



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

25.06.21

Dear parents/ carers,

OFSTED inspection visit 29 and 30 June

We were informed midway through Monday morning this week that the school was to be visited by two OFSTED inspectors on Tuesday and Wednesday: John Donald HMI and Neil Dixon. Following the inspection, John Donald asked me to pass on his sincere thanks to the children, staff, parents and governors for engaging so well in the inspection process and for making him and Neil so very welcome.

I would like to echo that thanks. Thank you to the children for their excellent behaviour and wonderful attitude to learning over this last year. Thank you to the staff who have worked so hard and with such dedication during these very trying times and then being faced with the scrutiny of inspection. Thank you also to Mrs Nicklin who came back temporarily from her secondment to take part so fully. Thank you to the governors for volunteering in their roles, giving up their time and sharing their expertise this week, and over the course of the year to challenge and support the school. Thank you.

I would also like to thank parents for your continued support of the school and your children's education. Thank you for the many messages of support this week, whether given in person, sent via email, Class Dojo or in the OFSTED parent and pupil surveys.

Kath Smith, our Chair of Governors, also asked me pass on her thanks to everyone involved.

All that I am permitted to say about the outcome at this stage, is that it was 'positive'. The report will be written over the next few days and then it will be sent for quality assurance. Due to the tight turnaround time, it is unlikely that we will receive it before the end of the summer term. It is much more likely that it will appear in September and, of course, it will be shared immediately with you as soon as we have it.

Chorley Borough Council Clean Air Consultation

We were contacted by Tom Halstead, Community Engagement Officer, Chorley Council today:

Good Morning Chorley Schools,

We wanted to make you aware of our Clean Air Strategy Consultation (open until 9 July) that we hope you may be able to share with your school families please.

The consultation will help us finalise our Clean Air Strategy as well as prioritise and plan future actions.

You don't need to read the draft strategy to complete the survey. It takes 5 minutes to complete and all responses will be taken into account.

For further information and to complete the consultation, please visit the following link <https://bit.ly/3pPLPis>.

COVID UPDATE

1 Bubble closures and returns

On Monday and Tuesday this week, two further bubbles were required to self-isolate: the year 5 class from Monday and the reception class from Tuesday. The year 6 class will return to school on Monday 5 July, all being well, followed by the year 5 class on Tuesday and the reception class on Friday.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the boys and girls, their parents and their teachers for engaging so well in the remote learning during these recent bubble closures or any forced self-isolations. You are all doing an incredible job - thank you.

2 What to do if a member of your household tests positive for COVID over a weekend?

We would be very grateful if you could inform school if, in the unfortunate event, your child tests positive for COVID during any of the next couple of weekends, so that we can make arrangements for the rest of the class who would then need to self-isolate on the Monday. To contact us. Please email office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk. This email account will be monitored over the weekends.

If another member of your household tests positive over any weekend so that your child needs to self-isolate on a Monday, please let school know on the Monday.

3 Letter from Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health to parents and carers

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi wrote a letter to all parents and carers last week. In it, he recommends that all adults take up the opportunity to have two doses of a COVID vaccine and he encourages us to take a PCR test in addition to the LFD tests.

'As well as this, everyone in Lancashire, including children, are being strongly encouraged to take a Covid-19 PCR test especially in outbreak situations. People should in the meantime continue to make use of free twice-weekly rapid tests, commonly known as lateral flow devices.'

4 COVID Lateral Flow Device tests

A reminder that anyone in Lancashire is eligible to access free, rapid coronavirus tests for themselves and their families to use twice a week.

These can be obtained locally from **Woodlands Conference Centre** (opposite Parklands School), from the **Tesco Extra supermarket** on Foxhole Road, **Lloyds Pharmacy** on Devonshire Road and from The Hub pharmacy on Peel Street.

End of year gifts

Mrs Wilson has told me that a number of parents have been asking what the school is doing about end of year gifts for staff this year. Please do not feel that there is any pressure or that there is any expectation from school to get gifts for staff members; there is none whatsoever. Staff members are doing the job that they are paid to do. That said, I know, like anyone, that they do appreciate a kind word, whether spoken in person or put in an email, a card or on Class Dojo (but there's no expectation of that either!).

However, regardless of what I say, some of you will want to give a gift anyway. If that is the case, then that's fine too because the staff members can quarantine items in their rooms.

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



w/e 02.07.21

CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	98.92
2 nd	YEAR 1	98.84
3 rd	RECEPTION	98.47
4 th	YEAR 2	98.46
5 th	YEAR 4	98.01
6 th	YEAR 5	96.05
7 th	YEAR 6	95.51

Stars of the Week - 02.07.21

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Keira	For always trying hard and being a superstar!
YR	All Reception Class	For managing so well at home, giving lots of effort and smiles as they have worked at home.
Y1	Charles R	For his relevant contributions to discussions about past learning in Year One.
Y2	All the Y2 class	For working brilliantly on their Vehicles (mechanisms) in DT
Y3	Teddy	Got his best score on his Learn Its Challenge today.
Y4	Amelia W	For her wonderful drama work in guided reading based on <i>Bill's New Frock</i>
Y5	All of Year 5	For their outstanding effort throughout this week whilst learning from home. Every child has given 100% effort and should be very proud of themselves.
Y6	Lydia & Joe T	Their fantastic sightseeing bus tour of Blackpool

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.

With open events not possible in person, we have decided to publish a video which offers an insight into the training course and our offer to Associate Teachers. We will put this all over our social media platforms and advertise on Facebook shortly.



This Autumn, with face to face open evenings not possible, the Yarrow Teaching School Alliance invite you to a zoom open event. Have questions about our Initial Teacher Training Course answered, meet the team and see an Alliance school. email a.hitchen@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk to RSVP and receive log in details

<http://www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk> @YarrowTSA

St Mary's is part of the Yarrow Teaching School Alliance. If you have a degree and interested in becoming a primary school teacher, visit the website above. **P Smyth 02.07.21**