



School Newsletter

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

07.01.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school for the new term. I hope you all had a happy and restful Christmas and an enjoyable break. The children returned refreshed, looking very smart and ready to go. They settled down quickly to hard work this week and as always, are a credit to you all.

On behalf of all the staff, thank you very much for all the Christmas cards from the children and families and for all the gifts received last term.

COVID News

As we all probably expected, we have been impacted by both pupil and staff absence due to COVID self-isolation. We can probably assume that this is going to be the case for the next few weeks at least. Many of the positive cases we have been informed about are reporting 'cold-like' symptoms.

We will manage the best we can and avoid disruption to learning as much as possible. Mrs Nicklin was at home teaching the Year 2 class via Zoom this morning and will do so again until the middle of next week. Thank you to Mrs Grayken and parent volunteer, Mrs Houghton for supervising the class so well and well done to Mrs Nicklin for 'Zooming in'. Thank you also to all the staff for supporting children self-isolating at home and well done to those children for joining in with the class work – we know it is neither ideal nor easy.

A couple of reminders:

- The 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. I have attached a flowchart from the *Stay at Home* guidance, which is very helpful for reference.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

- People who are fully vaccinated, or children aged between 5 and 11 years, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school and nursery as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

- Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Family Bereavement

Please can I ask you to keep in your prayers a family in our community who have suffered the tragic loss of their young child due to illness. We will keep the family in our prayers at school.

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.

Primary School Admissions September 2022 Deadline

[Applications must be submitted Saturday 15 January 2022 – next Saturday!](#)

Please see Mrs Wilson's letter below regarding admissions to school for September 2022. Occasionally, I have to go to appeals meetings for pupils not admitted to school due to missed deadlines or non-completion of **supplementary information forms** (SIFs). If you are unsure about any part of the process please contact the school office – or if you are aware of anyone who is seeking a place at St Mary's next September and may not see this note please make them aware of it. Thank you.

Dear Parents & Carers,

*A reminder that if you have a child that is due to start school in September 2022, that the closing date for applications is **Saturday 15th January 2022**. Please be aware that if you are applying to our school (or any other faith school) that a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) **must be completed** for each school and the evidence provided where necessary.*

Should you have any questions or require any further help or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mrs Wilson

School Business Manager

Sport England Active Lives Survey

Mr Hodge has asked as many children as possible from Yrs 1, 3 and 5 to take part in the survey and as many parents as possible in Year 1. **The school will earn sports vouchers for the amount of entries it contributes.**

The Active Lives Children and Young People survey provides a world-leading approach to gathering data on how children engage with sport and physical activity.

It gives anyone working with children aged 5-16 key data to help understand children's attitudes and behaviours around sport and activity.

Schoolchildren across England are asked to take part in this survey, which sits at the heart of the Sport England vision – that everyone in England, regardless of their age, background and level of ability, should feel able to take part in sport and activity.

The survey was developed with the Department for Education (DfE), the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. It'll provide Sport England, government and other partners with a broad and deep understanding of activity levels and behaviours, to help shape future policy and investment decisions.

**A £100 worth of sport vouchers for your School
And a Healthy schools report and rating which can be used towards your Ofsted review**

To receive the voucher, report and health schools rating we only require the following numbers of completed surveys

- 30 pupil responses - ideally across Year 1 and 3
- 5 pupil responses across Year 5
- 1 parent response from Year 1 - (As I say, It is worthwhile encouraging as many Year 1 parents to complete as possible. **For each parent that completes the survey you will also receive an additional £10 of vouchers**)
- 1 teacher responses (essential for Healthy schools rating scheme)

The survey is completed online via a unique link for the years chosen for your school. Please find below the survey links and attached information so that you can start the online surveys.

This term the school years selected are Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5

Year 1 - <https://ipsos.uk/XBZKDI>

Year 3 - <https://ipsos.uk/UQZKFG>

Year 5 - <https://ipsos.uk/XKZKLL>

Parent Year 1 - <https://ipsos.uk/JBZKXR>

Parent Pay Balances



Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to remind you to check balances on Parent Pay and settle any outstanding amounts. Thank you.

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 07.01.22

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Penelope	For being such a good role model to other children and being very engrossed in her learning
	YR	Sienna F	For super learning in phonics and always trying hard.
	Y1	Luke N	For his beautifully neat, independent writing in our English and his interesting prediction in our new story.
	Y2	William B	For amazing contributions in class this week – a super start to 2022! 😊
	Y3	Alice	For confident answering of questions in class in various subjects.
	Y4	Evan	For his wonderful piece of writing in role as the main character from <i>The Balaclava Boys</i> .
	Y5	Oliver	For his enthusiasm and knowledge linked to our new topic on the rainforest.
	Y6	Akeyo	An amazing drawing of one of the weird sisters from Macbeth based on Banquo's description.



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



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 4	97.21
2 nd	YEAR 3	96.36
3 rd	YEAR 5	96.04
4 th	RECEPTION	95.66
5 th	YEAR 1	95.56
6 th	YEAR 2	95.48
7 th	YEAR 6	94.67

W/E 07.01.22

No 100% attendance this week.

P Smyth 07.01.22
Headteacher