



# School Newsletter

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

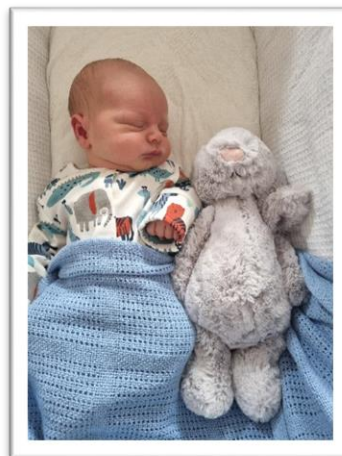
09.09.22

**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. A big welcome also, to our new teachers covering maternity leave, Miss Lewis in Nursery and Mrs Ayres in Year 2. They have also settled in extremely well!

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Mrs Singleton and Mrs Banwell on the births of their babies over recent weeks: Mrs Singleton had a baby girl, Beatrice and Mrs Banwell had a baby boy, Oliver. We wish them every happiness in their enlarged families for the years ahead.



## **Welcome Message from the Chair of Governors, Kath Smith**

On behalf of St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery governors, I would like to welcome everyone to a new school year. We have proudly said our goodbyes to our previous Year 6 class and wish them all every success in the future. We are delighted to welcome the new children into the

reception and nursery classes and look forward to seeing them, and all the other children in the school grow and fulfil their potential during their time with us.

The most important measure of our effectiveness as a school is pupils' progress (both academically, socially, and emotionally). Children's progress in any school is heavily influenced by the support and guidance they receive at home as well as at school. As parents and carers, you are very much part of our whole school community - and we look forward to working with you over the coming months and years.

If you need to know more about the governors please see:

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/governors/governors>

Kath Smith Chair of Governors

### **Sacramental Class Meeting September 12th at 6pm**

There is a meeting on Zoom for parents/ carers of children due to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

At the meeting on September 12th at 6pm, 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/ carers to ask any questions that they may have. The Zoom link and details have been sent out via Groupcall.

### **Year 3 to Year 6 visit to St Mary's Church to celebrate the beginning of the new school year and to visit the relics of St Bernadette Friday 16 September at 9am.**

The juniors are going to Mass at St Mary's Church next Friday morning at 9am. The Mass will be an opportunity to celebrate simultaneously, the start of a new school year, Our Lady's Birthday (September 8<sup>th</sup>) and a visit to see the relics of St Bernadette. St Mary's Church has been given the honour and privilege of hosting the relics for the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

(For more details of the tour of the Saint Bernadette relic tour, see <https://stbernadette.org.uk/>)

We ask parents of children in Y3-6 to bring the children directly to St Mary's Church and not to school on **Friday morning from 0845**. Y3-6 children who attend Breakfast Club will walk up to Church with members of the school's staff.

Children can go straight to their benches in the Church. Staff will be there to organise this.

At the end of Mass, at approximately 0945-1000, the classes will leave Church and walk back down to school.

## 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>

### Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022

On behalf of the children, staff, families, and whole school community I would like to express our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy following the death of Queen Elizabeth II yesterday.

Our thoughts and prayers are with King Charles III and the Royal Family at this time of mourning as we remember her great service and contribution, not just to the United Kingdom but also the Commonwealth and the rest of the world.

She was a magnificent lady who was led by her values and beliefs. These included some of our school values which she demonstrated beautifully for our children. She will be remembered for her humility, integrity, dignity and her unwavering support and smile. Her commitment, hardworking nature and dedication will continue to inspire others, particularly our school children as we remember the life of a truly remarkable lady; our Queen, Elizabeth II.

Today in assembly, we held a minute's silence in remembrance of The Queen and said *The Eternal Rest* prayer.

Over the national period of mourning the following things will be in place to help the children show their respect and remember this wonderful lady including:

- A beautiful display of images throughout The Queen's life has gone up in school for the children to admire – thank you to Mrs Root for taking the time to do this.
- Age appropriate well planned commemorative learning opportunities taking place in each class – please watch this space to hear from your own children and class teachers about this.
- Children may wear a black ribbon or arm band if they so wish, to show respect.
- School book of condolence on display daily before and after school outside Mrs Wilson's and Mrs Hargreaves' office for all members of our school community to record reflections and memories about The Queen in (parents, grandparents and children alike – all entries welcome).
- Finally, please see the Picture News resource attached with ideas to help us remember the Queen's life in a suitable manner at home too.

Once the period of mourning has ended we will also work with children to help them understand succession and plan further learning on our new King – Charles III.

Thank you to our beloved Queen Elizabeth II – may she rest in peace.

Jessica Nicklin/ Patrick Smyth.



#### **Messages from school office - Mrs Wilson/ Mrs Hargreaves**

#### **New School Telephone system**

At the start of the summer holidays, we had a new digital telephone system installed. Please note that when you now contact school there are new options to listen out for:

OPTION 1 is to leave an absence message for your child (please note that these are now stored on a digital file). Please remember to state their name, class, reason for absence and who the person is leaving the message.

OPTION 2 is to speak to the school office, if we are unable to take your call, you are able to leave a message and we will contact you as soon as possible.

OPTION 3 is to speak to the After School Club staff. This option should be used after 3.15 p.m. to contact the ASC staff if you are caught in traffic/in an emergency and will be late to collect your child or to inform them that another adult is collecting your child.

Please note that prior to 3.15 pm you are able to leave a message on their answerphone if your child will not be attending the club that night or need to inform them of any other information.

#### **Other items**

PE kit - white top, blue black bottoms etc. For the time being we would like children to continue to attend school in their PE kits on the days that they have PE. It does mean that they have more time to do actual PE instead of changing in and out of kit. We will of course keep that under review.

Sickness diarrhoea - must be 48 hours absence to prevent any wider outbreaks in school.

COVID – the recommendation is three days absence for children with the date of symptoms or positive test counting as day zero.

Absences - please ring the absence line at the office - don't tell teachers or get siblings to pass messages on

Hospital appointments – please supply the school office with a copy of the appointment letters.

Please refer parents to our FAQ page on the website for further info - <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/parents/faqs>

Parentpay - all outstanding balances must be paid by Monday (except the new starters - they will be sent an activation letter next week to set up their accounts)

Thanks Mrs Wilson/ Mrs Hargreaves

### **St Mary's school & nursery loves reading – message from Miss Hesketh**

St Mary's school and nursery believe passionately in the importance of reading and in promoting a love of reading in the children. We have been working hard to develop that love of reading still further with our children and staff.

#### ***Volunteer readers wanted!***

One of the things, we would like is for people in our community to come in and read to the children. We have learned over time that the children love to hear different people read to them - not just their teachers and teaching assistants. It could be a regular thing or a one-off.

Miss Hesketh - *'We want to feed that love of reading at St Mary's. We want children to hear other members of our community read to them - they are inspired when they hear others do this. Could you spare a small amount of time to become a reading volunteer at St Mary's? It could be reading to the whole class or reading to smaller groups with the teacher there. If you are someone who is passionate about helping children to develop a lifelong love of reading, then please contact Miss Hesketh for further details via the school office.'*

#### ***Books for birthdays. Rather than sweets.***

Celebrating children's birthdays in class with children's books, rather than bags of sweets, is something we are giving a go this year. We thought that rather than buying sweets for the whole class to celebrate a child's birthday, children could donate a book on their birthday to the class library. Over time, this would really expand the book collection in each class with titles and authors we know the children really enjoy.

During the course of each year, we have *Ebb & Flo* bookshop deliver gift-wrapped books to each class. You would not believe the excitement that causes even in the older classes! So, it's something we know the children will enjoy.

In the coming weeks, the class teacher will provide a list of suggested suitable books for the parents and we will cross off titles from the list as the year progresses. We realise that this may present an unnecessary expense for some, or that some would simply rather not do this, so there is absolutely no obligation and it is, of course, completely voluntary.

### **Eco Council – exciting News!**

Mrs Nicklin received this letter during the school holiday:

***We are very pleased to tell you that you that Chorley St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery have been awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag. In order to be awarded this honour, Chorley St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery application was reviewed and the following items were noted:***

It's wonderful that you have appointed such a large and representative Eco-Committee, this shows your school's excellent commitment to both the programme and the eco-cause. We love your democratic and fair approach to appointing Eco-Committee members. It's great to see that other pupils played a part in the process. We love that you kept minutes from your meetings and that they helped to track, guide and prompt your activity. It was great to see that young people were responsible for completing those meeting minutes – this helps them develop new skills! This is a mature and professional approach. Great work!

It was wonderful to see how completing your Environmental Review helped to raise the level of awareness in your school and helped your Eco-Committee to identify the issues and spot gaps in your school's existing environmental activity. But equally important is that it helped you to recognise the great work that you were already doing. This helps to keep up the good activity whilst making you feel empowered to do different things. We love this!

We love the range of activities that you and your Eco-Committee planned for delivery. The fact that they cover such a wide range of activities (energy monitors and a 'switch-off' campaign, recycling points for pens & batteries, both energy and waste awareness posters, a ban on glitter and balloon releases, a Marine Life Day and making an artwork sculpture from waste) is excellent. It was also great to see accountability clearly marked in your Action Plan, although we were surprised there was no real Monitoring and Evaluation system in place. Great work though! You've clearly embedded the ethos of Eco-Schools far and wide in your school!

We love your ambition in tackling areas where you scored lowest in the Environmental Review. This shows you have a confident Eco-Committee dedicated to maximising their impacts. We're really impressed at how you've linked environmental issues to a variety of curriculum areas. We loved seeing the excellent photos of your curriculum links and planners. This is a great example of layering in sustainability and climate change into your studies. We loved reading about how you had incorporated learning about global issues not only into the Geography and Science Curriculum (most common ones) in your school, but also into other areas such as English, Maths, History and D&T. Great work!

Your electronic Eco-Board is great, incredibly visual and engaging and promotes your work in a very attractive way. We love how active your Eco-Committee was in communicating their activities school-wide with both assembly and class feedback and use of the school website and social media as well as the Eco-board itself. These all combine to make a great approach!

We love that your pupils have taken their great work beyond the school gates and into their local community by planting some trees for the community as well as 250 trees (really?) for the Queen's Green Canopy Jubilee Appeal – superb! We are certain that your pupils will have greatly benefitted from your involvement with such outside organisations as Chorley and Lancashire County Councils, the Woodland Trust, CAFOD and Connecting Classrooms. The




parent quote is a great testament to the work that you are doing with your Eco-Committee, that they are taking their Eco-Schools work home with them and getting their families on board is something to be proud of! I hope you and your Eco-Committee take great pride in your achievements, when listed it's almost astonishing how many there are – however, the improvements to your school environment with the various energy and waste reducing and recycling initiatives and, most of all, your superb Jubilee tree planting (we loved that) all nicely stand out!

Everyone involved should be incredibly proud of the changes they have made. We thought your Eco-Code was brilliant! It was punchy and really creative, setting out tangible and accessible calls to action your whole school can get behind!

Congratulations to everyone for the great work you have managed to do, earning your Green Flag with Merit in style. You should all be very proud of your work and the application you have submitted!

*Watch this space for the eco flag arriving at school soon (we will plan an unveiling ceremony for this) and the eco initiatives taking place and planned throughout this year led by our newly nominated school eco-council. Well done St Mary's... keep up the inspirational work!*

#### STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 09.09.22



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	All of Nursery class	For settling in and having such a super first week.
YR	All of Reception class	for settling in so well to St Mary's
Y1	Sam W	For working so independently in his first week in Y1
Y2	Niamh	Working hard in every lesson and showing excellent writing skills
Y3	Archie	Always willing to give answers to questions in class.
Y4	All Year 4	Being a credit to St Mary's on their first swimming session. Having an excellent first week.
Y5	Emily	For excellent writing in role as an evacuee.
Y6	Luca	Great writing using a wide variety of language features.



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



<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b>CURRENT %</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	RECEPTION	99.11
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 2	97.67
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 4	97.42
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	97.33
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	97.10
6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	96.33
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 3	91.33

Best wishes,

P Smyth 09.09.22