Assembly 9:30 Parents welcome |
| Thurs 12 Dec | Christmas Dinner day |
| Sun 15 Dec | Holy Spirit Christmas Service – Choir to sing – 16:00 |
| 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 or pyjamas / Carols 13:30 |

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Wellspring is a registered charity situated in the area of Stockport. This service relies solely on donations, as it has no support from the local authority. This year, there has been an overwhelming amount of support in the form of donations, from local agencies and as a result there is a substantial amount of surplus food. The Wellspring would like to give back to the community by offering food parcels to those in need. At school, we can refer disadvantaged families that would welcome more food over the Christmas period. Contact school in confidence for further information or a referral. More information about the Wellspring can be found at www.thewellspring.co.uk



Holy Spirit Church - Children's Liturgy Group
Advent 2019

During Advent the Children's Liturgy Group will meet as usual during the 9 o'clock Mass on a Sunday morning.

We will be preparing for the arrival of Christmas - the coming of Jesus into the world!

The children from the Liturgy Group perform a **Christmas Nativity Play** during the 9.30am Mass on Christmas Day. The younger children act out the story and the older children read the story & the Bidding Prayers.

If any children wish to take part in the Nativity we encourage them to attend as many Liturgy sessions during Advent as possible (and the rest of the year!). We will be rehearsing after the 9 o'clock Mass for approximately 30 minutes on the four Sundays in Advent (1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December). Mums, Dads, Grandparents etc. please feel free to stay and have a tea or coffee in the meeting room.

Please can all children try and make all four rehearsals. It would be fantastic if everyone can attend on the 22nd December – our final rehearsal! We will need the children to be at Church for 9.10am on Christmas Day in order to sort out the costumes, thank you.

Please contact Louise Perry 0161 427 5616 if you have any questions.

Have a great weekend!

PS: DON'T FORGET

Monday 2 December is an INSET Day and the children will not be in school. The staff will be joining members of the Trust so the school will be closed.