



## Bulletin Number 9: Friday 6 November 2020

### WELCOME BACK TO ADVENT 2

Welcome back, one and all, to the second half of our term - Advent 2.

As we enter into the second period of lockdown, we thank everyone in our school community for their ongoing, mutual support: though it is a difficult time for so many of us, on different days and at different times, we show our solidarity and strength in being there for each other.

School, essentially, continues as normal! One change that we brought in yesterday was the wearing of face coverings for parents at arrival/ pick up times. We arrived at this decision following a staff discussion and agreement for a joint approach with our nearest friends from Ludworth and Mellor, who are following a similar plan at each end of the day. Rest assured that we will not enquire as to why a face covering is not worn, since we know that some people will be exempt. While our systems have worked very well thus far, mask-wearing now signals the new phase we have entered, serves as a reminder not to 'hover and chat' unnecessarily and adds an additional layer of precaution to our risk assessments; visitors also wear masks in school on arrival and in communal areas. During the working day, staff will not routinely wear face coverings, as this is not a primary school requirement; we would generally put on PPE only when dealing with medical or toileting matters.

Music lessons continue for woodwind instruments, violin and keyboard. We have no update re guitar lessons at this time.

Ventilation is a key aspect of our response to minimising the possibility of infection. Windows and doors are now more frequently open and we are aware that the weather is getting colder! Please consider warm base layers for your children, if you feel that they would benefit: you will know how much this measure would/ would not suit your child/ren.

It may help to share some of the challenges (not insurmountable, but nevertheless significant!) we face currently. Mrs Frost and Mrs Young are both absent from work for the time being; Mrs Rabin has been an amazing and consistent support in Y4 in recent weeks and Mrs Biggs and the school staff are taking a portion of Mrs Young's tasks. For any Kids Club related queries, please now contact Mrs Major on [vicki.major@st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:vicki.major@st-marys-marplebridge.stockport.sch.uk)

From next week, clinically extremely vulnerable adults cannot go out to work (though they can work from home), and we have staff in school who fall into this category. As shielding letters are rolled out in the coming days, staff may not be able to return until 2 December. There is no funding for replacements, in such instances, but we will always try our best to cover appropriately. Please understand if there is a sudden staffing change in your child's class or with 1:1 linked adults: we will not flag this specifically to parents, but will keep 'business as usual' going. It will be great to rely upon your understanding and positive support in these situations: thank you.

We remain in touch with the Trust and local authority, and we have the relevant 'track and trace' links on hand, should any cases be confirmed within a timeframe that incorporates the school day/week (a time lapse may occur and not involve our pupils and staff, on occasion – such as half term breaks and during a period when self-isolation has already started). Please ensure that any relevant cases to you and your family are shared directly with us at school, in case we need to take action ourselves. Thank you.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

- Please remember in your prayers those who have died. During the month of November, we will pray for the loved ones of our school community who have passed away, recently or in the past.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.*



- Thank you for the beautiful poppies (pictures, models, craft) which have come into school this week. We have wool, rice, split pins, collage...all variety of media in this amazing collection! We will be able to make a special display for this time of Remembrance.
- Wednesday Word resources can be found at

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/wisdom?pid=MTA101634&v=8.8>

- 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!

## KNOWLEDGE WEBS

Parents of children in Y1-Y6 may have started to receive copies of the Knowledge Webs created by teachers. These useful documents show a one-page (usually – no more than two!) overview of the key learning points on a particular topic in a certain subject. We are really pleased with how these documents are developing: we will use them: in class for reference; as an assessment tool to ensure pupils are retaining knowledge over time; as a reference sheet when teaching; as a summary for parents so that children can rehearse and revise and discuss the relevant work with their families. Let us know what you think!

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs were taken on Wednesday this week. The proof prints should be with us any day now! These will be sent home and orders will be placed by parents online only this year. Instructions will be sent home with the proofs. There will only be a short time period for you to order so please be on alert for the sample pictures coming home.

## SWIMMING

Lessons will continue as normal after all! We have had the 'go ahead' from Stockport that lessons can continue as swimming is part of the national curriculum and a compulsory part of our PE curriculum. Y4 therefore need their kit as usual on Mondays.

## 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.

## PTA

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*

## APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES: SEPTEMBER 2020 [www.stockportadmissions.gov.uk](http://www.stockportadmissions.gov.uk)

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
Reception - Sept 2021	1 Sep 2016 - 31 Aug 2017	15 Jan 2021	16 Apr 2021

### STOCKPORT HARRIERS

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

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...

2020 Dates	Event	Details
Wed 18 and 25 Nov	Parent/Teacher meetings	We will be in touch with by text about how to book your appointment just as soon as the platform we are using has the details ready for us. Watch this space.
Wed 25 Nov	Flu immunisations	For children in Reception thru to Year 6.
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

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](http://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: this week, I share with you a poem by Ella which made a top 10 place in a national competition!**

**Kittens are as cute as can be  
If you spot one, you will see  
They are cheeky but also nice  
They like to chase birds and also mice  
Even when they're causing trouble  
No one resists a kitten cuddle.**

*Have a really good weekend, everyone!  
Fionuala Boucher*