



# St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

## Bulletin Number 3: Friday 18 September 2020

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

### **TWO FULL WEEKS COMPLETED: WELL DONE TO ALL!**

We have now completed two full working weeks: well done all round!

Priorities for this week have included stepping up our assessment work, so that we can identify who knows what, how well 'stuck' the knowledge is, what needs to be learned next and how best to plan for the needs of all. We pride ourselves not on making the *quickest* plan but on making the *best, most effective* plan for our learners.

We have also had a little more experience of pupils sensibly having Covid tests as a precaution if ill: should we ever receive feedback about a positive case, we will take the recommended steps – contacting the national and local experts, as well as our Trust, and passing any necessary advice onto parents. As of the 17th of September, there is a new dedicated service for all schools, colleges, nurseries and specialist settings who have been informed of a confirmed case. If we don't share anything directly with you, it means there isn't any update or change to share. Please see the two attachments enclosed, which are handy guides to share related to Covid-19 concerns.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL**

Today we have enjoyed our virtual Friday Worship during which we celebrated the children and families who have been awarded Stockport Shapes Alliance certificates and trophies for the contribution to sport, healthy living and fitness.

- The latest Wednesday Word is now available through this: please follow and enjoy this resource with your children at home  
<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/generous?pid=MTA101634&v=3.3>
- Lots of lovely letters and cards have been written to Fr Daniel this week. I hope to pop over to deliver these next week: he'll be thrilled! Note that the PTA have already tuned into his possible celebrity status: he's already been earmarked to act as a judge in a forthcoming competition... (see attached PTA flier).

### **SCHOOL DINNERS**

HELP! Mrs Woodward put together a 2-week menu so that parents can choose their child's meals and support us as we adapt and streamline our lunchtime routines. Thank you to those who have already made their selection: this has been of enormous benefit and saves so much time! We are still waiting for those who have not yet replied: I do not want the office and kitchen staff to have valuable time taken away on a daily basis by having to check what each child wants to eat – so please ensure you have emailed Mrs Young ASAP with a completed menu. Thank you very much.

### **SPECIAL FRIENDS 2020-21**

At last, we have a plan to ensure that our beloved Special Friends system is retained despite the restrictions on keeping groups small and bubbles intact! As many of you know, we draw together Y6 and Reception children each September to be especially bonded together, as buddied partners, for the rest of the year. We usually hold a big assembly to celebrate this tradition. This year we need to make changes to ensure it happens but takes place in a safe manner.

- We will hold two events – one at 9.30am and one at 2.30pm. This will enable us to have 15 children from each class present in the same space, totalling 30.



### **St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy**

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- If one parent attends per child, that will mean we don't exceed a group above 30 visiting adults.
  - 9.30 am: Reception surnames A-J and Y6 surnames A-Mal
  - 2.30pm: Reception surnames M-W and Y6 surnames Man-Y  
(If in doubt, check with us so that the groups are even!)
- The event will take place on the bottom playground
- The children participating, and staff, will occupy the outdoor classroom; parents and any other children observing (still to be confirmed) will be on the main body of the playground, at a distance.
- Parents are asked to remain well back and separate from each other
- Please leave promptly at the end, social distancing as you go, via the bottom playground and then the top steps to exit at the gate
- Wear a coat with a hood (rather than umbrellas): unfortunately, the weather is not on our side (currently...) for Friday – but we will plough on regardless!

We have an extended bubble between Reception and Y6 for this reason: we have minimised these year groups mixing with others so that we can preserve the Special Friends tradition and enable these two year groups to meet up: the protocol would include washing hands before and after being together. If Y6 ever meet with Y5 or if Reception ever meet with Nursery children, it would be rarely and outdoors.

## PTA NEWS

Our PTA team have been busy planning all sorts of adapted events for us! Here are some details; please also read the attached flier – an exciting opportunity for our creative children!

Date	Event	Details
<b>Sunday 20/09/2020 5pm</b>	200 Club Live Draws (February – August 2020)	All the prize draws we couldn't do during lockdown will be drawn live in one massive give away. We'll be giving away £1,156 to 200 Club members on Facebook live. Join our St Mary's Marple Bridge PTA Facebook group to watch the draw <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/3235708323194788">https://www.facebook.com/events/3235708323194788</a>
<b>w/c 28/09/2020</b>	Scarecrow Festival	Design and make your own scarecrow for planting on the school lawns in time for our Harvest Celebrations. Email <a href="mailto:ptastmarysmarplebridge@gmail.com">ptastmarysmarplebridge@gmail.com</a> for entry instructions. £5 entry fee.
<b>End of September / beginning of October</b>	Year 6 and Reception Special Friends' Photos	Sara Lewin Photography will come into school one day when the weather is fine to photograph the newly paired special friends playing together. Digital photography will be available for parents to purchase. More details to follow.
<b>Wednesday 21/10/2020 (TBC)</b>	Don't Stop Moving outdoor disco	Each class will enjoy an outdoor disco (with a DJ) on the bottom playground during the school day. Children to collect sponsorship for each minute that they keep moving continuously during the disco. Certificates for all.
<b>Saturday 28/11/2020</b>	Santa's Grotto	Father Christmas will be visiting the St Mary's outdoor classroom for timed visits. Booking details to follow.
<b>02-03<sup>rd</sup> July 2021</b>	St Mary's Family Camp	Every year (sadly we were unable to in 2020), many St Mary's families go camping on a field at a farm in Castleton. This is always the first weekend of July.

**A THOUGHT TO LEAVE YOU WITH....**

*Wishing everyone a sunny, fun-filled  
weekend!*

*Fionuala Boucher*

