



School Newsletter

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

03.10.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Apologies for the late newsletter!

Harvest Assembly



Once again this year we have done our harvest assembly on Zoom in place of our annual Harvest Mass in school. Father Marsden gave thanks for the harvest in our KS2 Mass early last month at the start of the school year.

While we give thanks for the food we have, we know that there are many people in our community who will be struggling to put food on their tables. There is a stark statistic which has been mentioned on the news recently, that there are now more foodbanks in the UK than there are branches of the McDonalds restaurants.

Therefore, we would still like to ask our families for donations of food if that is possible.

We would be very grateful for donations of tinned and packet foods rather than fresh fruit and vegetables (avoiding possibility of perishables going to waste). It is probably best if donations are left in plastic bags this year, rather than boxed up as we cannot ask families to deliver to neighbours. The bags can be left in the space marked out on the staff car park on **Friday morning (Friday 8 October)**. I will take them up to Living Waters food bank.

Phonics Meeting

Thank you to our early years and Y1 staff for hosting a phonics session for parents in the nursery and reception classes last week. Thank you also to our parents who attended; I hope you found the session useful and informative. As we know, learning about letters and the sounds they make is the fundamental elements in developing the ability to read. Thanks to all involved.

Author visit

Thank you Miss Hesketh for arranging the visit of author, Daragh McNulty last Thursday. He visited us via Zoom and spoke to us about his book, Wild Child: A journey through nature. It was great for the children to be able to listen to and speak with an author 'in real time.'



Sports News

Football: St Mary's v St Gregory's, St Mary's v. Charnock Richard and St Mary's v Lancaster Lane

Mr Hodge took the St Mary's football team for their second visit to the brand new Westway Sports Centre in Chorley to take part in their next round of fixtures. St Mary's successful start to the season continued with 2 – 0, 2 – 1 and 3 - 1 wins respectively. Once again, Mr Hodge was impressed with both the sporting ability on show and the manner in which the team encouraged and supported one another. A phenomenal 100% star to the season - better than any team in the premier league! Well done, St Mary's!

Sacramental Class meeting Tuesday 5 October 6pm

There will be a meeting for parents of children in year 4 on Tuesday night. St Mary's Lead Catechist, Kinga Gray-Grzeczynska, will lead a meeting on Zoom tomorrow evening at 6pm to introduce the Sacramental Programme for our Y4 class this year. A Groupcall message was sent to our Y4 parents with the meeting ID and password. If parents did not receive these, they can contact the school office and request them tomorrow.

Y4 to Mass at St Mary's Wednesday 6 October 9am

On the morning of Wednesday 6 October, the Y4 children will be attending Mass at St Mary's Church. Following Mass, they will be doing the first activity of the sacramental programme - a treasure hunt. Please could you drop your child off at Church from 0845. The children will walk back to school from Church at the end of the session.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Go Green



Thank you everyone for supporting our *Go Green for CAFOD* fundraiser. The money raised is currently being counted and I will let you know the total at the end of the week.

Mr Gaughan visit to St Mary's Wednesday 29.09.21 at 5.30pm

Thank you to Mr Gaughan, Holy Cross headteacher, for coming to speak with our Y6 parents last Wednesday evening. He spoke to parents about the school and its values and what parents and children can expect from the school if they choose to join next year.

Holy Cross Open Day arrangements 2021



Due to COVID safety measures, Holy Cross Catholic High School are not holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents. Instead, parents have been invited to book short time slots to visit the school. Y6 parents have been given details by Holy Cross.

Prospective Parents Meeting – Wednesday 6th October 6.00pm



There will be a meeting on for parents interested in a place for their child in St Mary's reception class for September 2022. It will take place on **Wednesday 6 October at 6.00pm** and should last no longer than 30 minutes. The meeting is intended for parents only but if some parents are struggling for childcare they can of course bring their child along.

As we still need to be highly cautious about reducing risk of COVID transmission, we will not be giving a tour of the school this year. Instead, I will give a short presentation and parents/ carers will be able to ask any questions that they may have. We will hold the meeting in the school hall, space the chairs out and keep the room as well ventilated as possible.

There is an opportunity to watch our school open day video, which will give a further insight into school life at St Mary's. It is available on our school website:

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/news/2020-11-19-admissions-information-video>

PTFA –Annual General Meeting -30 September 2021 St Mary's Parish Centre

There was the annual general meeting of the PTFA last Thursday evening at St Mary's Parish centre. It was great to see some new faces there and the return of some old faces! As well as electing officers for the year ahead, the group present discussed social and fund raising ideas and activities for the year ahead.

Q. Who are the PTFA members? A. We all are!

As soon as your child starts St Mary's school or nursery, you automatically become a member, along with all the staff. And you are all invited to get involved as little or as much as you wish.

2022 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

Nursery Pupils/Primary School Admissions: If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

VERY IMPORTANT: You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire, you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2022 is on 15 January 2022.

****Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF).****

Year 6 Pupils

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6, you can now apply for their secondary school place at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

VERY IMPORTANT: You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for secondary applications for September 2022 is on 31 October 2021

Break time snacks

Children (and staff) do get a bit peckish around about break time and we are happy for them to have a snack. Our policy is for this snack to be toast or a piece of fruit on Monday to Thursday and a snack of their choice on a Friday. The school provides toast, which works out at 20p a day on a pre-ordered basis. Alternatively, children may bring in a snack from home. We do ask that all pupils adhere to this rule. **Chocolate bars, sweets and crisps are not allowed on Monday to Thursday.**

Messages from the school office:

Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to pass on a couple of messages.



COVID symptoms – however mild

If your child has:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

they must not come into school, you should get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have coronavirus and stay at home until you get their result, even if the symptoms are mild.

One of the recent changes for this term means that if your child is a 'close contact' of someone, e.g. a parent, who has tested positive for COVID, but has no symptoms themselves the child no longer needs to self-isolate, they may come to school. However, in this instance, we would also

ask that your child has a PCR test (but they can still come to school while awaiting result – if no symptoms).

Sickness/ Diarrhoea

If your child is suffering from sickness and/ or diarrhoea, then the minimum absence must be 48 hours. This is to prevent the spread of any infection such as norovirus (winter vomiting bug).

Absence

If your child is absent, please inform the office directly by calling in or by telephone. Please do not pass messages on via siblings or *Class Dojo* or indeed class teachers, thank you.

Medical absences

If your child has an appointment with the doctor or dentist, please inform the office prior to the absence where possible. Thank you.

Parking



By way of a reminder at the start of the school year, I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not park on the staff carpark**, the **yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. Thank you.

School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. **Please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance.** This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2021/2022 W/E 01.10.21



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 5	98.49
2 nd	YEAR 4	98.46
3 rd	YEAR 1	97.70
=4 th	RECEPTION	97.36
=4 th	YEAR 2	97.36
6 th	YEAR 6	97.28
7 th	YEAR 3	96.88

No class had **100%** attendance last week.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 01.10.21

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Penelope	For super phonics work this week.
YR	Charlie A	For coming into school with a smile everyday!
Y1	Antoni	For excellent work all week and always willing do his best.
Y2	Evie	Her wonderful work on life cycles.
Y3	Kyle	Amazing story plan for his work on Paddington.
Y4	Viktoria D	For always actively participating and class discussion and taking pride in all of her work.
Y5	Scarlett	For always being ready to learn and giving 100% effort in all she does.
Y6	Charlotte E	For an emotional survival story with great use of descriptive language.



Message from the Chorley School Sports Partnership – October half-term holiday club [please see attached leaflet]

Hello,

We are running an October holiday club at St Peters C of E primary school during half term. I have attached the leaflet if you could send out and advertise to your parents that would be great.

Thank you,

Micaela

Senior Bikeability Instructor & School Sports Coach

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.

Best wishes,

P Smyth 01.10.21