



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 31: Friday 15 May 2020

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- **We are thinking about...** Pentecost, the next great liturgical feast, the birthday of the church. If on 31 May from 9am you go to [youtube.com/srschaplaincy](https://www.youtube.com/srschaplaincy) you will be able to enjoy an impressive array of prayers in different languages celebrating our shared faith.
- **We are praying...** to Mary during the month of May. As a school dedicated to the mother of Jesus, we seek the help, prayer and support of Our Lady, thinking of our school community and the wider world. This is an excerpt from a longer prayer composed for our current times:

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity. AMEN.

PLAN TO POTENTIALLY REOPEN SCHOOLS TO MORE CHILDREN

You will be aware that there have been plans shared by the Government to potentially open schools to pupils in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6 from June onwards: guidance has been revised almost on a daily basis all week, which has made communicating any further updates impossible. However, we sent a quick survey to parents of pupils in the above classes to get a quick-fire overview of how parents feel about this prospect. We realise that even in asking for opinions, more questions are raised! Be assured that we are currently reflecting carefully on the Government's guidance and considering how we, alongside the Trust, decide to progress our plans. At all times, the health and safety of pupils and staff will take priority in the plans we draw up. Nothing will change until we are satisfied that all appropriate systems have been considered. Thank you, as ever, for your support and understanding in these strange times.

Next week, there will be two joint letters from the Trust and school for parents: one will be for the N, R, Y1, Y6 parents and the other for parents of children in Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5. Please watch out for these in your inbox.



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR
headteacher@st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk

Company No 07937154



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK: 18-24 May

We are very clear, however, on the importance of the well-being of pupils – whether a return to school is near or far, whether some, all or no pupils return before the summer break, we are discussing ways to support the mental and emotional health of our children. As previously mentioned, should you wish to seek activities yourselves at home, there is a wealth of material on the school website under Home Learning/ Whole School resources/ Inclusion. Take a look: there is something for everyone.

Following on from the above point in relation to well-being, do you remember the Life Caravan work undertaken by your pupils last term? The campaign slogan was/ is SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship): the team have sent links to a fortnightly home-learning pack for parents. The theme is **KINDNESS** – also the focus of this year's Mental Health Awareness Week campaign (18th to 24th of May). The activities help children of all ages to learn how kindness can help them, as well as others. The link to the plans is:

<https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/SCARF-home-learning-plans-set-3>

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

SINGING TIME

Mrs Tennant and Miss Davies have been coordinating a singing project which lower junior children were going to take part in: they were going to be singing in the Town Hall! Some of this has been shared through Home Learning pages on the school website.

Stockport's Community Radio, Your FM, say that they are going to broadcast the Primary Schools' Singing Challenge 2020, Dippy's Explorers, on Tuesday 19th May at about 2:15pm, so that children all across the Borough and across wider Greater Manchester can tune in and sing along, joining their voices across the airwaves, although not able to do so in person with their school friends and teachers.

Your child (or children) can take part, either by tuning into Your FM on 107.8 FM, and also online on the Tune-In Radio app or on their website www.yourfm1ive.com. There is access to online resources to help pupils learn the song available on the Stockport Music Service YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S13pwQrdxaQ&list=PLomtNfUV70W2Uk2C2D4ZiVzxkq2hZLoAS>

If parents email music.service@stockport.gov.uk to let them know that their child took part, they will email them a certificate. They just need the child's name and school. If you want to share a video clip or photo of your child taking part, you can send it to @SKMusicService and @GMMusicHub #GMMGdippy #GMMHsinging.

CONTACT BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

Don't forget that staff are uploading stories on a regular basis for pupils to enjoy.

We are pleased to receive/send messages between home/ school: this is working well for so many. Keep keeping in touch!

With our best wishes to all our families and friends: keep safe! Fionuala Boucher