



St Ralph Sherwin

Catholic Multi Academy Trust



Our Journey Together

- news from across the St Ralph Sherwin Trust

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Nothing can prepare anyone for what the community at St Mary's faced in the early hours of Saturday 3rd

October. The blaze destroyed the school building, but certainly not the school.

At St Mary's, the spirit and school

lives on in every child, staff member, parent, governor and volunteer.

In 2013 the school celebrated 200 years since its founding in 1813. That history cannot disappear over night and the school will be rebuilt and again serve as a beacon of Outstanding Catholic education in the community.

While the pupils are not in school, home learning is taking place, however we are very hopeful to

have some face-to-face learning taking place in the not too distant future.

Can I thank all of you for your continued support and prayers they are hugely comforting at this difficult time.

Sean McClafferty

Chief Executive

ST MARY'S SPIRIT SHINES THROUGH



The St Mary's community has been overwhelmed with support since a fire destroyed the school building over a week ago.

Offers of help have come from far and wide and parents and pupils have been posting pictures and prayers on the school gates in Broadway.

Amanda Greaves, Executive Headteacher, said that staff were extremely grateful for the support. She said: "I'm so incredibly proud of our school community at this time. The outpourings of support have just been completely

overwhelming, the signs and prayers on the school gate, the messages we've received. We really do feel as though we have a virtual hug around us at this time."

Pupils have been home learning since the fire and the priority for the school and Trust is to find premises so that face-to-face learning can resume as soon as possible.

Mrs Greaves said: "As a team we are working really closely with the Trust to find premises where we can all be together, that's our aim, to bring us back together as

a St Mary's family." Head of School Gill Novak-Lemmings said: "I just want to

say a huge thank you on behalf of all the staff. The messages of kind words, thoughts and prayers have been so overwhelming and there are no words that can express our gratitude for the support received from our families and colleagues within the Trust since the devastating news.

"The support we are still receiving on a daily basis is helping us all through this difficult time."



SCHOOLS SUPPORT MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISERS



At All Saints CVA in Glossop, pupils held a coffee morning without coffee for Macmillan. Children came up with the idea to hold an event every two weeks and the money raised will go to different charities each time. The first event, for Macmillan, raised over £30. Year 6 teacher Ben Steane said: "I am so proud that the children want to help those in need in the local community and it is all their idea. The delicious treats were COVID-safe and made by an ex-pupil of the school who has a small business making confectionery."



At St Mary's CVA in New Mills, class bubbles raised £157 for Macmillan



Pupils at English Martyrs' CVA in Long Eaton have published a book called 'The School at the End of the Rainbow.'

HONOUR FOR ST MARY'S TEACHING ASSISTANT

A teaching assistant at St Mary's CVA in New Mills is to receive a High Peak Heroes award for her efforts making PPE during the Coronavirus pandemic. Susan Butler used plastic milk bottles to produce thousands of 'comforters', which made it easier for frontline health staff to wear face masks. In recognition of her work, High Peak MP Robert Largan will present the honour to Susan in the near future.



Staff at All Saints and St Margaret's are aiming to complete 400,000 steps this month to raise money for Breast Cancer Now. Pupils are also doing their bit to support staff by walking a daily mile. You can sponsor by clicking on this link: <https://bit.ly/2SNK1jB>



AMAZING TRANSFORMATION AT ST PHILIP HOWARD

Key worker and vulnerable students who were attending St Philip Howard CVA in Glossop during lockdown have transformed an area of wasteland into a school allotment. The school's Assistant SENCO Lead, Ruth Moran, has an allotment of her own and used her knowledge to help the students with the incredible transformation.



ST GEORGE'S AWARDED MUSIC MARK RECOGNITION

Earlier this month, St George's Littleover was awarded the Music Mark in recognition of the value that we place on music. Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education; they champion and support access to music for all children and young people. Music plays a vital part in our curriculum, with all children in KS1 and KS2 receiving high-quality, curriculum-designed and fun Music lessons by passionate professionals from the Derbyshire Music Hub. KS1 pupils take part in a 2 year programme delivered by the Hub's singing team, and while singing is central to their music lessons, pupils also learn to describe, compose and transcribe. In KS2, all pupils receive instrumental lessons, initially through the Wider Opportunities Programme (WOPPs). This year, pupils in KS2 will learn to play violin, viola, flute, clarinet or ukulele. As with KS1, while playing an instrument is central to their learning, KS2 pupils also have a full music curriculum. On top of this, all class teachers embed the skills learned and each year group has its focus composer to study throughout the year. St. George's is also well known for its first-class and enthusiastic singing during liturgies and in worship and we are proud to have an outstanding worship

- band made up of staff members. At St. George's we know that Music:
1. Boosts school improvement, especially when the magic of music is allowed to permeate the whole curriculum.
 2. Improves learning skills with proven cognitive benefits to pupils.
 3. Fosters teamwork.
 4. Builds life-skills, such as empathy, problem-solving and increased concentration.
 5. Requires self-discipline.
 6. Encourages creativity.
 7. Is for life, with skills acquired impacting into adulthood.
 8. Is an educational building-block that can build self-confidence, where all, including the most disadvantaged, can benefit.
 9. Is fun!
 10. Is for everyone.

St George's commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum has been recognised, and as a result, the panel at the Derbyshire Music Hub wished to celebrate by presenting us with this award.

Helen Homes, Assistant Head and Music subject lead



MARATHON EFFORT FROM ST MARY'S MARPLE BRIDGE COMMUNITY

More than 250 pupils, families and staff from St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Marple Bridge came together to take part in a marathon relay and raise over £3,000.

The fundraiser was organised by the school's PTA committee which started planning the event after the country went into lockdown. Members of the school community were asked if they would like to run, walk, skip, cycle, scoot or hop part of a 26-mile marathon route around Marple Bridge. The marathon took the form of a relay with each participant given a distance and route to cover before passing on to the next person.

Each person who took part collected their own sponsorship. Anna Ashton, a teaching assistant at the school, ran the whole distance with all participants and the final section of the marathon was completed by headteacher Fionuala Boucher. She said: "We had 123 children take part and there were 250 people altogether. I had the privilege of joining the last leg, which was from the school gate and around our new running track, before crossing the finish line. This has definitely been one of



our most successful fundraising events in recent years and we had a fantastic uptake from the school community. "I think it really showed that we were still connected, even though many of us were not able to be together physically through lockdown."

LOCKDOWN PERFORMATHON RAISES £1,800 FOR CHARITY

More than 40 pupils at St Elizabeth's Catholic Voluntary Academy took part in a lockdown 'Performathon' and helped to raise £1,800. The event was organised by Hettie Beetham, a governor and parent at the school in Belper who also runs a speech and drama club there. Children performed a poem to as many people as they could, either online or in person with social distancing in place, over the course of one day.

The original fundraising target was £500 but a total of £1,800 was raised for NHS Charities Together. Several other schools took part across Derbyshire and Staffordshire.



During lockdown at Christ the King CVA in Alfreton, our Friends Parent Group organised for the children to do a clay Rainbow project. David, from the Pottery, supplied the clay and when these were done, he kindly fired them for us. Our children were welcomed back to school with their Rainbow Creations. The staff too had special



T-shirts with a small rainbow on the front, and a positive 'message' on the back inspired by Charlie Mackesy's book *The Boy, The Mole and The Fox and The Horse*.

Send your good news stories to nallen@srscomat.co.uk