



# School Newsletter

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

11.02.22

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

The number of positive cases has slowed to almost a complete stop in school; no children have been off with COVID over the last couple of days. So, thank you everyone for supporting our COVID measures. LCC Public Health called last week to say that the measures that we have put in place were having a significant impact in minimising the spread. Thank you for your support especially if we have advised children to take LFD tests.

**STEM Week 14.02.22 – 18.02.22** (*reminder - this information has already been shared separately by Mrs Banwell & Mr Cahalin*)

This year we are celebrating STEM week (science, technology, engineering and maths) in school in order to promote and raise the profile of these subjects and to inspire our children to have a STEM career when they are older.

One of the aims of the week is to demonstrate to the children, through stimulating and interactive activities, how STEM subjects are integral in many areas of life. As part of this week, we will be holding a STEM Fair on Tuesday 15th February 2022. This is a great opportunity for the children to explore STEM subjects in fun and interesting ways.

We would like each child (on their own or in groups of up to four) to present an experiment or a research project of their choice, which they will prepare at home. Their projects can be presented in a variety of ways but they will need written information to go along with them to help others learn about their chosen topic. There are a lot of ideas online for different projects, *Pinterest* is a great place for inspiration. Children will then present their projects in their classroom. During Friday's award assembly certificates will be given for the best projects, we will be looking for originality, effort and a clear understanding of the subject being presented.

Mrs S Banwell  
*Y4 Teacher & Science Coordinator*

Mr M Cahalin  
*Y6 Teacher & Mathematics Coordinator*

## **Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 8 February**

Safer Internet Day is marked globally. The teachers carried out a variety of activities to teach children how to protect themselves online and how to behave in a kind and responsible manner when spending time online. Miss Hesketh also spoke with the children about online safety in assembly on Wednesday.

## St Mary's School has been at Hornchurch Drive for forty years – share your memories! – A message from Mr Hodge

To the wider school community on our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school site,

- *Did you attend St. Mary's School in the past?*
- *Do you know someone who did?*
- *Was it at our current site or next to the church at Mount Pleasant?*

If you did, no matter how long ago it was, please do share those memories with us...

In order to collate the memories and mark this special occasion, we have set up an e-mail address where you can send photographs, typed memories, achievements etc, etc, about your time at St. Mary's. Mr Hodge will then collate everything and share these memories as part of our celebration in the Summer Term.

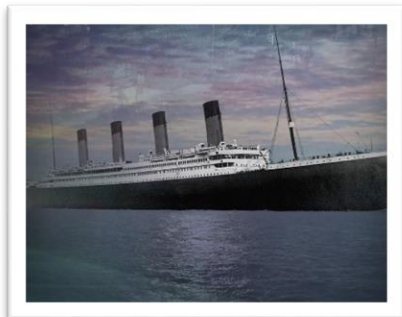
The address is [memories@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:memories@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk)

You may know an older parishioners for whom sending an e-mail doesn't suit them? Could you ask them to write something down and you submit the details on their behalf? Do they have any old photographs? Any old certificates? Anything and everything is welcomed.

We look forward to looking at your memories and sharing them with you in due course.

DEADLINE – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

### Y2 visit to Liverpool Maritime Museum



The Year 2s enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Liverpool Maritime Museum earlier last week. It was extremely windy but that did not spoil their fun. The children impressed the museum staff (and the staff and volunteers) with their knowledge and enthusiasm of the history of the voyage of the *Titanic*. I spoke to the children afterwards and it was clearly a visit that will live long in their memories.

Thank you Mrs Nicklin, Mrs Grayken and Mrs Houghton for taking them and thank you also to all the volunteers who came along and made the visit possible.

### World Inter-Faith Harmony Week - Visit of Rehana from the Pendle Faith Centre

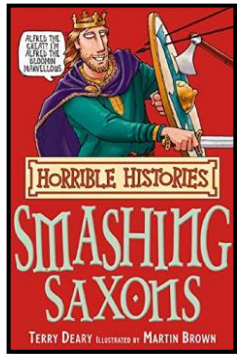
As part of our RE studies we were visited by Rehana from the Pendle Faith Centre to talk to the children about her faith, Islam. She used Zoom to visit the classes. Our children impressed our visitor with their knowledge, respect and keen interest. Rehana emailed school with the following message:

*'Wow. What an amazing school. The children were all so amazing and the teachers have done a wonderful job in helping the children to understand religion. Best wishes to all. Thank you.'* Rehana Ali

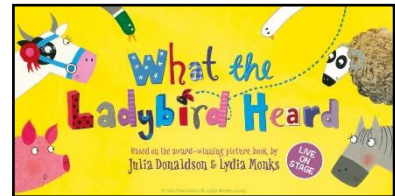
## Runshaw College - Performing Arts Department



On Monday this week children at St Mary's benefited from a last minute cancellation. Runshaw College contacted Mrs Nicklin last Friday to say that they had a cancellation and asked her did she think St Mary's would like a visit. And, of course, Mrs Nicklin said yes!



The teachers and classes that attended said that the performances were amazing and of a very high standard indeed. The children loved it. The younger children were treated to a performance of *What the Ladybird Heard* by Julia Donaldson; they thought it was brilliant. And some of the older children were treated to a *Horrible Histories* show about the Anglo Saxons.

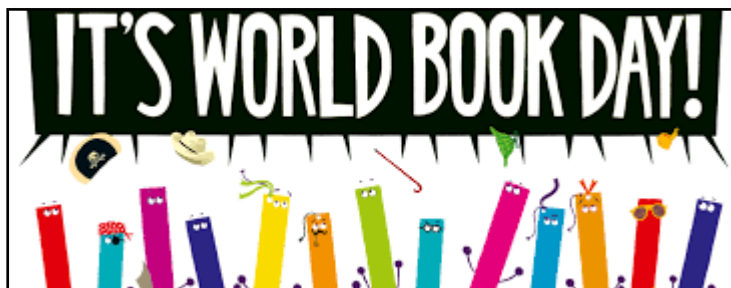


St Mary's would like to say a big thank you to the Runshaw College Performing Arts Department and its students and would also like to add we would love to welcome you back any time!

## Matt Oldfield Author Visit – Y5 to Holy Cross

Year 5 really enjoyed meeting author, Matt Oldfield, at Holy Cross on Thursday 10th February. They listened to his story and how he became an author. Matt gave the children lots of excellent writing tips and inspirational ideas.

The children asked some really thoughtful questions and their behaviour was exemplary. The whole class enjoyed the experience and the chance to visit Holy Cross. - Miss Hesketh



## World Book Day

World Book Day falls on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March; however, this year at school we will be celebrating it on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022**.

The theme this year is quite open – it's about **favourite authors**. So children, you could dress up as a character from one of your favourite authors books or bring in a prop linked to this book should you choose not to dress up. If you have a copy of the book please bring that to school too so you can share this with the rest of your class.

Footlights Theatre Company will be coming into school during the morning to perform to EYFS, KS1 and KS2. The children will take part in some exciting activities during the school day too in their class. We hope the children have a great day and enjoy celebrating their favourite authors and the pleasure they gain through the wondrous world of books.

Thanks for your continued support, Miss Hesketh (English Lead).

### **Car Parking – Pick up and Drop off**

Can I ask all parents/ carers, when dropping off and picking up:

- Please bear in mind especially, the safety of child pedestrians
- Please do not park across driveways.
- Please do not park in the hammerhead on Warton Place.
- If possible, set off a little earlier, park a little further away and walk the rest of the way. The children get rewarded for a *Park and Stride*.

There's a phrase I have seen on signs outside another school which says simply ...

SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!

### **Yarrow Schools Teaching Alliance**



The image shows a promotional graphic for the Yarrow Schools Teaching Alliance (YSA). It features the acronym 'YSA' in large blue letters at the top, followed by 'Yarrow School' in a stylized font where the letters are filled with images of children, and 'Alliance' in a colorful, multi-colored font below that. The background is a solid orange color. At the bottom, there is white text providing information about the alliance, including the slogan 'New Year, new challenge', the motto 'Train to teach with the best, to be the best!', and details about monthly events and contact information for the Initial Teacher Training Programme.

**YSA**  
**Yarrow School**  
**Alliance**

New Year, new challenge  
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!  
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.  
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based  
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email  
[r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk) for more information

### **Unavoidable School Closures**

Over the course of this term, the hours of daylight will lengthen and I think we can sense that happening already. Hopefully, it will begin to warm up a little bit too. However, in the unlikely event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

## 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 04.02.22**



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Jesse	For much improved friendships with others in Nursery class
YR	Charlie A	For super speaking and listening discussing our class story.
Y1	Jessica	For always doing her best in everything she does!
Y2	Sam	fantastic knowledge shown on the <i>Titanic</i> trip.
Y3	Marnie	Marnie has been 'boosted' in the Big Maths Learn Its Challenges 2 weeks in a row - very hard to do
Y4	Jimmy	For his clear explanation of the digestive system using scientific vocabulary.
Y5	Niamh	For stating clear reasons during our debate work on deforestation.
Y6	Oliver	A fantastic poem using metaphors

**STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 11.02.22**



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Robert L	Joining in well with activities with his friends in nursery.
YR	Brodie	Trying hard in everything she does – well done Brodie!
Y1	Olivia	Excellent recount writing.
Y2	Jacob	Fantastic vocabulary in his writing.
Y3	Freddie	Amazing volcano poem.
Y4	Declan	A great start to his persuasive writing based on his own gadget.
Y5	Bella	For her contributions and work during our internet safety afternoon.
Y6	Izzy	Great work in mathematics



**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League**  
**2020/2021 11.02.22**



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 5	96.06
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 2	95.41
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 3	95.10
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	95.06
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	94.97
6 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	94.36
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	93.21

Still no class with 100%!

**P Smyth 11.02.22**  
**Headteacher**

**Finally...**

Some Y5 pupils who are determined to make a difference in protecting our planet have put together their own newsletter. I told them I would share it with you. They told me that over the course of this year they have picked up over 650 pieces of litter.

