



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin No 35: Friday 26 June 2020

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

We are thinking about the reopening of our churches. If you are free for an hour or so on any day of the week, please let us know as the parish of St Mary's in Marple Bridge is hoping to gather a list of volunteers who can, in pairs, sit in church while people drop in for private prayer. From 4 July we may be able to begin attending services, though there will remain some restrictions. Please see the parish websites (of St Mary's and Holy Spirit) for more details.

We are praying to St Peter and St Paul, whose feast day falls on 29 June. Peter and Paul are great examples for us – one who showed weakness and lack of faith but eventually proved to be a solid and true friend to Jesus, worthy of the keys to heaven; and one who began as a persecutor of Christians and yet came to be a great missionary and ambassador through his travels and letter writing.

Saints Peter and Paul, you steered the early Church and proved yourselves to be leaders who modelled and strengthened the faith of Christians. Therefore, I ask you to pray for my faith to grow stronger and stronger every day. Amen.

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 are really proud of Jas: he has been selected as one of the five finalists in the 8-10 category in The Marple Young Writers' Competition with his poem, I Am A Bird. This is a great achievement and we look forward to seeing his work published in an anthology of poetry!

PTA

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 (free) by 05/07/2020: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-marys-lockdown-marathon-relay-tickets-110030847226>



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A REQUEST FOR HELP FROM THE PARISH OF ST MARY'S IN MARPLE BRIDGE.

Parishioners of St Marys would like to pray in church on a Tuesday and a Thursday am/pm but there needs to be at least two volunteers under the age of 70 before this can happen. Are you able to help? This would be for around an hour on a rota basis; all that would be required is to remain in the church while it is open. Please contact danielle-austin@hotmail.co.uk.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/summer-reading-challenge-2020>

The Summer Reading Challenge, presented by The Reading Agency and funded by Arts Council England, encourages children aged 4 to 11 to set themselves a reading challenge to help prevent the summer reading 'dip'. Each year the Challenge, delivered with the support of public libraries, motivates over 700,000 children to keep reading to build their skills and confidence. Last year, in Stockport 3882 children took part: St Mary's retained the reading challenge cup for the third consecutive year!



This year, Silly Squad, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020, will celebrate funny books, happiness and laughter. Children taking part in the challenge will join the Silly Squad, an adventurous team of animals who love to have a laugh and get stuck in to all different kinds of funny books!

The 2020 challenge will feature bespoke artwork from award-winning children's author and illustrator Laura Ellen Anderson (Amelia Fang; Evil Emperor Penguin; I Don't Want Curly Hair).

The digital challenge will be FREE to access, featuring games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading related activities at home. www.sillysquad.org.uk/

The Reading Agency have provided lots of information for parents about signing up for the challenge and this can be accessed from the Summer Reading Challenge website.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/parents-carers>

Children can sign up to the easy-to-use website from the 5th June onwards and create their own profile at <http://sillysquad.org.uk/>

- Usually we ask children to read 6 books, but this year they can set their own challenge to read any amount of books, with children being encouraged to read anything that makes them happy – whether it be comics, joke books, poetry, fiction or non-fiction; in digital or print format. Stockport Libraries have provided a FREE range of e-books and e-audiobooks that will be available via <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/ebooks-and-audiobooks>

from 5th June. There are many copies of these titles so children will not have to wait to borrow any!

The Reading Agency have also provided a book sorter to help you chose a book to read! <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/book-sorter>

- Every time children finish a book, they add it to their profile and write a review. They are rewarded with activities and incentives along the way, such as online badges, games and videos.
- Children receive a downloadable certificate once they've completed their challenge!

Please note we will not be running the inter school cup challenge this year in Stockport libraries.

If any parents or your children are not members of the library they can join online, receive a temporary number via email and start borrowing straight away.

To join the library please visit <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/join-your-local-library>

Due to the COVID-19 effect, this year we have also extended the closing date of the Stockport Children's Book Award so that children can continue to read the shortlisted titles over the summer holidays.

The Stockport Children's Book Award is a reading for pleasure programme that celebrates some of the best current UK fiction for children aged 5-11. Children can read the shortlisted titles in their chosen category and vote for their favourite. They can also enter the art competition to win books for school. More details can be found by visiting our website <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/2020-childrens-book-awards>

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

Fionuala Boucher