



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 33: Friday 12 June 2020

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Joe Hopkins, our lead lay chaplain, has an extended message for our school families this week, which I would like to share with you all.

Catholic Church and Racism

We are proud that our schools reflect the diversity of our Church, that among our pupils and staff we have people of many different nationalities, heritage, abilities, backgrounds, and races. Our Pentecost video was one of the ways we wished to celebrate this. If the whole of our community were present in school right now we would be exploring the issue of racism that has been highlighted in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. Sadly it is hard to do that with the vast majority of our communities at home. I would like to share with you a couple of things that can help us respond as a Catholic Community to the issues raised by the Black Lives Matters movement. I do encourage you to share these with all your staff, pupils, governors, parents and carers:

Statement from the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-solidarity-with-sisters-and-brothers-in-usa-over-evil-of-racism-and-killing-of-george-floyd/>

Message to the Young People of our Diocese from Canon Jonathan Cotton (Chaplain to NDCYS): <https://youtu.be/U7dZwjH4lxs>

Today's Video resource with a reflection on our unity and equality in the eyes of God: <https://youtu.be/1BY5v6hEWAQ>

Missionary Discipleship Challenge

This week's missionary disciple challenge is based on Reverence. We are challenging pupils across the diocese to create a prayer space at home and then take a picture of it and send it in to me or live@ndcys.com see the challenge video here: <https://youtu.be/gAwrNiPLbR8>

SRS:United in Prayer

Our weekly videos are changing (slightly) starting this week

Monday – No video

Tuesday – Tranquil Tuesday – a reflective prayer time

Wednesday – Word on Wednesday – A reading of a passage of scripture with a reflection from some of the leaders in our CMAT and Diocese

Thursday – TopTip Thursday – Inspiration for how we can live out our prayer themes

Friday – My Jam Friday – A time of praise

God bless and once again thank you for all you are doing, Joe

WIDER OPENING OF SCHOOL TO MORE CHILDREN

We have had a successful week as we begin welcoming more children back to St Mary's. All those we heard from by the end of May have been accommodated: those we have heard from since are noted on a list, though parents realise that we have no ability to add more children to our bubbles just now. If you want to know more, watch the video via the Latest News/ Welcome Back button on the front page of our school website.

Children in school have quickly adapted to the changes – perhaps a different classroom, a change in layout, directions about where to walk, follow, play... Well done to all! We look forward to more children joining us over the coming fortnight.

Children at home are not forgotten. We continue to plan and arrange lessons, activities and tasks for them: there will be new information on the website, now that the Whit break is over, and more to come in the next few weeks. We are interested in how pupils are getting on with their home learning and will be evaluating engagement in and quality of work as the term continues.



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Lowry Drive, Marple Bridge SK6 5BR

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

Company No 07937154



Wellbeing Wednesdays: each Wednesday, we would like all our children to pause in the middle of their working week and have a day which fits around healthy living, personal development and considers their own interests. Whether at home or at school, Wednesday will be a day for extra time outside, pursuing hobbies, developing skills around art, craft ... a slightly looser day.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We continue to keep in touch with our families and thank all those who are maintaining good levels of communication with us. Remember that we are here: no one should have a worry, problem or concern for very long, or let any issue fester, as we have been clear from the beginning that parents can contact us directly and initiate a discussion.

SNACKS

Recent communication around returning to school included advice on snacks. The free fruit scheme has been halted until September, which means that children will need to bring in something themselves. We mentioned that these should be 'pocket sized', easy to eat items. Fruit is our preferred option: we want to avoid children bringing a wide variety of snacks, and can't allow unhealthy foods - though we are mindful that children will have had more access throughout the day to different snacks while they have been at home! So – fruit, please.

PARENT PAY

Over the recent months we have changed our on-line payment system to Parent Pay. All parents will have received a letter about this with their login details. There are still quite a few accounts that have not been activated yet. Please rectify this; should there be any outstanding balances, could these be paid as soon as possible? If there are credits in your account, this can go towards any school meals that will be taken or uniform purchased.

Y6 AND TRANSITION

Transition discussions have begun with relevant high schools. Most secondary colleagues who have made contact with us have mentioned that they have contacted families directly with updates about what will be planned for their children. Mrs Garratt has offered to speak to those in school who will be attending Harrytown (if we are happy to arrange this) and has packs to drop off for each child; Mr Barker from Marple Hall is hoping to speak to primary headteachers next week, though there are no plans for staff to come and meet the pupils this term. Where small numbers of our Y6 pupils will be moving onto different high schools, contact has been made as well. It is anticipated that further information will follow and be sent directly to Y6 parents.

FRENCH WITH MRS WILDE

Mrs Wilde has put together a PowerPoint which can be found on the whole-school part of the home-learning website. Each week it will contain a French song and French finger rhyme, with sound files and links to YouTube cartoon-style versions of the song. Enjoy!

MRS FELSTEAD'S MUSIC LESSONS

As we start a new chapter in school, Mrs Felstead will no longer be taking violin and keyboard lessons. She offered to do additional lessons online in recent weeks and those who wished to take her up on this offer have enjoyed this opportunities. The register now shows that all have received at least 24 lessons this year, which is good news. We will now use Mrs Felstead's talents in one of our bubbles on Monday and Tuesday.

MRS MITCHELL'S MAT LEAVE

Today Mrs Mitchell's maternity leave begins. I am sure that you join with all her friends and colleagues in school in wishing her and her husband all the best as this exciting chapter begins. We will keep you posted on any further news in the coming days!

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