



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 29: Friday 1 May 2020

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

We send our best wishes to all members of our school community: stay safe & well

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

We are thinking about each other! As we return to the Pentecost term (returning, yet not returning, to school...) we were thrilled to view the beautiful video made by the PTA and many of our families to share amongst our community. If you haven't yet seen it, please go to the PTA Facebook page (<https://youtu.be/yG3UoXtN1Ys>) as it is unmissable! Unbeknown to the children, the staff team were making a video as well – a picture montage with a special message for all our children: this can be seen on the front page of the school website. Enjoy!

We are reflecting on kindness during the current lockdown period! We have sent birthday cards to Captain Tom and a local lady called Marjorie, both of whom are 100 years old this week; Aoife was on the radio, sharing the lovely news that she made Easter cards for those in a local care home; we are proud of Charlie, his mum and all in the *Your Sewing Machine Needs You* group (parents, staff and local residents), who are making cotton clothing and washbags for those working in the NHS. Are there any other acts of kindness we can share? Please see the attached Kindness Calendar where families can keep records of kindness shown or received over the coming month. Email me any other good news!

We pray for strength and compassion as the lockdown period continues (by Raymond Friel):

God of the indoors,

Who knew the confines of domestic space, at a time of little comfort,

Help us in this time of confinement, help us to see it as an act of love, in solidarity with those who care for us and put their own lives on the line for the sake of others.

Help us to 'make room' for each other, even if room is scarce,

Help us to find reserves of patience we never knew we had, to take offence less easily, to find in our hearts an easy apology when we're petulant.

Help us to be attentive, careful and thoughtful. May we draw deeply from the well of our most loving time. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORD

The Wednesday Word will be providing online versions of their leaflets and booklets at:

www.wednesdayword.org and simply click **"Schools please click here for the Primary School version"**

The link will regularly be updated every Tuesday (the day before Wednesday's leaflet).

HOME LEARNING

We are continuing to offer support to our families as we grapple with the highs and lows of Home Learning! We are really impressed with how well everyone is tackling the challenges – and how honest you are with us when we are in communication with you: thank you. We know that some people will find working on curriculum matters with their children harder than others: you aren't expected to suddenly be teachers, so make sure that you are not too hard on yourselves! We are here to help, throughout the school week: we are working all the time, even though school is not open to many pupils. Remember that our care and interest in how the children are getting on has not waned, even though communication is much more difficult when we are all apart. Ring school, if you are unable to email: we can follow up on messages. We are making contact with you on a cyclical basis: you may have shared emails and/or phone calls with us: this will continue, so don't be surprised if we telephone – and also be aware that teachers may be ringing from home, so calls may register from an 'unknown number'.



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 Multi Academy Trust

We are conscious that we are currently in unprecedented times and are witnesses to a significant time which will be recorded in history. Some parents are already on this wave length and have been in touch! When we return to school, we will ask children's ideas about how to mark this – one idea is to think about an artefact which has meant something to your child, such as a letter or postcard from a loved one, a piece of artwork they have created – another object? Keep thinking.

If children are running out of space in their home learning workbooks, please continue on paper (if available) and keep safe with the exercise book. If you would like a second workbook, and can build into your daily exercise or shopping trip a visit to the school gate, we will leave a plastic, lidded box full of spare books. This box will be accessible between 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday next week.

Reception and Y1 now have access Mathseeds. <https://mathseeds.co.uk/>

Mathseeds log ins will be:

Reception login: first name followed by 20r

Password: receptiion20

If there is more than one child with the same Christian name, add the child's surname initial in lower case

Y1 login: first name and initial of surname followed by 201

Password: year120

Mathletics has been purchased for our children from Y2-Y6 (log-ins to follow) <https://login.mathletics.com/>

In order to help us, and the Trust, understand how things are going for you and your child, there are two surveys we would like you to undertake. Please complete these by Friday 8 May: you therefore have a week. The links are here and it should be self-explanatory. Please support your child in their completion of their survey.

- Parents: <https://edurio.com/poll/pGj1cx>
- Pupils: <https://edurio.com/poll/XqsfRg>

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

As I write, there is no further information about how and when school term time will resume, nor are there indications of how this might be organised. To reassure you, there are discussions within school and the wider Trust so that we can plan for all eventualities. We are conscious of the questions being asked about which year groups might come into school first, how social distancing will be actioned, how we can ensure that the site remains a safe haven – all these questions, and others, are in the media and on our minds. We will continue to keep in touch with you, follow all the advice and guidelines, and plan for any changes just as soon as we can. Thank you for your continued support and patience.

PARENT PAY

Our on-line banking has now changed from School Money to Parent Pay. You should yesterday have received a letter with log-in details. Please go on to Parent Pay and activate your account. All balances were brought forward from School Money - but if you think there is an error, please get in touch with Mrs Biggs by email.

SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

Pupils in receipt of free school meals are receiving shopping vouchers while school is closed. If you believe that your family now qualifies, due to changes in circumstances in recent weeks, please visit the local authority website and follow the guidance.

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals>