



# School Newsletter

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

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**10<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Dear parents and carers,

**We still have a vacancy for a site supervisor!**

We are looking for a part-time site-supervisor (caretaker) to work 15 hours a week, 0600 - 0900 each day, with some flexibility to work additional hours, if possible. If you are interested or if you know anyone else who is, please let the office know.

**Road safety!**

In the absence of a site supervisor, we are struggling to put out those yellow 'No Parking' signs/ A-frames. Are there any parents or carers able to arrive a few minutes early and put them out for us – particularly the ones on Walgarth Drive? If you can, please let the office know – it would be greatly appreciated.

**Non-uniform day in support of Gillibrand Primary School**

In December 2023, the headteacher of Gillibrand Primary School, Ashley Clayton, passed away after a short illness. In her memory, her love of Gillibrand and her love of books, Gillibrand Primary are fundraising for a memorial reading garden.

Today we had a non-uniform day and raised **£250**. Thank you very much for your kind donations for towards the memorial project. Gillibrand were delighted to receive it.

**Feast of the Ascension Eucharistic Service Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

Thank you to Deacon Norman for coming into school on Wednesday morning to celebrate a short Eucharistic service with the whole school to mark the Feast of the Ascension.

**Y4 Parent/ Carer Sacramental Meeting – Zoom – Monday 13 May at 6pm.**

There is a meeting for Y4 parents/ carers on Zoom on Monday 13 May at 6pm whose children are receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the coming weeks. Zoom invitations have been sent out separately.

#### **Y4 Trip to Manchester Museum**

The Y4 class enjoyed a wonderful visit to Manchester Museum yesterday. They were particularly focused on the importance of artefacts in developing our understanding of the past. Erin (Y4) said they were amazed that they got to see an actual ancient Egyptian mummy. Mrs Banwell said that they were allowed to handle some ancient Egyptian objects – real artefacts. It wasn't all ancient history though – some of it was natural history. William W told me that they were also able to see some live animals – he was particularly impressed with the geckos. The Y4s said they had a great day. A big thank you to Mrs Banwell for taking them and a very big thank you to the volunteers who accompanied the class on the visit.

#### **Sports News - Hockey**

Yesterday afternoon, the St Mary's hockey squad played a series of matches up at Holy Cross. Mrs Cassidy said that they gave a great performance – they were amazing. Well done to all the players for their great teamwork and thank you to Mrs Cassidy and Mrs Houghton for managing the team.

#### **Free School Meals, Pupil Premium and School Budget (message also sent out separately)**

Our school budget, like most school budgets, is becoming increasingly stretched by the rising costs of goods and services. There is a source of funding that we think our school could be potentially missing out on. It is called **pupil premium** funding. Schools receive this money for each child that is entitled to the **free school meals** benefit (this is something different to infant free school meals).

The school may be missing out on this funding because it does not receive it automatically. It requires parents/ carers to apply for it and many of us may not even realise they we are entitled to this benefit.

To confuse matters further, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to universal infant free school meals but this is different to free school meals as it does not bring in pupil premium funding for school. Parents of children in the infants may be entitled to free school meals in addition to universal infant free school meals.

Therefore we would like to ask all of our parents/ carers from reception to Year 6 to consider whether they might meet the criteria for free school meals for their child(ren). This could help to ensure that the school does not miss out on additional pupil premium funding.

There is a simple way to check to see if your child(ren) may be entitled to free school meals. It is accessed through Lancashire County Council and it is a very quick, straightforward process. See link: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

There is a very good article on the Martin Lewis Money Saving Expert website which provides more information.

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/free-school-meals/>

#### **Request for help from St Mary's Church**

We need some parental help, please!

We need volunteers for approximately one hour on Saturday 18th May at 13.30 to help clean the church before the Civic Service for the new Mayor and Mayoress on Sunday 19th May. Please bring your own dusters. It would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Kinga Grzeczynska

### **It's Mental *Family Wellbeing Festival* Sunday the 16th of June 2024**

One of our families is organising the Family Wellbeing Festival at Rivington this year; you may have seen the banners and posters dotted around Chorley. See leaflet attached to the newsletter for more details.


The Wellbeing Experience are organising the ***Family Wellbeing Festival*** which is taking over Rivington for the second year running, on Sunday the 16th of June 2024. We have a discounted family ticket for 2 adults and 2 junior tickets, and under 5s go free!

For more info and tickets please visit [www.itsmental.co.uk/familywellbeingfestival](http://www.itsmental.co.uk/familywellbeingfestival)

We'll have 10 zones featuring a range of activities, speakers and workshops where the whole family can take part in new activities, learn new skills, find new hobbies, learn more about volunteering and community projects, but most importantly to make sure they feel supported with their physical and mental health. We know that prevention is better than cure, meaning that helping people at the earliest opportunity means they are less likely to head for any crisis situations, even if they do not feel they need support in that moment they will have the knowledge and skills to access support if they should need it in the future.

We'll also be announcing ***The Family Adventure Challenge*** very soon! The challenge gives families the opportunity to work as a team and showcase their resilience whilst tackling the water, air and land activities, with 3 entry points to suit all ages. They are also able to use this challenge to raise money for a good cause, too!

### **Star of the Week 10.05.24**

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Rosie	fantastic approach to learning .
	YR	Marnie	always doing the right thing and being a role model for others .
	Y1	Jacob	his super participation in his number activities, especially joining in with rhymes.
	Y2	Joshua A	a fabulous wheel in DT.
	Y3	Ella	some super answers in class this week when she has put her hand up.
	Y4	Charlie W	hard work and wonderful problem-solving skills in mathematics
	Y5	Sophia T	excellent contributions and wonderful work during our work on statistics in mathematics.
	Y6	Evan	a massive improvement in arithmetic test scores

## Charity Ice Hockey Match at Planet Ice, Blackburn on Saturday 12 May at 1745

One of our parents has asked us to publicise a charity ice hockey match at Planet Ice, Blackburn this Saturday 12 May at 1745 to raise awareness for mental health. See attached leaflet for details.

## Reception new-intake afternoon – Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>

This year we are having our new intake meeting for the parents of children joining us in the reception class in the autumn term in an afternoon session on Tuesday 21st May. This means that we are also going to be able to invite the children to attend too, and they will be able to spend the session in their new classroom.

## Reception September 2024 places

We still have some places for our reception class in September, so if you know of anyone moving into the area and looking for a place in a Catholic school for September, please let them know. Sometimes families move into the area and are surprised the school is here because it is tucked away.

## Attendance



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2023/2024 w/e 10.05.24



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 1	97.13
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 5	97.07
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 6	97.00
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 3	96.70
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 2	95.82
6 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	95.24
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	94.98

Well done **Y4** on your **100%** attendance this week!

## Messages from the school office:

Please can we settle ParentPay accounts as soon as possible. Thank you.

## Chorley Catholic Community Annual Festival - Sunday 8th September 1pm - 5pm, St Gregory's Church, Weldbank, Chorley

Mr Paul McBeth the organiser of the *Chorley Catholic Community Annual Festival* has written to us to give advance notice of this year's event in September on Sunday 8th September 1pm - 5pm at St Gregory's Church, Weldbank, Chorley

He asked us to let you know about and offer you an official invitation to take part this year. It would be good to know if you want to take part. If interested, could you reply to [cnocl@hotmail.com](mailto:cnocl@hotmail.com)

please? It's the same format as last year - you get a double gazebo but have to supply a table(s) and chairs.

**Mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children. (Contacts below).**



P Smyth 10.05.24



Young People  
Scan this QR  
code to find  
support

SCAN ME

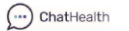
Text a school nurse directly to talk about health or emotional wellbeing:  
If you're 11-19 text our ChatHealth line on:  
**07507330510**  
or scan the QR code



Parents scan  
this QR code to  
find support

SCAN ME

If you're a parent of 5-19 year old text our Lancashire ParentLine for support on:  
**07312263554**  
or scan the QR code



care.think.do