



# School Newsletter

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

11.03.22

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

The children have enjoyed another hardworking and busy week in school. We had our first face-to-face junior assembly in the hall for two years on Monday – the Y6s got to sit on benches – a privilege they have been looking forward to greatly! And, on Wednesday, we had our first whole school assembly for two years. It was great having the whole school together in one room; it is easy to forget that the children have not really met children from across the school over this whole period. It must have been quite a novelty for them and a first for our reception and year 1 classes.

We kept the hall well ventilated; the CO2 monitors showed that the air quality was quite good even with 210+ people in there. Next week, we are going to have all the infants in the hall for dinner at the same time for their lunchtime sitting and if all goes well, the following week we will have all the juniors in the hall for their lunchtime sitting. Slowly but surely, we are returning to a pre-pandemic way of life in school.

## **Ukraine Day**

Thank you for your support for our 'Ukraine Day' today. You raised an incredible **£470**. The money will go to the Chorley based *International Aid Trust* charity. It will be used to provide food, medical supplies and toiletries to the people of Ukraine. Thank you.

## **Appeal from the Archdiocese of Liverpool**

As many of you may know, St Mary's parish has strong links with Ukraine. Fr Marsden taught in a seminary there a number of years ago. One of his students and friends became a bishop, Gregory Komar. Over the years, Bishop Gregory has been a regular visitor to St Mary's parish.

The Archdiocese of Liverpool has asked if any parents/ carers are able to help in an appeal. Bishop Gregory Komar needs bandages, suture kits, saline, tourniquets, steristrips, plaster of Paris rolls, disposable gloves and masks, paracetamol and ibuprofen. These items are needed for the wounded Ukrainian civilians and soldiers who have been placed in all the hospitals across his Diocese. The plan is to deliver the items to him personally by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

One of the items on the list, which is in demand and hard to obtain, is an electrical generator. Generators are essential, because electricity is in short supply and hospitals are losing patients because of lack of electricity. Any parent/ carer in the construction and building trade may know someone who would donate a generator would be literally saving lives.

If you are able to help, you can bring these items to the school office over the course of next week and we will deliver to the parish. The first shipment to the Ukraine leaves Liverpool Archdiocese on 27th March. If you prefer, items can be dropped off at either of the two Chorley Parish Centres: St Mary's or St Joseph's before 24th March. Please see attached leaflet for more details.

### **Resources to talk to children about Ukraine**

Over the last week or so, we have been sent a number of resources on how to speak to children about what is happening in Ukraine. I will share them with you as I receive them, in case any of you would like to speak with your children about and are searching for materials to use. The link below has resources with age appropriate information and prayers for children of different ages.

[www.tentenresources.co.uk/pray-for-ukraine-EYFS/](http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/pray-for-ukraine-EYFS/)

### **Baton Relay**

This summer, the Commonwealth Games will take place in Birmingham. And, to mark that event, the SPAR Lancashire School Games is being launched with a baton relay. This relay commenced on the 28th February. The baton will travel through every district in Lancashire, before reaching Blackpool, week commencing 27th June. The relay will finish at the SPAR Lancashire School Games on 5th July at Stanley Park, Blackpool.

The baton arrived in Chorley from West Lancashire on Monday 7th March and it will leave Chorley today, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> when the baton will be handed over to the South Ribble area as it makes its onward journey to the Lancashire School Games 2022 Finals.

The baton arrived here at St Mary's school from Gillibrand Primary School on Wednesday afternoon, 09.03.22. Y1-6 classes went on to the track to give a noisy and warm welcome the baton bearers from Gillibrand. It stayed in school overnight before our Y6 sports leaders took it to Astley Park School on Thursday morning, where the baton and its bearers were given, once again, a rapturous welcome by the Astley Park school community. Our sports leaders were particularly impressed with the custard creams they were offered!

### **Lent Quiz**

Mrs Grezcynska, parish lead catechist, has been coming into school on Wednesday lunchtimes to deliver the Sacramental programme to the Y4s to prepare them to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. This week she did a Lent Quiz with them. I have attached the quiz to the newsletter with the answers – why not have a go and see how you get on?

### **Chorley Schools Sports Partnership CSSP Easter Holidays Multi Sports Camp 11-14 April.**

Please see attached a leaflet advertising the CSSP's Easter holiday sports camp. Unfortunately, our own Easter holiday and that of the other Chorley Catholic schools is slightly 'out of sync' with the other schools so will only be available for one week for our children: 11- 14 April at St. James' CofE Primary School & Clayton Green Leisure Centre (see attached).

### **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



### 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

### **Accompaniment - Side By Side – Archdiocese of Liverpool events**



Our school and parish members are invited to take part in an archdiocesan initiative: *Accompaniment - Side By Side*. These events take place Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 10am-4pm in Liverpool, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 12- 6pm and on Tuesday & Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April online. The organisers invite us to:

*Join us for this interactive event, exploring the vision of a Church that walks together and accompanies people in life and faith. We'll consider how deepening our existing practice of accompaniment will help our Catholic community be recognised as relevant and impactful, and how it will offer us all hope for growth.*

See leaflet attached for more details.

### **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 11.03.22

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Eden	For trying so hard being independent all week.
YR	Tess	For super writing this week and always trying hard.
Y1	Finn	Worked really hard, with a super attitude to learning.
Y2	Alfie	Fab effort with his writing.
Y3	Faith	For getting better scores - 4 weeks in a row - on her learn its (Maths).
Y4	Emily	For her wonderful research in science on solids, liquids and gases.
Y5	Amelia S	For a wonderful effort throughout our comprehension work linked to Journey to the River Sea.
Y6	Charley E	Great descriptive writing of a detective office.

### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

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CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 5	96.23
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 2	95.55
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 4	95.45
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 3	95.36
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	95.32
6 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	94.76
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	93.54



Congratulations to our Y4 and Y5 classes who both managed to achieve 100% attendance. Well done to those two classes. Great job!!



P Smyth, Headteacher 11.03.22