



# St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 34: Friday 19 June 2020

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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

We are thinking about our Trust charity, Bluebell Wood.

We are coming to the end of our 2-year association with this important charity, which is linked to the schools in the north of our Trust. Bluebell Wood is a children's hospice – with a wider remit, it has recently been supporting families where members have been suffering with coronavirus as part of the efforts to reduce the burden on local hospitals.

Joe Hopkins is running a fundraiser on behalf of our schools to generate the last donations for Bluebell Wood, before we move to another (and more local charity) to offer our support next academic year. He is hoping that school communities will run/ walk/ cycle the distance to and from Rome by getting sponsorship money for doing so. **As a gesture of support, we will be asking children coming into school to bring £1 and run or walk a circuit of our new running track on the school field.** If home-based pupils would like to do a circuit of their garden or a space near their own home (with parental permission), they can also send in their £1. We'll aim to do this during the remainder of June. This activity may form a nice warm-up for the PTA marathon (see below)!

We are praying for those who are refugees.

Abba Father, our beloved Father, look down with mercy on us and all refugees.

Remember your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, had to leave his homeland and flee to Egypt, when he was a baby, with his mother, Mary, and foster father, Joseph.

Help us to be aware of the fears, anxiety, pain, sorrow, difficulties and uncertainty all refugees suffer, and to remember that we all belong to the same human family.

Holy Spirit, please give us compassion and courage to help them in any way we can. Amen.

20 June marks the United Nation's World Refugee Day, which highlights that **Every Action Counts**. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/refugee-day>

## BLACK LIVES MATTER

Following the murder of George Floyd, protests and other forms of action have revealed people's deep concern at the institutional racism present in all levels of society. Stockport's Ethnic Diversity Service has always worked to make education racially inclusive and they are in the process of developing new courses and resources to share with schools. They have forwarded to schools a guide for parents and carers which describes some ideas on how to talk to their children about Black Lives Matter, which is attached here: please read this through as it may prove to be a really useful document.

## INHALERS

If your child has now returned to school and has an inhaler, please ensure that we now have an up-to-date inhaler, in the correct labelled box, and a spacer. Many thanks



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## **WIDER OPENING OF SCHOOL TO MORE CHILDREN**

School continues to be a happy place, where we are building up our numbers of eligible pupils. We are now pretty much full in all our current bubbles: as we have access to more staff and as advice and guidance changes, we will continue to review our arrangements. We miss everyone who is not currently with us! It is important that we all remember that we remain part of the St Mary's wider community, wherever we are: we are united in spirit, if not in person.

## **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.

Mrs Bradbury has created a sheet for all the children to complete at home. It is about this very different time in our lives. Please complete with memories and special times that you have enjoyed as a family. These may be displayed in school in the future. You can email your return to your teacher or post it, if you would rather do a paper copy.

## **GOOD NEWS**

We continue to celebrate good news stories. This week we have heard that Gerry and Elisha have achieved the Home Activity Leadership Award via the Stockport SHAPES Alliance! Please let us know if other children also followed the link, carried out the work and have received their certificates.

## **PTA**

[A Night in with Stockport Gin Saturday 27th June 2020 8pm-10pm \(£21 per ticket\)](#)

Last chance to buy tickets (closing date 22/06/2020) for our exclusive online event with Stockport Gin. Owners of Stockport Gin Paul & Cheryl (who are St Mary's parents) welcome you into their living room (virtually!) for a fun, gin-filled night! All welcome and feel free to invite your friends and family.

<https://www.stockport-gin.com/products/saturday-27th-june-st-marys-gin-night>

[St Mary's Lockdown Marathon Relay Sunday 12th July 2020 from 10am \(Free of charge\)](#)The PTA is challenging the children of St Mary's to run, walk, jog, cycle, skip, scoot or hop their way from their house to the house of their closest school mate, forming a circular relay route that starts and finishes at school. We will pass an imaginary baton that will link us all together into one long chain that represents our school family.

We wonder whether our school community can work together as a team to achieve a marathon (42.195km or 26.2188 miles)?

Please join us in a socially distanced marathon relay, around Marple Bridge and surrounding neighbourhoods, to have fun and raise funds for the PTA (via sponsorship). Participants will receive an estimated time of arrival of the relay at their house or other start point and live updates to that on the day. No child will be expected to cover more than 1km (less for little ones). Every child will receive a medal. Sign up here (free event) before 05/07/2020: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-marys-lockdown-marathon-relay-tickets-110030847226>

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