



Bulletin Number 8: Friday 23 October 2020

A HALF TERM COMPLETED

Well – we have finally made it to the half term break! Huge thanks to all our families, governors, staff and the Trust for the extensive mutual support and understanding shown by and to everyone in our school community. We have, thus far, escaped any class closures and have not (yet) had any reports of confirmed cases of staff or pupils, which seems to be an extremely rare phenomenon in the current climate. While we know that it is highly likely that we will, at some stage, have to manage a case or cases, we are pleased to have been able to maintain all the measures which have kept the virus at bay – hand washing, social distancing, class bubbling, timetabling arrangements and staff working in a minimal number of zones.

Behind the scenes, we are busily working through plans for our remote learning offer. We have devised a policy which would come into play if we have pupils working off site; we have sampled a few of these strategies with pupils isolating at home. Systems will include use of the internet, a new intranet and home-learning platforms including Google Classroom (we are brushing up our skills!). Our policy will be on our website as soon as it is ratified by the Trust and our Governing Board.

During the half term holiday, I suggested that there were three things children could do if they wished to undertake creative tasks:

- Design a Christmas card. I know that the pupils have all made their own cards for printing. BUT if anyone wishes to make a holy, one-off design of his/her choice, we may choose to use this picture for our school Christmas cards this year. We usually post cards to neighbours, Trust schools and local elderly residents who will be unable to have carolling visits from us.
- Design a poster for our Stronger Together project – see the attached flier.
- Make a poppy – it could be a picture, collage, painting – for our entrance display to mark November as the month of Remembrance

TRACK AND TRACE: If your child tests positive for Coronavirus between now and Tuesday, it remains important to let us know at school even though we are on holiday. You can email me using the headteacher email address: I will check daily in case it is necessary to track those in close proximity to the infected person.

Over the next week, we wish all those associated with St Mary's a restful and very well deserved break.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Please remember in your prayers:

- Fr John, who remains unwell in Ireland. There was, you may remember, a slur on his character in recent times: I am pleased to say that this has been reviewed and removed: for those of us who know and love Fr John, we are delighted!



- The family of St Mary's in Derby. They have found premises to use for a short time until they can move together to a space where they can operate as a full school family. We can help by offering to
 - Knit a nativity figure. The school would love to have a knitted nativity set for each of its 16 classes. I have had contact from 2 people so far: are there more knitters out there who can help?
 - Buy one book to help build a library from scratch
 - Make friendship bracelets, as a symbol of friendship. If this had happened to our school, I would want to know that other children were thinking about our pupils

NATIVITY: During the month of November, Early Years and KS1 will be putting together a nativity. Each class will have a few scenes from the nativity to perform. This arrangement will protect the bubbles and ensure that the children will not need to mix. Due to the restrictions on gatherings, the nativity will then be filmed; copies will be available to purchase in early December, at a small cost. This will ensure that the children can still perform and our families are still able to enjoy the Christmas nativity!

PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographer will be visiting us on Wednesday 4 November for individual and family photographs of children in years Nursery to Year 6. Unfortunately this year we are not able to invite non-school children in to have their photo with older/younger siblings. Ordering the photographs will be done online only this year, and then delivered to school for distribution.

PTA

Christmas Raffle: As we are sadly unable to hold a Christmas Fair this year, the PTA are going to run a spectacular Christmas Raffle.

If you or your business can donate a gift voucher or an incredible item that could add some sparkle to our array of prizes, please email the PTA on

ptastmarysmarplebridge@gmail.com as soon as possible. We need to organise this ready to launch by 14th November!

Don't stop moving: the children had an incredible time on Wednesday, and they certainly didn't stop moving while the music played outside for our sponsored event! Thank you to Mr Kayes and Mrs Wall and all the PTA for their hard work in making this session such great fun: everyone was buzzing! I believe there is already £1,000 in fundraising: thank you!

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/2608dusvio?teamInvite=c7sMdF1XQcE3txp80UUZBR0crZVfEQ0WgIGz9CHScH4CWkQBd4pKQtJ3Bnth1r4Y>

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES: SEPTEMBER 2020 www.stockportadmissions.gov.uk
Y6 parents: please note that your child's application for secondary school must be submitted by the end of this month. According to my records, 11 pupils still show as 'not yet submitted'.

Admission Types	Birth dates between	Application closing date	Offer date
Nursery - Sept 2021	1 Sep 2017 - 31 Aug 2018	31 Mar 2021	18 May 2021
Primary - Sept 2021	1 Sep 2016 - 31 Aug 2017	15 Jan 2021	16 Apr 2021
Secondary – Sept 2021	1 Sep 2009 - 31 Aug 2010	31 Oct 2020	2 Mar 2021

HARRYTOWN OPEN EVENING <http://www.harrytownschool.org/>

ST THOMAS MOOR, BUXTON openevening2020@s-tm.co.uk Password: stm2020.

STOCKPORT HARRIERS

Due to the increasing Covid infections and the Borough being placed under Tier 3 regulations the event planned for 14th November is now cancelled. The scheduled dates will now be: 9th & 23rd January, 6th & 20th February, 6th & 20th March. This information and any further changes will be available on the Club website www.stockport-harriers.co.uk/club-events. A final decision on the 9th January event will hopefully be made by mid-December.

SCARECROW TRAIL THROUGH MARPLE

We have received the following update from the team organising the Scarecrow trail through Marple: *I do apologise about this inconvenience and the impact Covid-19 is having on this event. If you could let your parents know of the new arrangements that would be wonderful and we will keep them informed via our website www.marpletrails.org.uk. We are on Facebook and Instagram too.*

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/raising-funds-for-primary-school-children-in-the-marple-area?utm_term=9k9EkWmj2.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

2020 Dates	Event	Details
Mon 26 Oct – Fri 31 Oct	Half term break	Holiday
Mon 2 Nov	Advent 2 Term Starts	Children back in school
Wed 4 Nov	Individual photographs	See above for details
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.

COMING SOON: Advent 2 Parent/ Teacher online meetings – dates TBC

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

Have a really good break, all!

Fionuala Boucher