



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 25: Friday 20 March 2020

<http://www.st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk/>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

We will be thinking about our pupils, families, staff, governors, friends, acquaintances, wider local and global communities at this difficult and uncertain time. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive school family, where people instinctively show care and concern for others. We have tried to keep our school open and running as smoothly as possible for everyone; we have benefited from daily boosts of support through parental messages; we have had offers of help in various forms so that we can plan ahead for the days and weeks to come. Thank you to everyone – a mutually supportive and loving group of people.

We will be sharing resources to support you and your children at home around Catholic Life and prayer. For example, Pope Francis has asked all people to join in with saying the rosary at 8pm tonight; the bishop has a YouTube channel (please subscribe) where he will be posting videos daily

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaf7upUMsn3KI8GD79FotjQ> Also, the Diocesan Youth team, NDCYS, have a link worth exploring: www.youtube.com/ndcyslives

We pray: *God our Loving Father, You are always present. Come to the help of your people who are so precious to you. Be our shelter in this time of uncertainty and strengthen the bonds of our communities. Have mercy on us and protect us at this time as the Coronavirus threatens health and life. Watch over those who are suffering and give strength to those who are helping the sick. We ask this of you in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

REMOTE WORKING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow the links on our school website to find work for pupils set by teachers. This will be updated on a weekly basis. The school's online e-safety policies are relevant to children when working from home: It is important that parents are tuned into what children are looking at online and that behaviour codes are followed accordingly. The relevant policies can be found on the school website under 'Our Policies'.

We also ask that communications relevant to school matters, including queries or concerns, are directed to school rather than shared on a WhatsApp group – in the case of both children and parents. We know that social media is part of daily life now but we are keen in school to look after everyone, even when we are not together, so we must ensure that messages circulated have the best tone and reflect a positive approach.

PARENT MEETINGS

Thank you for your understanding around this week's parent/ teacher meetings being cancelled. We sent home overview sheets which we hope are self-explanatory. For those of you wondering about definitions of judgements, if included on your child's sheet. The key is as follows:



**DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM**

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Company No 07937154



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

E=Emerging towards the expectation for your child's age/ year group; M= meeting the year group expectation; X= exceeding what might be expected for the year group/ age of your child.

If you require a phone call to follow up with your child's teacher, we may be able to facilitate this: let us know if this is an urgent matter for you.

CANCELLATIONS

Most non-vital events have now been cancelled until further notice. This includes:

- CROSS COUNTRY Presentations due to take place on Saturday 21 March
- STOCKPORT JUNIOR CHOIR CONCERT on 2 April
- Cyber safety talk in school on Monday 6 April
- Mass services at our local churches (please check the church websites)
- Marple Carnival

Dates on the school diary have been removed for now: they will be reposted here when we return to school.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Marple Covid19 Mutual Aid Group We are a group of local people coordinating help for those self-isolating due to covid19. Local shops will take payment over the phone and then volunteers will deliver to your doorstep. For more information contact 0161 531 2230 or cvmarple@gmail.com

Message from Mrs Boucher:

Thank you for your ongoing support, as ever, and your patience as we have navigated through this week. With policies and advice changing overnight, we have been responding as quickly as possible and trying to ensure fairness at each point. We are now closed for the foreseeable future – a sad time, given how much we enjoy our work and the fact that everyone's routine has been upturned.

Over time, we will no doubt find a new type of 'normality' and get used to different ways of working. Please bear with us as we put things into place: none of us, at school or at home, have had quite enough time (yet) to make all the arrangements we want or need! However, we remain committed to you, our families: our super staff are stepping up to the challenges ahead and we thank our families for being with us on this strange journey.

You will have received a raft of communication from our Trust: they have been highly supportive of us and have been in daily contact – often multiple times! Please refer to the letters we have circulated this week: copies are on our website.

I am aware that the extra hand-washing has resulted in some children suffering from sore or chapped hands. For those accessing school during the next few weeks, please bring hand cream for personal use, should this be required.

Staff, like our families, have many aspects to consider – family, health, working patterns – these aspects are pertinent to us all. As long as our staff are fit and well, they will be working as usual – either on site or from home. For now, communication for staff can continue to be sent to Mrs Biggs, Mrs Young or myself, using the following addresses:

janet.biggs@st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk

suzanne.young@st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk

Headteacher@st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk

We send our love and best wishes to all members of our school community:
Keep in touch!