



# School Newsletter

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

04.03.22

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome back to the spring second-half term. The children, as always, have made an excellent start and have had an enjoyable week especially with World Book Day activities.

## **Russia's invasion of Ukraine**

I think we would all agree with a statement by the DfE this week that 'Russia's invasion of Ukraine is distressing and concerning' to children. It is distressing to adults too. Children may have questions and need reassurance. We feel that we can help in school with this.

Teachers have been telling me about how they have been trying to reassure children in their classes. For example, one child was worried when an adult in school had said it was 'World War 3 on Friday,' but they had misheard and what the adult had actually said was that it was 'World Book Day on Friday.' That gives us a sense of how much it may be preying on some children's minds.

When we talk to the children about the invasion, we aim to answer their questions as best we can and reassure them as much as we can. Sometimes it can be as simple as showing the children a map of Ukraine and its neighbouring countries; even showing them that this is happening at some distance from us and that they are safe here. Sometimes, it can be talking about what is happening in a level of detail appropriate to the age of sensitivities of the children.

I have attached a *Picture News* article we might typically use in some classes in school which you might find helpful in your discussions at home. If your child is worried and concerned, please let them know that they can talk to an adult in school about.

In our daily prayers, we pray for peace and cessation to violence, for those who are victims to the invasion and for those fleeing the country.

## **Monday 28.02.22 Sacramental Class Meeting - on Zoom 6pm**

Thank you to Kinga and thank you to all the parents who came to the Sacramental Class Meeting on Zoom on Monday. I hope you found it useful and informative.

### Wednesday 02.03.22 Ash Wednesday



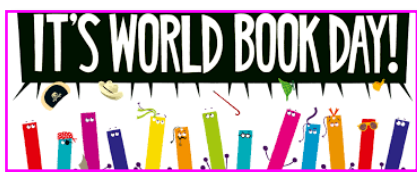
This week, the junior classes went to St Mary's to attend Mass for Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the season of Lent. The children all received the ashes on their forehead and resisted the urge to wipe them off! Their behaviour and participation at Church was outstanding. The children who read the bidding prayers in Y6 read beautifully. Thank you Fr Marsden for celebrating Mass with us.

### Y1 and Y2 classes receive the ashes

I would like to say a special thank you to Kinga for coming in to distribute the ashes to children in the infants. Kinga explained to the children that the ashes were made from burning of palms given out last Palm Sunday. And in placing the ashes on the children's foreheads they were each asked to 'be a friend of Jesus.' Once again the children behaved beautifully, listening intently and answering Kinga's questions.



### Friday 04.03.22 World Book Day (at St Mary's!)



We celebrated World Book Day today in school. The children's (and staff's) costumes were wonderful. There were a number of firsts e.g. we had a Lady MacBeth in Y6. Thank you children and parents for your effort and imagination.

On Thursday for Y3-5, we had a virtual visit from author Jen Carney who got the children drawing and doing something with biscuits! (Y6 will see this next week). 'Jen is the author of the popular series *The Accidental Diary of B.U.G.* which is a new inclusive comedy series published by Puffin, perfect for fans of Tom Gates, Wimpy Kid and Jacqueline Wilson.' Some of the children said it was the best author they have ever seen!

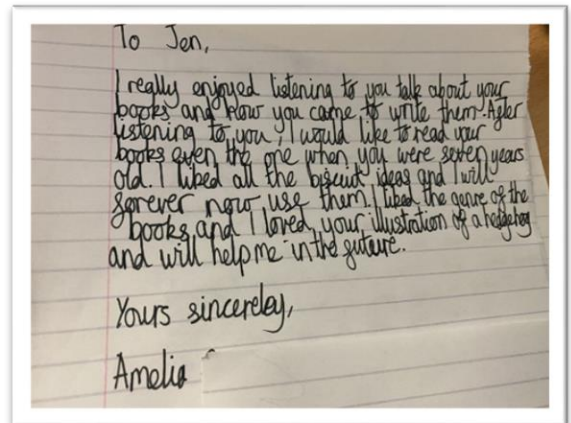
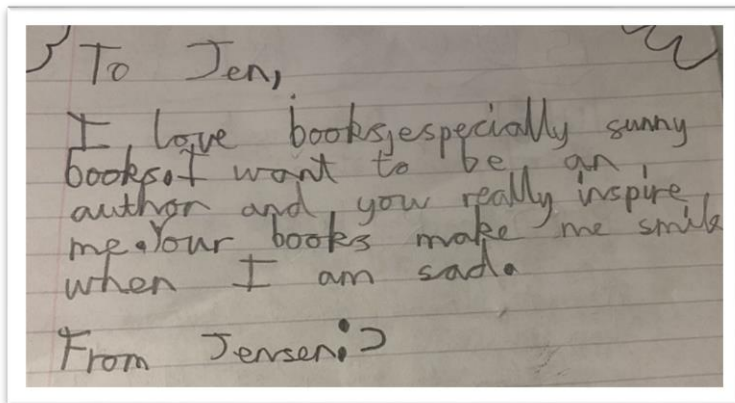
Today we were visited by *Footlights Theatre Company* who performed to all the classes. The children took part in many exciting activities during the day too in their classes for example, teachers swapped classes in the *Mystery Reader* class swap to read favourite stories to the children.

We hope the children have had a great day and enjoyed celebrating their favourite authors and the pleasure they gain through the wondrous world of books.



Thank you to Miss Hesketh, for organising the day and well done to all the children for taking part so well!





Letters from Y5 children to author Jen Carney, following virtual visit.

### 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.
- 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*.

There's a phrase I have seen on signs outside another school which says simply ...

**SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!**

### 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](mailto:r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk) for more information**

**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 Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 10am-4pm in Liverpool, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 12- 6pm and 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.*

See leaflet attached for more details.

**Unavoidable School Closures**

Over the course of this term, the hours of daylight will lengthen and I think we can sense that happening already. Hopefully, it will begin to warm up a little bit too. However, in the unlikely event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

**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 04.03.22**

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Sophie	For trying so hard to be independent when arriving in the morning with her coat and bag
YR	Poppy	For super learning choices every day!
Y1	Violet	Super effort with her reading and writing this week.
Y2	Neave	For super writing with noun phrases
Y3	Sophia	For enthusiasm and effort in answering questions during our first science lesson about healthy eating.
Y4	Brody	For his hard work determination in maths, not only this week, but every week!
Y5	Phoebe	For reading out her debate to the class so well.
Y6	Adam	Great work using algebra in mathematics.

**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League**  
**2020/2021 04.03.22**

CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 5	96.05
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 2	95.50
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 1	95.26
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	95.24
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 3	95.17
6 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	94.56
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	93.32

Still no class with 100% **P Smyth, Headteacher 04.03.22**