



# St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 32: Friday 22 May 2020

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- **We are thinking about...** yesterday's feast of the Ascension, when we remember Jesus going back to his Father in heaven and promising us support - which then came in the form of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The children in school yesterday made some amazing moving representations of Jesus being taken up to heaven using a paper cup and a paper figure of Jesus, moving up on a pulley out of sight!
- **We pray...** *Lord Jesus Christ, ascended to heaven, reigning in heaven, and praying from heaven on our behalf: Clothe us with power from on high as you fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that, just as you took earth into heaven, we might bring heaven to earth, in your name. Amen.*
- **We are celebrating...** Pentecost, the next great liturgical feast, the birthday of the church: this is why we have a holiday at this time of year! If on 31 May from 9am you go to [youtube.com/srschaplaincy](https://www.srschaplaincy.com/), you will be able to enjoy an impressive array of prayers in different languages celebrating our shared faith. Also, the prayer resources for us during next week can be found at <https://www.srscomat.co.uk/prayer-resources/>

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

Thank you to all those who are keeping in regular touch with us. It is a full time operation, keeping up with around 250 children and their families, but we are committed to doing this between us! You may get a call or message from any member of the school team - but your class teacher is the most likely caller, as they continue to be your main linked member of staff.

There is no set work for the holiday period. Should you wish to continue with some daily tasks, there are plenty on the school website to revisit as well as accessing BBC Bitesize, if your child enjoys these clips. Some families have enquired about additional activities: Miss Poole has pulled together and uploaded a grid of purposeful, interesting and easy to access optional tasks for children of all age groups to enjoy during the break, so that there is something for everyone to do.

Over the Whit break, teachers will be writing annual reports, planning work for home and school-based learning for the period of 8 June onwards. I have also instructed them to have a break! The holiday period may feel less like an actual 'holiday' with all the commitments parents have with both work and childcare, especially since we have all been so restricted - and this is the same for our school staff, who can perhaps have chance now to find a bit of mum time and down time.

Be aware that, although they will be happy for you to continue sending work to their email accounts, teachers may not be in a position to reply until term starts again. You can email my headteacher account and I am likely to pick up messages regularly,



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though not necessarily daily. During the second week of the holiday, however, I aim to be on the school site and can pick up on any pressing matters.

Want to see familiar faces online? Our bank of stories is increasing:

### **PLAN TO POTENTIALLY REOPEN SCHOOLS TO MORE CHILDREN**

Further to the letters circulated last week from the Trust, this week our families received the school's own overview of proposed plans. Note that these are proposals and may not, in the current form, be what actually happens on 8 June onwards.

The over-arching point for parents is that all our plans are about taking care to keep children and adults as safe as possible while attempting to extend our opening to a wider number of pupils. We have Trust and LA advice and support, along with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE). When making decisions, we will consider our risk assessment of each situation. We thank parents for bearing this in mind when we share our next plans, further down the line.

We have not yet had a full set of replies from parents in N, R, Y1 and Y6: once we have this information, along with the Key Worker updates, we will be in a position to explain which groups of children will be able to phase back in; the phasing may be staggered rather than all at once, depending on numbers.

Today you will find along with this bulletin a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, which may add more detail, should you find it helpful. Thank you to those who have emailed asking for clarification, as this has led to the production of the FAQs.

### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

There has been new criteria set out for free school meal eligibility during the coronavirus period. To be eligible for free school meals, the maximum annual household earnings threshold is £7,400 after tax. This equates to £616 per month.

If you feel your circumstances have changed at this present time and you may qualify please go for further guidance and support to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools>

### **Y6 AND TRANSITION**

Our friends in Y6 would have completed their SATs recently, if time had continued as normal... Despite not sitting these tests, we will be able to share with high schools all their strengths and capabilities as well as setting out where they are up to for their next steps in learning.

Some nice news for them, though, is that their Y6 hoodies have arrived! Mrs Scott and the PTA team will have got them ready to distribute soon. You may contact the PTA at [ptastmarysmarplebridge@gmail.com](mailto:ptastmarysmarplebridge@gmail.com) for further details or watch out for a delivery!

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