



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

09.07.21

Dear parents/ carers,

COVID UPDATE

1 Class return

The three self-isolating classes returned to school during this week and it was great to have the whole school back in once again today.

2 What to do if a member of your household tests positive for COVID over a weekend?

We would be very grateful if you could inform school if, in the unfortunate event, your child tests positive for COVID this weekend, so that we can make arrangements for the rest of the class who would then need to self-isolate on Monday. To contact us. Please email office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk . This email account will be monitored over the weekend.

If another member of your household tests positive over any weekend so that your child needs to self-isolate on Monday, please let school know on Monday.

3 COVID Lateral Flow Device tests

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.

Health Week 2021

I hope your children enjoyed this year's 'Health Week' in school. It was, quite simply, brilliant. In an action packed week, the children enjoyed a huge range of activities including amongst other things: working with a chef to produce some amazing food, 'ultra-frisbee' fun, an athletics day, kim ball (ask the children!) and the 'colour run.' It was a really uplifting end to a unique and difficult year and I am sure will have created many lasting memories.

Thank you to Mr Hodge for putting it all together and to the staff for throwing themselves wholeheartedly into the activities. And once again thanks to the superb Chorley Schools Sports Partnership CSSP team led by Gemma Stokes, who helped out during the week.

The 2020 UEFA European Football Championship Final – England v. Italy

We know many of our pupils will be stopping up late to watch England play in their first major football final in 55 years! As such, although school **will be open at the normal time** (at 845 and 855) on Monday, there will be a **late registration of 10 a.m.**

Children are able to come to school on Monday, dressed either in their England kits or in red and white clothing. Let's hope we will have cause for a celebration rather than commiseration! 🤝

Year 4 swimming will be at the normal time – we can't change the swimming slot!

The Big Sunday Festival 12 September

A date for your diaries...



End of year gifts

Mrs Wilson has told me that a number of parents have been asking what the school is doing about end of year gifts for staff this year. Please do not feel that there is any pressure or that there is any expectation from school to get gifts for staff members; there is none whatsoever. Staff members are doing the job that they are paid to do. That said, I know, like anyone, that they do appreciate a kind word, whether spoken in person or put in an email, a card or on Class Dojo (but there's no expectation of that either!).

However, regardless of what I say, some of you will want to give a gift anyway. If that is the case, then that's fine too because the staff members can quarantine items in their rooms.

Parish Newsletter

Please see parish newsletter attached. Please note the information on COVID safety measures in church which will be in place after 19th July.

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
=1 st	YEAR 3	98.81
= 1 st	YEAR 1	98.81
3 rd	RECEPTION	98.39
4 th	YEAR 2	98.26
5 th	YEAR 4	98.00
6 th	YEAR 5	95.70
7 th	YEAR 6	95.05

W/E 09/07/2021

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 09.07.21**