



School Newsletter

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

05.11.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Welcome back to the autumn second half-term. The children have settled down well again and have enjoyed another week of learning and activities. Next week, in their Come and See lessons, they will be learning about Judaism.

Nativity Performances

One or two parents have been asking about plans for Nativity performances this year. Unfortunately, we are still not able to gather as a school community to enjoy performances. Our school hall is the least well-ventilated room in the whole school. If you can picture it, it has no doors or windows connected directly to the outside. It does have skylights but they offer limited ventilation and none whatsoever in the rain! We do not gather for assemblies at present and therefore will not be using the hall for Christmas performances or the annual Christmas Fair.

However, the teachers are planning to do Nativity performances. These will be recorded and made available to families to view.

Welcome Mr Farnworth, our new site supervisor!

At the start of the half-term break, we welcomed Mr Farnworth, our new site-supervisor, to the team. He has wasted no time in getting stuck in to cleaning and repairs. You may have seen him on site during last week.

PE autumn second-half term

PE in the juniors for the second half-term will be taking place in the hall. They are all working on gymnastics skills. Although children are coming to school in PE kits at present and can come to school in trainers, for PE, they may only go bare foot or wear black pumps in the hall – trainers are not to be worn for gymnastics. This is in line with national safety guidance in gymnastics in school PE - *Safe Practice: in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity*. I have explained this to the children in KS2.

Oak Tree Planting 29 November 2021

St Mary's governor, Mrs Grey-Grzeczynska is the director of the annual Chorley Holocaust Memorial Service and was approached to be involved a tree planting initiative to mark the 80th anniversary of

the Association of Jewish Refugees. Mrs Grey-Grzeczynska asked me if our school could be involved and, of course, I said it would be a privilege and an honour. A native oak tree is being planted in our wooded area to mark this 80th anniversary and as a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. I believe it is one of 80 trees being planted across the UK. The planting has been scheduled to take place on 29th November.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021 and Remembrance Day



Thank you for your support for this year's Poppy Appeal. Items are still available from the school office. The school will have one-minute's silence on Thursday 11th at 11am.

St Mary's Football Team – Champions of Chorley – again!

Congratulations to the St Mary's Football Team and to their coaches, Mr Hodge and Mr Southern. On Thursday evening, they played in the league finals at the new Westway Sports Centre, where they met the other group winners and runners-up from across Chorley.

They played two and won two in the final group stage beating St Gregory's and St Laurence's. They beat Brinscall, St John's in the semi-final before beating Balshaw Lane in the final. This means that this season, they have a remarkable one hundred percent win record. They have played fourteen and won fourteen - an outstanding achievement. They played wonderfully well, deserving all of their victories. They gave their all as individuals working hard for the team.

They were crowned champions of Chorley again, a repeat of their 2018-2019 success.

Thank you to all the parents, family members and everyone else who came along to support. It was a fantastic occasion and I am both delighted and proud of the team's success.

I would also like to highlight the wonderful attitude and behaviour of this team. A few years ago, Mr Hodge and the PE steering group agreed some principles for children representing St Mary's:

When we represent the school, we do it with PRIDE and enthusiasm through fair play.

- *Participate*
- *Respect*
- *Inclusion*
- *Develop*
- *Encourage*

All those who have watched this team in action over the last few weeks will know that these values have been highly evident. Gemma Stokes, head of CSSP, spoke to Mr Hodge and myself on Thursday, praising the children's attitude and behaviour – it was exemplary. So well done again team members and well done Mr Hodge!

WOW – the walk to school challenge is back

Living Streets' WOW – the walk to school challenge - is back to help encourage as many children as possible to experience the benefits of walking to school. As you know, WOW is a pupil-led

behaviour-change initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day. If they travel sustainably (walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride), at least once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that easy!

Teachers collect information each day on children are travelling to school and Mr Hodge is organising the award of badges for sustainable travel to school – see letter attached.

SVP Chorley Buddies

A message from Mr McBeth of the SVP Chorley Buddies:

SVP Chorley Buddies is continuing to grow and we need more people to join our fabulous team. We have opportunities in the following:

1. Incoming Calls Team - taking enquiries from the public, clients and partners and taking appropriate action. This can be done from home at no cost using our technology. You are in complete control of how long you make yourself available to receive calls and can change it from day to day. Full training would be given, but it is really simple!

2. Shopping & Meds delivery service - Drivers, you can choose which referrals to pick up and can do as much as suits your circumstances. We also need drivers for our Food Clubs.

3. Activity Buddies – perhaps take a client out for a walk, or accompany them to one of our activity classes? We run chair pilates, a walk and talk group, aquafit and craft classes all over Chorley, which are free.

4. Food Clubs - we are planning to open a number of Food Clubs across Chorley starting from November and need volunteers with Food Hygiene qualifications. We also need general volunteers who enjoy meeting and chatting to people. Hours to suit.

So, with the COVID restrictions greatly lifted, perhaps this is the time to think about volunteering with SVP Chorley Buddies and help us to build Catholic outreach and keep Chorley smiling!

*Call us on 01275 542367 or email us on chorleybuddies@svp.or.uk
PJ McBeth, SVP Chorley Buddies*

2022 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY

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).****

Messages from the school office:

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

A resident has contacted the school office yesterday to complain about parking on Warton Place, which in their opinion has become so dangerous that it has forced them to contact the Police. We must again remind parents and carers to park safely and respectfully of the homeowners, not just on Warton Place, but all roads surrounding school at drop off and pick up times.

Please do not:

- park on pavements - it is forcing pedestrians into the road, including those with prams.
- block residents' driveways - it is preventing them from setting off for work, school or appointments.
- park on the school yellow zigzag lines.

Not only do these incidents annoy our neighbours, but more importantly, put our children at risk from road accidents. 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.

 **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.




Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2021/2022 W/E 05.11.21



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 5	98.17
2 nd	RECEPTION	97.42
3 rd	YEAR 3	97.39
4 th	YEAR 6	97.20
5 th	YEAR 2	97.19
6 th	YEAR 4	96.97
7 th	YEAR 1	95.58

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

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 05.11.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Jude	Wonderful sitting on the carpet and supe concentration. Well done
YR	Layla	For always trying her best
Y1	Sebastian P	For his fantastic attitude to learning this week and working with increasing independence.
Y2	Joseph P	For his fantastic attitude to learning this week.
Y3	William	For his concentration in his work this week but particularly his interest in our science lesson looking at forces.
Y4	Noah	For his great participation and hard work in English this week. Noah has put his all into his work.
Y5	Luca	For his excellent participation during our work on statistics in maths.
Y6	Lewis	Great work on his biography of Jack Walker

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 05.11.21