



# School Newsletter

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

06.09.23

**Dear parents/ carers,**

Welcome to the new school year for all our children, staff and parents. And welcome, in particular, to our new starters in the nursery and reception classes. The children settled in beautifully this week. There were many smiles as the children re-joined their friends, met up with their new teachers, teaching assistants and welfare staff and started work in their new books.

Welcome also to Mrs Fitzsimmons, who is teaching in Y4 and Y1, to Mr Fairley, our new site supervisor, who joined us in the summer and to Mrs Constable and Ms Adams who have joined us in the Early Years. Welcome to Logan who has joined our Y6s this term too!

## **Y4 Swimming**

The Year 4 class will be going to their first school swimming lesson on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Tempest School Photographs**

We have booked Tempest Photography to come in on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September**. Children will be photographed individually and with their siblings from school/ nursery. Parents will have the option to buy or refuse from the proof that is sent home with the child. In order to ease the process, all children will have his/her photograph taken unless requested otherwise by the parent.

If you do not wish your child to have a photograph taken, please let the school know as soon as possible. You can do this by email through the school website.

## **EYFS Breakfast Stay & Play - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 0830 -0930**

The EYFS classes are having a breakfast stay and play session for Reception and Nursery children on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, from 8.30am - 9.30am. The staff said that it will be lovely to meet all the parents and for them to get to see what their little ones get up

## **Sacramental Class Meeting – Cheese and Wine evening 6pm Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm**

There is a meeting in school for parents and carers of children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion during the coming school year.

The meeting will take place in the school hall on September 24th at 6pm. At the meeting Mrs Grzeczynska, Lead Catechist and School Governor, will introduce herself and share some information regarding the Sacramental Programme (Family Catechesis) for the coming year. It will also provide an opportunity for parents and carers to ask any questions that they may have.

### **Start of school year Mass at St Mary's - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 9am.**

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be attending 9.00am Mass at St Mary's **on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 9am** to celebrate the start of the new school year and Our Lady's birthday. **We ask that children are dropped off at Church door on that morning from 8.45am.** Here they will be registered by their class teacher. After Mass they will walk back down to school. Please ensure children have suitable clothing in case of rain showers for the walk back. Thank you

### **Sainsbury's School Games PLATINUM Award 2023/ 2024**

Just before the summer break, Mr Hodge, our PE and Sports leader, received news that the school earned the prestigious **Sainsbury's School Games Mark PLATINUM Award** by maintaining our high standards in sports and PE last year. This is the very highest level of the award.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

Our sporting achievements last year include sending teams to almost many of Chorley Schools Sports Partnership's (CSSP) competitions with lots of individual and team successes along the way. Mr Hodge, our PE and sports leader said,

*'Could I thank all those who have helped in any way, shape or form in terms of the PE delivery this year - Giving the opportunity to a broad range of children to participate in PE could not have been possible without that support.'*

We thank Mr Hodge for his leadership and passion for school sport and PE and for providing so many opportunities for children to take part in sporting activities. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who supported various activities during the course of the year especially the PE steering group.

A big thank you to the wonderful, dedicated and talented team led by Gemma Stokes at the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership who facilitate such a wide range of high-quality competitions and high-quality coaching. And, of course well done to all our pupils and keep it up this year. We look forward to applying once again in 2025!



### **Extra- Curricular Activities**

Various clubs and activities will be starting over the next few weeks. We will also be hosting a fencing club for the juniors this half term. More details of all the clubs will follow.

## Volunteers

We really appreciate the help we receive from parents and grandparents who come in to help with reading, supporting children's learning, clubs etc. We have had a couple of parents in recent years who started off volunteering and then have decided to pursue a career in teaching! A big thank you to all our returning volunteers this year – you make a massive difference!

If you feel you can spare half an hour or more a week please get in touch with the school office. Many thanks.

## Summer Clean

I'd like to say thanks to Mrs Macaulay and Mr Fairley for their hard work in giving the school a deep clean over the summer and to the team from Coxhead Cleaning Company. They have done a great job for us again. Thank you!



## *Some beginning of school year and nursery year reminders*

**Earrings and Jewellery** - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If parents wish their children to have their ears pierced then please have them done at the beginning of the six-week break to allow ears to heal. The only form of jewellery children are permitted to wear is watches.

## Hair styles

We expect pupils to have sensible hair styles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school a fashion-free zone!

## Shoes



Pupils are expected to wear plain black shoes. Again, we want school to remain a fashion-free zone. Some sports companies make black trainers for children. We ask you not to use these for school. They are trainers and not shoes and of course, the children will prefer to wear them! However, once one has them this puts pressure on the other children to ask their parents for them. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.



## Labelling Uniforms



The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing then the lost property box is available on **Tuesdays** after school by the front entrance.

## Health and Safety notices

## Grapes in lunch boxes



If your child brings grapes to school either as a snack or as part of their packed lunch, it is very important that grapes are halved first. This is because whole grapes present a significant risk of choking hazard to children.

## 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.

## PTFA Notices

### Ladies Night 2024 – 27<sup>th</sup> September

The PTFA are holding a Ladies Party Night on Friday 27th September at Chorley Football Club from 7.30 p.m. This is a change of event from the Ladies Nights that have been held in the past.

Instead of a formal evening, the party night will consist of dancing, a quiz, nibbles and of course the raffle!! There will be no formal seating plan, so groups can sit together. The aim of the evening is to bring mums (and their friends) together having a lovely social evening whilst raising much needed funds for school.

As such, tickets are only £10 per person. For those wishing to attend - please send CASH payments, in an envelope addressed FTAO PTFA. Please put on there, how much is in the envelope and the names of the people who will be attending.

So get your dancing shoes at the ready, get your gang together and let's have a party!! They hope to see you all there!

## Parentkind

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage. Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.

## **Free School Meals – Are you missing out?**

Find out if you are eligible and find out how to apply – follow this link.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth  
Headteacher