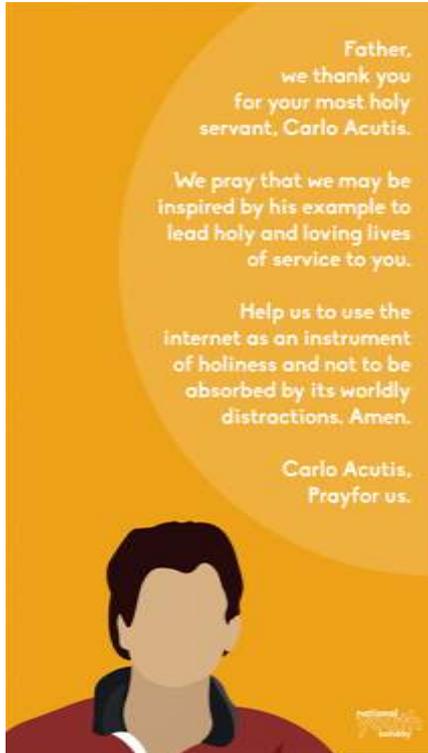




Bulletin Number 11: Friday 20 November 2020

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



<https://nationalyouthsunday.com/what-is-national-youth-sunday/>

We were proud that our oldest pupils took part in the National Youth Fun Day today, in advance of National Youth Sunday (22/11/20). By focussing on the importance of being and working together, we can reaffirm our relationship with ourselves, others and God. In today's sessions, young people were called to think about what following Jesus means to them, using the great example of a modern soon-to-be saint of our time, Blessed Carlo Acutis. For further information over the weekend, follow <https://nationalyouthsunday.com/foryou/>

In our whole school worship time today we celebrated 'A Good Friend Award' across our classes, celebrating pupils who are kind to others and recognise the value of friendship. We recognise that as well as needing our friends, we also need to be a great friend to those around us. Congratulations to all certificate winners!

For a link to the Wednesday Word for this week, please follow:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/kindness?pid=MTA101634&v=10.10>

Prayers are requested for

- Mrs Frost and her family as they come to terms with the loss of their beloved mum, who passed away last week. I know that you will all be thinking of Mrs Frost at this difficult time.
- Fr John, who was taken into hospital yesterday and is unwell: we hope that the medics can ease his pain in the coming days.

COVID-19

The challenges of lockdown continue for us all. Social distancing and wearing face masks have become part of the 'new normal' that everyone talks about. We all know that there are risks we cannot see – and of course in school we see every day the challenges of managing social distancing. The children are doing incredibly well with this, under the circumstances.

We hope that parents and carers will understand that we are trying to use measures to support the whole school community. We know that some of our families are very aware of the need to shield. We hope that asking that masks are worn at collection and drop off adds an extra layer of safety to the process. It has been said in the media on many occasions that the mask does not necessarily protect the wearer, but can help to prevent the disease spreading. We know that face coverings, by their nature, may obscure much of our faces - but we are managing this potential issue and know our families well.

Improving ventilation is a vital part of keeping buildings COVID-secure and reducing the spread of the virus due to the transmission being airborne. Stuffy rooms are an indicator of poor ventilation, so we are keeping the windows open on site while monitoring the classrooms to ensure that it isn't too cold for everyone.

We remain vigilant in and around our school, in the hope that we continue to be able to keep all our classes and bubbles open, as we have managed to do thus far. We have a number of families periodically having to isolate, including situations where a child may test positive, but not

yet at a time linked closely to their attendance in school. We wish all our families and their loved ones continued good health at this time.

CHICKEN POX

Please be aware that, in the last day or two, we have had some cases of chicken pox reported in the lower half of school. Guidance is to remain at home until all the spots have crusted over and your child is feeling well.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS <https://stmaryscatholicvamarplebridge.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

We ventured into the online world to hold the first of our Advent term parent/ teacher consultations on Wednesday. Feedback has been, in general, extremely positive: tops tips for those yet to have their meetings:

- Parents need to read the confirmation email, which outlines the instructions
- Don't forget to press the 'join the meeting' button: if you are early, you will wait in the lobby until your appointment; if you are late, your time ticks away
- Watch the 10 minute timer: it shows your time slot counting down and will cut off after your slot. Please don't be offended as this is the system keeping the diary ticking along
- Remember that the 10 minutes set aside for your appointment is exactly the same length as the live, on-site parent meetings would have been

We look forward to round 2 next Wednesday!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Save the date! On 16 December we will hold our Christmas dinner in school. This festive lunch will comprise of a warm turkey barm with stuffing, pigs in blanket, wedges and a suitably special pudding.

If your child does not normally have a school dinner, but they wish to have one on this occasion as a 'one off', please let Mrs Biggs know by Friday 4 December. After this date it will not be possible to order an extra lunch. £2.20 can be paid on parent pay or at the office.

Christmas jumpers may be worn on this day. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, do not fear: you are not expected to buy one. You can either let your child wear a favourite jumper OR look out for the PTAs plan to pass on/ swap Christmas jumpers*: children grow so quickly, this may be of help to many!

PARENT PAY

If you have not logged on at all to Parent Pay, please could you do so? Dinner money is due for this half term: please go to parent pay to settle your bill which should be paid in advance. Also, music fees for this term are due: again, £50 can be transferred on parent pay.

PTA

Following on from the PTA zoom meeting recently, the following dates have been arranged:

- 27 November: Ginny night in – please see attached poster!
- 7 – 9 December 2020: Slots available between 4-7.30pm for the Magical Doorstep Grotto. Get into your pyjamas, pour the hot chocolate and wait at your window for twinkling lights and festive music as Father Christmas's magical mobile grotto arrives outside your house...Further details to follow.
- CHRISTMAS JUMPER SWAP* The St Mary's Uniform Exchange would like to encourage families to exchange their outgrown Christmas jumpers with each other. Please root out good as new Christmas jumpers you no longer have use for and advertise on our Facebook group. No money should change hands; please arrange your exchanges in a Covid-safe way in good time before Christmas Dinner Day on 16th December. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/841073073087597/>
- PTA FUNDRAISING UPDATE: The PTA has agreed its fundraising objectives: to fund markings and play equipment for the playground and much-needed IT equipment (laptops and iPads). We are grateful to you all that we have raised over £6.5k so far this year towards

these objectives. We have lots more exciting fundraising ideas and are also in the process of applying for grants. Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved ptastmarysmarplebridge@gmail.com

- The PTA say: *Dear parents- if you use Amazon to buy anything please consider using Amazon smile- it means every purchase you make means a small donation for the school. We have attached a PDF sheet containing simple instructions on how to do it. Thanks! Love the PTA.*

TRUST INSET DAY

Don't forget: On Friday 4th December, School will be closed to children.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

2020 Dates	Event	Details
Wed 25 Nov	Parent/Teacher meetings	https://stmaryscatholicvamarplebridge.schoolcloud.co.uk/
Wed 25 Nov	Flu immunisations	For children in Reception to Year 6.
Tues 1 Dec	The Winter Mini Challenge begins	See attached flier for information about a fun Reading project
Fri 4 Dec	INSET day	Children are not in school
Thurs 10 Dec	Youth Team	The Diocesan Youth Team will visit Y4-Y6: they are bringing their giant tent to use, in which they will lead the children in a class retreat! This is free to our school, courtesy of the Trust.
Wed 16 Dec	Christmas Dinner Day	Special meal today for all those who have hot dinners OR who order one for this special occasion
Tue 22 Dec	Term ends	Christmas Break
2021 Dates	Event	Details
Thu 7 Jan	Lent 1 Term starts	Children back in school
Fri 2-Sun 4 Jul	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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CURE Poster Competition by Stepping Hill Hospital: Please see attached letter from Stepping Hill hospital with regards to this competition.

Blue Peter on You Tube: Blue Peter is the longest running kids TV show in the world and they are now uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. There are many features including world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, dance routines and music performances, to name but a few. There are also ways of getting a Blue Peter badge. If you are interested, you can subscribe to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> but also don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.30 every week or on BBC iPlayer.

Mellor Country House Charity: Why not support the Mellor Country House charity? Order your beautiful Nordman, non-drop pine Christmas trees and wreaths at www.mellorcountryhouse.co.uk by Monday 30 November for collection or free delivery within a 5 mile radius on Saturday 5 or Sunday 6 December. Prices range from £32 for a 4-5ft and £72 for a 12 ft tree; plain wreaths £10.

We are holding an online Christmas delights market from 24 October to 5 December selling Christmas gifts and treats. If there is anyone in the school community who sells craft items or other products and would like a stall please message Mellor Country House on facebook to request one.

A FINAL THOUGHT:

"To come out of this crisis better than before, we have to do so together; together, not alone. Together. Alone no, because it cannot be done. Either it is done together, or it is not done. We must do it together, all of us, in solidarity."

Pope Francis, September 2020

Have a happy weekend, everyone!
Fionuala Boucher