



# School Newsletter

With Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

**01.04.22**

**Dear parents and carers,**

## **COVID update**

As you will probably be aware, the Government advice regarding what to do if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) or symptoms of COVID-19, has changed today, April 1. Access to free testing has also been removed for most people. What does it mean for us at school?

### ***When children with symptoms should stay at home and when they can return to education.***

Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school and nursery.

Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can come back to school and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

### ***Testing positive for COVID 19***

If a child tests positive for COVID-19, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **3 days. This starts from the day after they did the test.**

Children and young people tend to be infectious to others for less time than adults. If they're well and do not have a temperature after 3 days, there's a much lower risk that they'll pass on COVID-19 to others.

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19?utm\\_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19?utm_source=01%20April%202022%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

## COVID spring booster vaccinations

We have been advised that there is a vaccination centre on Market Walk in Chorley to administer the spring vaccine to over 75s or those who are immuno-suppressed. They will either give the vaccine there and then, or an appointment to come back for one.

Updated FAQ Page on website <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/parents/faqs>

We are often asked by parents about procedures for things that they may not deal with very often, such as reporting absences, bringing medicines to school or requesting holidays

We have put together a page on the school website to answer your more frequently asked questions and we would appreciate you taking a few minutes to read the FAQ page below.

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/parents/faqs>

Hopefully, we have been able to answer most questions, but if there are any others you think may be useful to include on the page, please email [admin@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk)

## PE kits summer term

For the time being, we are still asking children to come to school in PE gear on the days they have PE to avoid the necessity to change into kit. However, we also want to take the opportunity to return to us all wearing the correct PE uniform kit for our PE lessons.

All children from reception to Y6 should wear either the school PE top or a white short-sleeved T-shirt along with either black or blue shorts. They should also wear trainers for the outdoor PE lessons. I know some of the older children might be more comfortable travelling to and from school in leggings/tracksuit bottoms, but they should be a darker colour e.g. black or blue too.

Children can wear their school jumpers or cardigans over PE tops if the weather is cooler, so there is no longer any need for children to bring in any other type of sweatshirt, hoody, track suit bottoms or jogging bottoms.

## Resources to talk to children about Ukraine

Resources can be found on the following link. They have been produced by the **First News** group, a children's newspaper that we subscribe to.

What is happening in Ukraine and why?

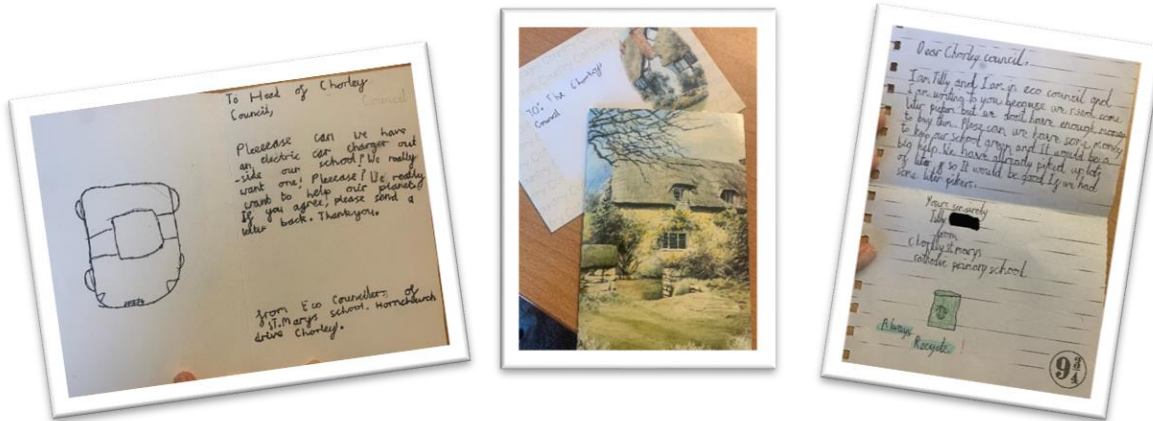
'The news is pretty scary right now and we imagine the children in your life will have a lot of questions around the rapidly changing news coming out of Ukraine. If you are struggling to discuss the situation in Ukraine with your children, **First News** is here to help navigate those difficult discussions with our free Ukraine Explainer and daily news updates.'

See First News link on the school website:

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/news/2022-03-14-ukraine>

## Eco Council – Mrs Nicklin

Finally, Eco council is up and running at St Mary's and we are lucky enough to have some really passionate councillors who were voted in by their peers. One of their first initiatives they have been involved in is writing to the Mayor to ask for his support getting more litter pickers and even an electric car charging point at our school. We are also going to be undertaking the green flag award system to see what we do well as a school and where we can further develop. Please find the minutes of our weekly meetings on our school website.



Pupils came from Parklands Academy on Tuesday to work on an Eco project with our Y2 children earlier in the week. Mrs Nicklin says you can check out the photos on Twitter.

## Chorley Schools Sports Partnership CSSP Easter Holidays Multi Sports Camp 11-14 April.

Please see attached a leaflet advertising the CSSP's Easter holiday sports camp. Unfortunately, our own Easter holiday and that of the other Chorley Catholic schools is slightly 'out of sync' with the other schools so will only be available for one week for our children: 11- 14 April at St. James' CofE Primary School & Clayton Green Leisure Centre (see attached).

## Electricity North West works on Warton Place from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April



We have been informed by Electricity North West that they are carrying out planned works on Warton Place next week. This will involve the excavation of the footpath on the right-hand side of the road if you were to face Warton Place with your back to the school. This will take place on Friday 1 April. The electricity works begin on Tuesday 5 April and the site should be clear by the following Tuesday, 12 April.

This could add even further to the congestion in the mornings and afternoons at drop-off and pick-up times, so I would be even more grateful if you could park just a little further away and walk some of the way in. Many thanks.

## Car Parking – Pick up and Drop off

Can I ask all parents/ carers, when dropping off and picking up:

- Please bear in mind especially, the safety of child pedestrians
- Please do not park across driveways.
- Please do not park in the hammerhead on Warton Place. Signs are now in place there.

- If possible, set off a little earlier, park a little further away and walk the rest of the way. The children get rewarded for a *Park and Stride*.

## SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!

### Sports News

#### Netball

Congratulations to the St Mary's netball squad. Miss Hesketh and Mrs Blackwell were delighted to inform the team that their successes in recent tournaments have earned them a place at the CSSP 2022 Netball Finals. Well done to this fantastic squad and their fantastic coaches and good luck in the finals next term.



#### Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) Cross Country Championships

Last weekend, St Mary's was represented by a large number of children in the CSSP Cross Country Championships at Astley Park. They were well supported by mums, dads, brothers, sisters and grandparents too. There were Y3/4 girls and boys races, Y5/6 girls and boys races and a huge 'fun run' to finish.

This involved:

- 131 runners in the Year 3/4 Boys Event
- 123 runners in the Year 3/4 Girls Event
- 128 runners in the Year 5/6 Boys Event
- 114 runners in the Year 5/6 Girls Event
- And in the fun run there were 300 plus runners!



The St Mary's runners performed superbly and had a lot of fun on a beautiful spring morning; each of our teams finished in the top 10. Great effort!

St Mary's Team	We finished ...	Total Teams Entered
Y3/4 Boys	5 <sup>th</sup>	27
Y3/4 Girls	8 <sup>th</sup>	24
Y5/6 Boys	4 <sup>th</sup>	24
Y5/6 Girls	10 <sup>th</sup>	20

There were some fine individual performances, among which were William in Y4 who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in his race, winning the bronze medal, while big sister Eleanor finished in 4<sup>th</sup> in the Y5/6 race. We will let the children know the positions they finished in next week.

#### **St Mary's School has been at Hornchurch Drive for forty years – share your memories! – A message from Mr Hodge**

To the wider school community on our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school site,

- *Did you attend St. Mary's School in the past?*
- *Do you know someone who did?*

- Was it at our current site or next to the church at Mount Pleasant?

If you did, no matter how long ago it was, please do share those memories with us...

In order to collate the memories and mark this special occasion, we have set up an e-mail address where you can send photographs, typed memories, achievements etc, etc, about your time at St. Mary's. Mr Hodge will then collate everything and share these memories as part of our celebration in the Summer Term.

The address is [memories@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:memories@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk)

You may know an older parishioners for whom sending an e-mail doesn't suit them? Could you ask them to write something down and you submit the details on their behalf? Do they have any old photographs? Any old certificates? Anything and everything is welcomed.

We look forward to looking at your memories and sharing them with you in due course.

DEADLINE – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Accompaniment - Side By Side – Archdiocese of Liverpool events**



Our school and parish members are invited to take part in an archdiocesan initiative: *Accompaniment - Side By Side*. These events take place on Tuesday & Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April online. The organisers invite us to:

*Join us for this interactive event, exploring the vision of a Church that walks together and accompanies people in life and faith. We'll consider how deepening our existing practice of accompaniment will help our Catholic community be recognised as relevant and impactful, and how it will offer us all hope for growth.*

## Free School Meals – Are you missing out?

### Free School Meal Eligibility and Pupil Premium Funding

Because all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal, many parents do not realise that they might be entitled to something called **free school meal eligibility**. And we understand why this might be the case because the system is confusing! At St Mary's, we have noticed a fall in the number of infant children whose parents have claimed eligibility since the introduction of free school meals for all infants – other schools have noticed the same.

**This free school meal eligibility** can be applied for in Reception, Year 1 and in Year 2 even though children are receiving a school meal anyway. And parents in Y3, 4, 5 and 6 can also apply.

### Why bother applying if your child is receiving a free meal anyway?

If you think you might be eligible it is very much worth applying for two reasons:

1. Your child will continue to receive free school meals on leaving the infants in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 and beyond

2. The school receives additional money (pupil premium) for children eligible for free school meals (over £1 300 per pupil).

If you receive any of the benefits below, St Mary's School can access this extra funding, called pupil premium.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

**How can you find out if you are eligible? Apply by phone – and you can find out in a matter of minutes!**

You can ring the local **Free School Meals and Pupil Premium team on 01772 531809**

It must be the person claiming the benefit that rings.

You will need to provide your:

- Name
- Date of birth
- National insurance number

They will confirm whether you are entitled over the telephone. **Apply by post**

Download the application form from <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals.aspx> and return it to your local area education office.

#### **South Area Education Office**

Level 1 Christ Church Precinct

County Hall

Preston

PR1 8RJ

#### **Free milk**

If you receive benefits, your child could also get free milk. Contact us to find out what arrangements we make for school milk.

## STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 01.04.22

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Laura	For settling into Nursery so well and following the class rules
YR	Joseph	for a super discussion about animals.
Y1	Luke S	for always getting on with his work sensibly , no matter what.
Y2	Erin	being a total superstar in all lessons – in her work and contributions
Y3	Mattia	Much improved maths this week (looking at Fractions).
Y4	Ella	For her wonderful work in maths this week. Ella always participates and shows great determination.
Y5	Joel	For his superb participation in maths during our fractions work.
Y6	Dylan	Great introductions for explanation texts



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2021/2022 01.04.22



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 3	95.87
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 2	95.66
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 5	95.60
=4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	95.50
=4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	95.50
6 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	95.12
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	92.90

No classes with 100% attendance this week.

### Yarrow Schools Teaching Alliance

# YSA

## Yarrow School Alliance

New Year, new challenge  
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!  
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.  
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based  
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email  
r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk for more information

P Smyth, Headteacher 01.04.22