



School Newsletter

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

08.10.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Harvest Food Collection



Many thanks to all our families for their generosity today in the food collection for the Living Waters Church Food bank. I took a whole boot-full of bags of tins, pasta, rice and other goodies to the food bank. I met one of our parents of some former pupils who works there.

Having chatted with the staff at the centre, it is clear that there is a growing need for this service. One

hundred and eighty-eight families and individuals were helped last month.

The supplies they have at present should take them up to Christmas but it might be good if we were able to do another food donation in the weeks before Christmas.



Key Stage 2 (the juniors) visit to the Anderton Centre

Over the last two days, the children in Y3, 4, 5 and 6 spent a day each at the Anderton Centre for an outdoor and adventurous experience that will hopefully live long in the memories. They spent time: on the water in canoes, learning bush craft (building shelters, lighting fires and toasting marshmallows) and they also managed to fit in a bit of tree climbing. Thank you: to all the staff for their hard work; to Mr Hodge for his time and effort in organising the visit and to all the volunteers (parents and governors) who came along to make sure the visit was such a success.

Our Chair of Governors, Kath Smith, one of the volunteers said, 'Phew, what a fabulous day and so lovely to see the children have such a happy time. They enjoyed everything from the coach ride to the activities and behaviour and enthusiasm was superb.'

Finally, a big thank you and well done to the KS2 children for their excellent behaviour and attitude on the visit; the staff at the Anderton Centre couldn't praise them highly enough.

Sports News

Football: St Mary's v All Saints, St Mary's v St Gregory's and St Mary's v. Charnock Richard

Mr Hodge took the St Mary's football team for their third visit to the impressive Westway Sports Centre in Chorley to take part in their third round of fixtures. St Mary's incredible start to the season continued with further 4 – 0, 2 – 0, and 3 – 0 wins respectively. This makes a phenomenal eight-match winning streak – could be a first ever for St Mary's!

Sacramental Class meeting - Tuesday 5 October 6pm

St Mary's lead catechist, Kinga Gray-Grzeczynska, led a meeting on Zoom last Tuesday evening to introduce the Sacramental Programme for our Y4 class parents, this year. Thank you Kinga and thank you to our parents for your support. I hope parents found it useful and informative. The following Wednesday morning, the Y4 class went to Mass at St Mary's Church. At the end of Mass Kinga delivered the first Catechesis session which was a 'treasure hunt' around the Church.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Go Green



Thank you everyone for supporting our *Go Green for CAFOD* fundraiser. The school community raised an **incredible £495.**

Macmillan's Coffee Morning

Last Friday, Mrs Grandi organised a coffee morning and cake sale event for the staff and volunteers to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Mrs St John and Mrs Oldham returned to school to support the event. There are many talented bakers on the staff and their offerings were quickly snapped up. The event raised an impressive **£186.** Thank you to Mrs Grandi for organising and thank you to the staff for supporting.



Prospective Parents Meeting – Wednesday 6th October 6.00pm



There was a meeting for prospective parents on Wednesday evening to give a flavour of what St Mary's school is all about. It was different to previous years' open events for obvious reasons, but I hope parents found it useful and informative.

There is an opportunity to watch our school open day video, which will give a further insight into school life at St Mary's. It is available on youtube:

<https://youtu.be/Oiaso2y9Lag>

2022 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

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).****

Year 6 Pupils

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6, you can now apply for their secondary 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 secondary applications for September 2022 is on 31 October 2021

Break time snacks

Children (and staff) do get a bit peckish around about break time and we are happy for them to have a snack. Our policy is for this snack to be toast or a piece of fruit on Monday to Thursday and a snack of their choice on a Friday. The school provides toast, which works out at 20p a day on a pre-ordered basis. Alternatively, children may bring in a snack from home. We do ask that all pupils adhere to this rule. **Chocolate bars, sweets and crisps are not allowed on Monday to Thursday.**

Messages from the school office:

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



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.

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.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2021/2022 w/E 08.10.21



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 4	98.76
2 nd	YEAR 5	98.46
3 rd	YEAR 1	97.61
4 th	RECEPTION	97.54
5 th	YEAR 6	97.49
6 th	YEAR 3	97.09
7 th	YEAR 2	96.74

Congratulations to our Y4 class who managed **100%** attendance last week.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 08.10.21

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Ralphi	For super answering about the colour monster story.
	YR	Holly Mc	Being a good friend and being welcoming to a new friend.
	Y1	Buddy	For persevering with his work and proving to himself that he can do it!
	Y2	James	being a maths superstar!
	Y3	Freddie	For enthusiasm and effort at the Anderton Centre.
	Y4	Owen	For his enthusiasm and participation at the Anderton Centre.
	Y5		AT THE ANDERTON CENTRE
	Y6		AT THE ANDERTON CENTRE



Message from the Chorley School Sports Partnership – October half-term holiday club [please see attached leaflet]

Hello,

We are running an October holiday club at St Peters C of E primary school during half term. I have attached the leaflet if you could send out and advertise to your parents that would be great.

Thank you,

Micaela

Senior Bikeability Instructor & School Sports Coach

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 08.10.21