



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin Number 1: Friday 4 September 2020

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

AND WE'REOFF!

Hurray! We are back to school and launching into a fresh new school year. Welcome! We have had a very positive start: the children and staff have been really enthusiastic about so much already! Thank you to all our families for bearing with us at the outset: there are lots of plans in place, all of which are under review, in order to ensure a smooth, happy and safe daily experience for all.

We are following a Recovery Curriculum which we have called our Rainbow Curriculum – based around feeling good and connected, identifying gaps in learning, building stamina for the school day and work and working towards 'back to normal'!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

The children accessed a daily power point to set up a positive start for all, linked to our Catholic ethos and culture.

On Wednesday we considered AMDG – ad maiorem dei gloriam, showing that all we do in school (and life) is, ultimately, 'for the greater glory of God'.

On Thursday we considered our school mission and how we live out our aims through the acronym SANCTA: Support-Aspire-Nurture-Challenge-Trust-Achieve

This morning we considered how we can 'live life to the full', as Jesus asked us as recorded in John 10:10. Again – anything good and positive goes here! We remind ourselves that so much of what we do is inseparable from our links to God and our faith.

This afternoon we have shared Friday Worship from our classrooms, where we named our Class Captains for the year: Faith Friends, School Councillors and other aspects will be shared next week. We also celebrated our new pupils, whom we are delighted to have with us in our school family!

SYSTEMS AND REMINDERS

Please refer to Monday's FAB notes, in which I outlined lots of messages. In addition, here are some updates and reminders:

Drop off/ pick up: we will continue to follow our one-way system for the foreseeable future. Please

- Keep moving around the perimeter of the top playground to ensure that adults can stay at the correct distance while progressing along the line.
- Ensure your child already has his/ her bag/ lunchbox etc before getting to the front of the line – this will speed things up
- Stick to your allocated slots, unless you have had a conversation with me. Remember that no one drops off at 8.35 and picks up at 3.15 – this would make our system unworkable and would be unfair. Early drop off=early pick up; late drop off=late pick up. If you arrive in the vicinity before your allotted time, wait until your time slot starts rather than coming onto the playground anyway – as we haven't got enough space.
- Go when your child has been collected. We want to avoid parents chatting on the playground and also at the gate, keeping the flow of people going.
- Continue to be patient: you have been so far and we really appreciate it!



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Water bottles: if these can come into school on a Monday, filled, we will keep them here, to be rinsed and refilled each day in class, before sending home for a weekend wash.

Kids Club: Mrs Major is well on the way with plans to get this up and running within the month. We have moved around our teaching assistants in a way which will support minimising the crossover of adults. Although the guidance on this point has loosened, we are still keen to remain cautious around preserving our bubbles and contacts.

Snack: fruit only, please – as we are a healthy school. If in doubt, check that the snack generates no rubbish or wrapping other than peel or a core!

We are a nut-free zone: this includes sesame seeds, seeded breads and as a consequence, foodstuffs such as hummus, cereal bars and peanut butter. Please check that your children do not bring into school anything which could trigger an issue for any of our pupils with nut allergies.

Uniforms: these need naming, if not already labelled: jumpers, ties, shoes in particular, shirts as well as PE kit. If you use a biro in the short term, remember to repeat this after doing the washing!

Social Media – parents: Your WhatsApp groups are, I know, important to you and you have created your own excellent networks. These will have lots of out-of-school benefits. In terms of messages from school, I would recommend that no one relies on the WhatsApp messages in isolation – everyone needs to keep abreast of the letters and advice which is provided, such as weekly bulletins each Friday, the FAB notes on other days/ occasions, as needed, plus the school website – to which you will be directed for most things. If ever there are messages you need to be aware of, we will let you know.

Social Media – children: Please monitor your child's activity online: so many of you are great at supporting us with this. It is easy for careless words one evening, online, to spill into the next school day and cause upset. I have shared particular reminders with Y5 today on this point.

CROSS COUNTRY

We are part of the Stockport Cross Country League, whose start this year is being delayed until at least November. We will share further updates with you as we learn more.

SCHOOL DINNERS

Mrs Woodward is putting together a 2-week menu so that we can let parents know about the forthcoming meal patterns. Mrs Young will be in touch next week to ask all the 'hot dinner' parents to select the options for their children. Once we have these on our system, they will be replicated on a fortnightly basis until the menu changes. This will make things easier for everyone at lunchtime – especially while we navigate the different arrangements we have in place currently.

SOME THOUGHTS TO LEAVE YOU WITH....

- It takes time to adjust and get back into the swing of routine
- We have a natural inclination for growth and recovery
- 5 ways to wellbeing:
 - **Connect** (relationships are important)
 - **Be Active** (exercise is good for our physical and mental health!)
 - **Take Notice** (look for the positives, as we can sometimes only see the negatives),
 - **Keep Learning** (it builds confidence, skill – and distracts us from worry)
 - **Giving** (acts of kindness are mutually beneficial).

Wishing everyone a well-deserved and happy weekend! Fionuala Boucher