



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 13: Friday 06 December 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 or visit www.srscmat.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

Our whole school Christmas dinner is on Thursday 12 December. Christmas jumpers and hats can be worn to make this a special festive occasion.

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.

FLU IMMUNISATION

For those children who were either absent on the initial visit from Intra Health or whose parents didn't get chance to request a flu immunisation forms were sent home on Thursday. These need to be returned by Monday please as they are being collected on Monday and the immunisation will take place on Tuesday 10 December. Should you have any queries regarding this please contact Intra Health themselves on 0333 3583 397.

CROSS COUNTRY/SCRATCH CLUB/FRENCH CLUB

Please note that next week – Wednesday 11 December and Thursday 12 December will be the last cross country/French Club and Scratch club in school. They will resume after the Christmas break.



WINTER WONDERLAND

Year 1 and Year 2 are singing at Marple Bridge Winter Wonderland on Saturday 7 December. If you are attending, meet near the stage at 2:30 pm. The children will be singing from 2:45 pm to about 3:10 pm. Enjoy!

PTA

The PTA Festive Social was a great success. Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the evening. Once again, a huge thank you to all of the parents that volunteered their time to make the event so enjoyable.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Please check for updates on a regular basis	
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!