



St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Bulletin Number 2: Friday 11 September 2020

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

A FULL WEEK COMPLETED: WELL DONE TO ALL!

We have now completed a full working week – and what a week it has been! Thank you to our families for the careful way in which you are following our systems in the playground at the start/ end of the day.

Welcome to our new Nursery and Reception families, whose children have been building up their time ready for the wonderful experience of Early Years Foundation Stage learning: lucky children!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- Today we have enjoyed a virtual Friday Worship during which we celebrated the children chosen to be our Faith Friends and School Councillors in each class. We have also launched a 'Heart of St Mary's' for two pupils in Y6, who will be the eyes to spot acts of loving kindness in school: we will watch this idea grow and develop!
- The Wednesday Word is now available through a link rather than the paper copy we used to pass onto you: please follow and enjoy this resource with your children at home. <https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/forgiveness?pid=MTA101634&v=2.2>
- The parish of St Mary's in Marple Bridge and The Annunciation in New Mills has a new resident priest. Fr Daniel Palmer resides in the presbytery on Hollins Lane. I would like to invite the children to consider some words of welcome for Fr Daniel over the weekend (I can feel some card-making on the agenda!).

ADJUSTMENTS, RISK ASSESSMENTS AND PROCEDURES

PLANS: As you know, all our plans and routines are dynamic – we are constantly reviewing and refining in response to, or in anticipation of, advice and updates from the Trust, the government and the local authority. Fortunately, we have excellent support from all sides!

The children have been settling back into their routines and the school day is running quite smoothly; Mrs Tennant, our music teacher, and our sports coaches have returned and we have adjusted their time to suit our adapted timetables; Mr Collins (woodwind) and Mrs Felstead (violin and piano) begin their instrumental lessons next week, where they will each follow a protocol which aligns with our risk assessments and healthy/hygienic routines. We are awaiting word from Mr Reeder as guitar lessons may begin later in the term.

CLEANING: We have a lovely lunchtime cleaner who is on a roll each day, whizzing around the building and cleaning all our toilets, sinks and touchpoints. Pupils are becoming more adept at doing their bit, learning to wipe down their own spaces on occasion – good practice, as our cleaning regime is here for the foreseeable future.

SYMPTOMS: This is the place to go if you have any queries about what to do re Covid-19 symptoms: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> We have been advised to check the live links rather than print out sheets too often, as the advice is so regularly updated. The Trust is collating some FAQs and further advice for us all: watch this space. In the meantime, we will deal with all situations as they arise. One of the latest changes, however, is that it is now recommended that in the case of children suffering



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from any illness, even if not Covid-related, s/he should stay at home until well. Though we could risk unnecessary absences (which isn't what I want at all!), we also need to be careful at this key time, when infections and illness is on the rise. Thank you for your support.

COVID-RELATED CHANGES: Parents need to be aware of the short-notice changes which could occur if we were to have a confirmed case of Covid-19 in one of our pupils/ staff. If a child or adult in one of our classes tested positive, the whole class would be off school for at least a week – with little warning. Please consider your own contingency plans for this type of event! There will be more updates circulated as we have them agreed by the Trust in the coming days.

Our Covid-related change internally this week is around swimming, linked to a bubble closure at another setting and the need for us to adapt our class activities. Y6 will go swimming on Monday 14 September (kit on under uniform, please – but don't forget underwear and towels!); Y4 will go from 21 September for their term of lessons.

FRUIT FOR SCHOOLS

This free provision is up and running again. From now on, children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 will be given a piece of fruit each day for their snack. There will be no need for you to send in another snack for them. KS2 pupils are encouraged to bring a fruit snack as well.

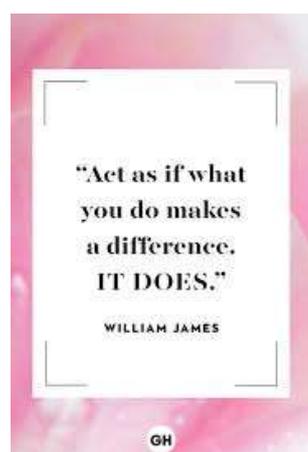
BIRTHDAY TREATS

There is no pressure to bring in treats for birthday celebrations – but we realise that lots of families are in the habit of doing so. Under this new need for additional measures to keep everything extra clean, we would suggest that any treats being brought into school are wrapped individually so that they can be wiped on arrival at home. All children will wash their hands before handling a bagged treat, in any case, and these will not be consumed in school.

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 has emailed 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. Please send your orders back ASAP. Thank you.

SOME THOUGHTS TO LEAVE YOU WITH....



Wishing everyone a well-deserved and happy weekend!

Fionuala Boucher

