



School Newsletter

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

10.09.21

Dear parents/ carers,

We have completed our first full week back. The children have been fantastic but I bet a fair few of them are tired after a their first week of work, especially the younger ones. They have earned their weekend of rest.

Big Sunday



The Deanery 'Big Sunday Festival' is taking place this Sunday 12 September. It promises to be a fun-filled afternoon get together.

There are games and activities for the children and lots more besides. Why not pop up to St Gregory's Gardens to see what's going on?

Visit by Chair and Vice Chair of the Governors

Mrs Smith, Chair of Governors and Mrs Rogerson, Vice-Chair popped into school this week to see me and we had a brief tour around the school to see how the children were settling in. Our governors were very impressed with the children's engagement and behaviour and by how much they knew about school governors.

Mass at St Mary's - KS2

The children in in Y3, 4, 5, and 6 paid their first visit to Church as a whole group for the first time in over 18 months; indeed it was Y3 and Y4s' first such visit. It was a very special occasion. We celebrated the start of the new school year, Our Lady's birthday and we gave thanks for the harvest.

Father Marsden said Mass exclusively for the children and staff and spoke with them during his homily. We were blessed with excellent weather for our walk back to school. The children's behaviour was fantastic. Thank you Fr Marsden for accommodating us and thank you to Kinga, parish administrator and school governor, for facilitating our first visit back for such a long time.

G7 Speakers and Presiding Officers Visit to Chorley

As you will be aware, Sir Lindsay Hoyle is hosting the G7 Speakers and Presiding Officers Visit to Chorley the weekend after this. We were asked to nominate a pupil representative from St Mary's, to attend a tree-planting ceremony on 18th September at Astley Park.

We asked the Y6 children to give a presentation to the class if they wished to represent the school. The decision to select a representative was put the vote – democracy in action! The candidates gave phenomenal speeches but their classmates could only select one. Therefore, congratulations go to Melodie, will be our representative at the ceremony.

G7 - Open invitation to children, parents and school staff

In addition to Melodie representing the school, a further invitation was sent to the school by the Speaker's office:

Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons and MP for Chorley will welcome representatives from the USA, France, Italy, Japan and the EU Parliament for the annual meeting of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the G7.

Welcome the G7 Speakers to Astley Hall - As an additional opportunity to be part of the G7 Speakers' Conference, we would also like to invite schoolchildren, their teachers and their parents/guardians to come to Astley Park to line the driveway as the Speakers of the G7 drive into the park and arrive at Astley Hall on this very special occasion for Chorley.

Key information:

Please arrive at the park by 8.45am to see the arrival party. You will need to enter the park via the entrance on Park Road. The Hall Gate car park will be closed. This event is free and anyone is welcome to come along. You are welcome to make or bring flags to wave along the route, and you will be allowed to take photographs. We look forward to seeing lots of you there to welcome the Speaker's guests to Chorley from across the world.

School council elections

The democratic process is in full swing at St Mary's. Next week children will be invited to stand for office as class representatives of the school council. Today we held speeches and elections for the positions of House Captain, House Vice-Captain and Sports Captains.

House Captains, House Vice-Captains and Sports Captains.

Once again, I would like to applaud all the children who took the time and made the effort to prepare and deliver speeches to persuade their House members to elect them. Congratulations to those who were elected and commiserations to those who were not. For those who were not elected this time, I know how disappointing this might feel and I would strongly encourage you to take up similar opportunities in the future. Well done and thank you for putting yourselves forward.

Congratulations to our new: House Captains, House Vice-Captains and Sports Captains.

	Hoghton	Rufford	Samplesbury	Worden
House Captain	William	Eleanor	Sophie	Charlotte E
House Vice-Captain	Lewis	Harry	Dylan	Melodie
Sports Captain	Adam	Charlotte B	George	Archie B



**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2020/2021 W/E 10/09/2021**



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 4	99.72
2 nd	YEAR 5	99.44
3 rd	YEAR 1	99.43
4 th	YEAR 6	98.89
5 th	YEAR 3	97.47
6 th	YEAR 2	97.11
7 th	RECEPTION	96.61

Congratulations to Y5 and Y6 who both achieved **100%** attendance this week!

COVID measures

School has returned to a little nearer to normal but we need to retain a small amount of caution. So, I hope you don't mind me reminding you that if your child has symptoms of COVID, however mild, that they do not come to school and we would ask you to arrange for a PCR test for them. Similarly, if a child develops symptoms of COVID in school, however mild, we would send them home until they have received a negative PCR test result.

One of the 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).

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.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 10.09.2020

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Noah	A fantastic first week in nursery – well done!
	YR	All the children	Having a fantastic first week in school.
	Y1	Niamh	A fantastic start – lots of effort and participation.
	Y2	Billy	For being a total superstar; he is always ready to learn
	Y3	Sophie	For answering lots of questions in class this week in various subjects.
	Y4	Faith	For her enthusiastic start to Year 4. All week Faith has participated well in class particularly during our drama activity.
	Y5	Ethan	A great start to Year 5, great participation and beautiful presentation
	Y6	Max	For an amazing independent piece of writing: <i>Will's Message in a Bottle</i>

Best wishes,

P Smyth 10.09.21