



# St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 30: Friday 8 May 2020

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

**We are thinking about...** those who are suffering anxiety through isolation and lack of social contact. Many of those we know will be in the same boat – children and adults: over the last few weeks, our moods and emotional resilience have been tested – and we will sometimes be overcome by, but at other times conquer, our worries. For those who wish to explore wellbeing ideas and activities, please visit our Inclusion section in the Home Learning section of our website. There are lots of materials and links which may be helpful.

**We are delighted to see...** acts of kindness and positivity amongst our school family and the wider community. The Kindness Calendar has hit a chord with some: Jacob has been rivalling the 'grown up' Batman and Spiderman characters by dressing up in his own superhero outfits and cheering up the neighbours! Keep your updates coming; they are all heart-warming!

**We are praying...** using the Wednesday Word materials [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org) and by clicking onto the Trust website, where Joe has continued to prepare daily (short) worship opportunities in the style we use in our own school. Visit <https://www.srscmat.co.uk/prayer-resources/> Interestingly, it seems that people who do not traditionally pray on a regular basis, or at all, have reported that they have turned to prayer in recent times. If you would like a link to prayer and online services, click on <https://www.srscmat.co.uk/praying-at-home/>

## HOME LEARNING

**SURVEY:** Thank you for your feedback to the Edurio survey promoted by the Trust: you might be just in time to add your own contribution! If you have taken part, thank you.

**Parents:** <https://edurio.com/poll/pGj1cx>

**Pupils:** <https://edurio.com/poll/XqsfRq>

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

- Reception login: first name followed by 20r
- Password: reception20

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

All children from Y2- Y6 should now have received their Mathletics login details and a starter guide to access this popular resource: *please email Mrs Biggs if this is not the case.* Those of you with children in KS2 probably remember your children accessing Mathletics in the past! Thanks to the support of the PTA, we have been able to purchase Mathletics again, at a cost of around £1,200, so please use it regularly. Teachers will begin to incorporate Mathletics activities into the Home Learning sheets from now on. <https://login.mathletics.com/>

**VE DAY:** We have incorporated VE Day materials into our Home Learning packs this week: we hope it helps you all to enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend and that these activities support your child in understanding the historical significance of these celebrations.

## ONLINE SAFETY

We have access to an excellent resource for Safeguarding called The Key. The site has introduced a Safeguarding hub for parents which may be really useful to our families. This gives



### St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR  
[headteacher@st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk)

Company No 07937154



you access to information about setting parental controls on devices as well as guidance.  
<https://parenthub.thekeyssupport.com/?uuid=5446764b-88f3-46a7-8116-c5760ffd108f>

## **CONTACT BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL**

We are keen to ensure that we keep in close contact with our families in a way that is not intrusive but is regular. This means that you will have received emails and/or phone calls from school. If we don't get a reply, we will keep trying. If you want to speak to us and initiate a conversation, just ring school as there will be someone to speak to you or pass on a message: we will respond as quickly as we can. If teachers ring back, be aware that they will show up as an unknown caller. Not one to want to miss out, I have also been making some phone calls, checking in with families and catching up on the news in the same way that I would if I was wandering in the playground at hometime! Keeping connected is very important.

## **OUR WORKING WEEK**

You might wonder how we are spending our time at the moment! Well, unsurprisingly it is incredibly busy. Teachers are working their full (actually, probably more...) hours undertaking a variety of tasks: planning the week's work; emailing and ringing parents; supporting pupils who are attending school; developing plans for the curriculum areas for which they have a responsibility (Did you know that all the teaching staff have additional subjects and areas they lead across the school?); collating evaluations of pupils work from the last two terms; carrying out online training and meetings. It is a busy week! On Mondays and Fridays we have a one hour online staff meeting and on a Wednesday we spend the whole afternoon working together online on an aspect of curricular development. Our TAs are equally busy: they have a variety of tasks, including supporting pupils in school, working on admin tasks, undertaking online training and accessing professional development materials; they are a key group which is enabling our school community to cope with all these changes and serve our school family. Mr Hill is working around both end of the day, carrying out additional cleaning and upkeep of the school building. Mrs Young and Mrs Biggs are at home or at school – but permanently online and organising, sorting, writing – keeping us all afloat! The Governors are regularly in touch, via email, telephone and more recently through Microsoft Teams meetings. It is good to know that we have so many dedicated staff!

## **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>

## **PARENT PAY**

Our on-line banking has now changed from School Money to Parent Pay. 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.

## **RETURNING TO SCHOOL**

On Sunday there is speculation that information will be shared about how and when schools will reopen. As I have said before, rest assured that we are working behind the scenes to review and react to all new information so that we can make the best plans possible for you and your families.

*We wish all our families a happy and safe Bank Holiday Weekend! Fionuala Boucher*