



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

07.05.21

Dear parents/ carers,

COVID Lateral Flow Device tests

As we will all recognise, there are many reasons to be hugely optimistic about the success of the vaccination programme and the decline in the number of COVID cases. Hopefully, the Government will be able to continue to lift restrictions as they have planned to, over the coming weeks and months. This should help us in school return to a level of normality.

However, given the higher incidence of one of the 'Indian' variants of COVID in the Northwest it might be worth a reminder that **anyone in Lancashire** is eligible to access **free**, rapid coronavirus tests for themselves and their families to use twice a week.

These can be obtained locally from Woodlands Conference Centre (opposite Parklands School), from the Tesco Extra supermarket on Foxhole Road, Lloyds Pharmacy on Devonshire Road and from The Hub pharmacy on Peel Street.

Y4 Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to the children in Year 4 on receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) earlier this week. Fr Marsden, Fr Crowther and Father Raphael, came to school on Wednesday afternoon to hear the children's First Confessions on the KS2 playground, in the sunshine, at a COVID-safe distance.

The Y4s will be making their First Holy Communion over two weekends at the end of the half term break and the weekend after that. Thank you to Kinga, Mrs O'Neill and Fr Marsden for organising.

Crowning of Our Blessed Lady – Saturday 8th May



Kinga has asked me to extend an invitation to our parents and children to attend Mass for the *The Crowning of Our Blessed Lady* which will take place this weekend on Saturday 8th May at 17.00 Mass.

A plea from the EYFS (Nursery and Reception classes)!

We are looking to enhance our outside areas and need the following items. If you could spare any of these, please could you drop off inside the blue railings of Reception or Nursery class, we would be extremely grateful. Thank you.

- Astroturf cut offs
- Wooden ladders
- Tyres
- Planks of wood/decking
- Small logs for seating
- Disks of wood to make stepping stones
- Plant pots/watering can/buckets/compost
- Pebbles/chippings/shells
- Outdoor garden decorations/windmills/lights/windchimes/bird feeders
- Outdoor kitchen equipment, utensils/pots/pans

Walk to School Week w/c 17.05.21 - another reminder

We are taking part in an initiative with a charity called 'Living Streets' to encourage children, parents and carers to walk to school. The ambition of the charity is: Week beginning 17 May is the charity's annual Walk to School Week. You can find more about this on their website:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school>

The Big Ask - Please complete by 19th May



All children up and down England have been asked to share their thoughts and opinions in a nationwide survey. Let us try and ensure that every child at St Mary's has their voice heard!

Hi, my name is Rachel de Souza and I'm the Children's Commissioner for England. My job is to speak up for children in England, stand up for their rights, and make sure that the people in power listen to what children need and want.



This survey will only take you 5-10 minutes.

https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/?utm_source=dynamics&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tba-school-initial&msdyntrid=SKij_gRp_LDoRwGx4bdgOumQVnfWOOexY373-JHbX4k

Half-term activities

The Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) are delivering a half-term holiday sports camp at St Peter's school in the summer half-term break. It is four weeks off yet but you may be interested. There will be a huge variety of games and sports to keep children fit, active, engaged and most

importantly having fun throughout the holiday period. Each day will range from football to rounders, Basketball to athletics, dodgeball to netball and so much more! Please see the attached leaflet for details.

Mental health and wellbeing

If you have concerns about your child's mental health or wellbeing during this period, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Please contact me or your child's class teacher, or any trusted adult within school. Here are a couple of websites you may find useful in the meantime: A comprehensive guide from the Government/ Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

NSPCC

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/april/supporting-children-young-people-mental-health>

Attendance



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



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	99.24
2 nd	YEAR 1	99.10
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.84
4 th	RECEPTION	98.68
5 th	YEAR 4	98.31
6 th	YEAR 6	96.99
7 th	YEAR 5	96.65


W/E 07/05/2021 Well done **Year 3** on your **100%** this week!

Lancashire School Games - Resources



We have been asked to share this with you: on Monday 12th April the new Lancashire School Games website went live. Resources are available for schools and families to use for activities, competitions, PE etc. Have a look around here; <https://www.lancashireschoolgames.co.uk/> The team have also released a video (aimed at Primary) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-mb6ualGgg>

Stars of the Week - 07.05.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Charlie H	Fantastic reading (especially of 'tricky' words) and blending
YR	Finley	Fantastic independent learning in continuous provision.
Y1	Kristian	Excellent understanding in maths and a good effort with his independent writing.
Y2	Oscar	Excellent effort in handwriting.
Y3	Jack	Amazing progress with his Learn-Its in maths.
Y4	Nicolas	Working hard on his writing and using fronted adverbials and adverb starters.
Y5	Iris	Her enthusiasm and participation in the topic – <i>'Food, Glorious Food'</i>
Y6	Harrison	Great work in English and maths with Mrs Hartle.

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.

With open events not possible in person, we have decided to publish a video which offers an insight into the training course and our offer to Associate Teachers. We will put this all over our social media platforms and advertise on Facebook shortly.

Yarrow Teaching School
Alliance
Open Event:
Tuesday 1st December 7pm



This Autumn, with face to face open evenings not possible, the Yarrow Teaching School Alliance invite you to a zoom open event. Have questions about our Initial Teacher Training Course answered, meet the team and see an Alliance school. email a.hitchen@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk to RSVP and receive log in details

<http://www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk> @YarrowTSA

St Mary's is part of the Yarrow Teaching School Alliance. If you have a degree and interested in becoming a primary school teacher, visit the website above. **P Smyth 07.05.21**