



# School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

11.06.21

**Dear parents/ carers,**

Welcome back to the start of the final half-term of this school year. It has been a very busy start but the children have settled back well into the routine of school. The lovely weather has helped a great deal, of course.

## **COVID**

I have attached a useful flow chart to this newsletter. It is a Lancashire COVID testing flow chart and is worth a look.

## **Hothersall Lodge**

Our staff and Year 6 children arrived back safe and sound this afternoon after a week of outdoor and adventurous activities at LCC's Hothersall Lodge Outdoor Education Centre near Longridge. For much of this year we did not know if this residential visit would be able to take place due to COVID restrictions. We are so glad that it did because we know it is such a rewarding and educational time and that the children really look forward to it.

I would like to say a big thank you to Mr Cahalin, Mr Hodge and Ms Ritson for taking them and giving up their time to ensure that the children had the best possible experience. I also felt immense pride when Mr Cahalin told me how engaged and how enthusiastic the children were, of the way that they supported and encouraged one another throughout and of their wonderful behaviour. They are a credit to the school and their parents.

## **PE kits**

Part of the group of measures we took to make school as safe as possible and to reduce risk of COVID transmission was for children to come to school in PE clothes including tracksuit tops and bottoms during the winter months.

Now we are in the summer months and enjoying much warmer weather, I would like the children to return to wearing their normal PE kit to school i.e. **white t-shirt and black or blue shorts**. They can also wear trainers, as their PE will be taking place outdoors unless of course it is raining. If it is a cooler day they can wear their school jumper or cardigan on top rather than wearing hoodies or tracksuits.

### COVID Lateral Flow Device tests

A reminder that anyone in Lancashire is eligible to access free, rapid coronavirus tests for themselves and their families to use twice a week.

These can be obtained locally from **Woodlands Conference Centre** (opposite Parklands School), from the **Tesco Extra supermarket** on Foxhole Road, **Lloyds Pharmacy** on Devonshire Road and from The Hub pharmacy on Peel Street.

### First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the half of the Y4 class who received their First Holy Communion last weekend at St Mary's Church. We wish the second half of the class all the very best on their special day whether Saturday or Sunday this weekend. The whole class will celebrate together on Once again thank you Kinga, Mrs O'Neil and Fr Marsden for all your hard work in preparing the children.

### Messages from Paul McBeth - Chorley Buddies

We're raising £1000 to Help Chorley Buddies Put a SMILE on Peoples' Faces in Chorley. We need the money to keep and improve our phone system and other general expenses. This is our one and only appeal per year – please help!

Please donate to our JustGiving Crowdfunding Page and help make it happen:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/paul-mcbeth-3?utm\\_id=1&utm\\_term=N3Rk237m8](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/paul-mcbeth-3?utm_id=1&utm_term=N3Rk237m8)

Thanks for your support Paul J McBeth SVP Chorley Buddies

### Uniform exchange

Thank you to Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves for organising the uniform exchange over the last week. Moreover, thank you parents for your support of it - it has been a great success. It seems to have been a very popular idea. Thanks again.

### Attendance




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



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 3	99.00
2nd	YEAR 1	98.91
3rd	YEAR 2	98.72
4th	RECEPTION	98.66
5th	YEAR 4	98.24
6th	YEAR 6	96.48

w/e 14.06.21 unfortunately, no **100%** this week.

Stars of the Week - 14.06.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Theo	nursery star of the week, for super listening and sharing with others.
YR	James & Antoni	James – for amazing money work in maths Antoni – for fantastic phonics with Mrs Cassidy
Y1	Jacob	For his excellent understanding of place value to 100 in Maths this week
Y2	Emma	For really getting stuck in to all her work and working really hard!
Y3	Evan	Being a superstar all week.
Y4	Izzy F	For being out star baker! Izzy impressed us with her wonderful baking skills in class when we were making fairy cakes.
Y5	River	Workign really hard all week in all areas – Well done!
		HOTHERSALL LODGE WEEK

## 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.

With open events not possible in person, we have decided to publish a video which offers an insight into the training course and our offer to Associate Teachers. We will put this all over our social media platforms and advertise on Facebook shortly.

Yarrow Teaching School  
Alliance  
Open Event:  
Tuesday 1st December 7pm



This Autumn, with face to face open evenings not possible, the Yarrow Teaching School Alliance invite you to a zoom open event. Have questions about our Initial Teacher Training Course answered, meet the team and see an Alliance school. email [a.hitchen@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:a.hitchen@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk) to RSVP and receive log in details

<http://www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk> @YarrowTSA

St Mary's is part of the Yarrow Teaching School Alliance. If you have a degree and interested in becoming a primary school teacher, visit the website above. **P Smyth 14.06.21**