



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

11.12.20

Dear parents/ carers,

The autumn term is nearly done. I am genuinely proud of what the children and staff have achieved under exacting circumstances. I am also grateful to all our parents for their wonderful support during the term.

COVID control measures

I do not wish to tempt fate by writing this, but through a combination of a strong adherence to our COVID control measures by the whole school community and, of course, a significant amount good fortune, we have come to the end of the term, largely unscathed by staff/ pupil absence or forced class closures. Our parents and carers, particularly, have contributed to this - you have been absolutely fantastic – and I don't think this has been the experience of every school. I thank you sincerely, for your cooperation and support.

However, I am sure that we all realise now is not the time to be complacent. COVID remains an extremely dangerous life-threatening illness. I was reading something a science journalist wrote last week ... to stop the virus 'you have to act when things don't seem bad ... A successful policy must always look like it had been an overreaction.'

In that spirit, I would like to ask parents and carers to continue to adhere closely to our COVID controls. A number of parents expressed their concerns in our recent questionnaire or to me in person, about people standing too close together in groups or arriving too early at school at pick up/ drop off times. I do not wish to nag but I sense that, although we have done well so far, we could do even better and be even stricter in our adherence. Therefore, with the Christmas holidays just around the corner, I would like us to redouble our efforts and stick closely to our COVID control measures. Here is a reminder of a few below:

What happens if my child or someone in my household develops COVID 19 symptoms away from school?

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

Parents/carers must notify school immediately if either their child or someone in the child's household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and follow the PHE "Stay at Home" guidance and

arrange to have a test. The guidance sets out that the person with symptoms must self-isolate for at least 14 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (Covid-19).

VERY IMPORTANT A child must not attend school if a member of his/her household is displaying symptoms of COVID until that household member has received a negative test.

What are the pick-up and drop-off arrangements (other than Breakfast/ After School Club)?

Drop off/ Pick Up Times

Year	Drop-off time	Pick-up time
N	0845	1505
R	0855	1515
1	0845	1505
2	0855	1515
3	0845	1505
4	0855	1515
5	0845	1505
6	0855	1515

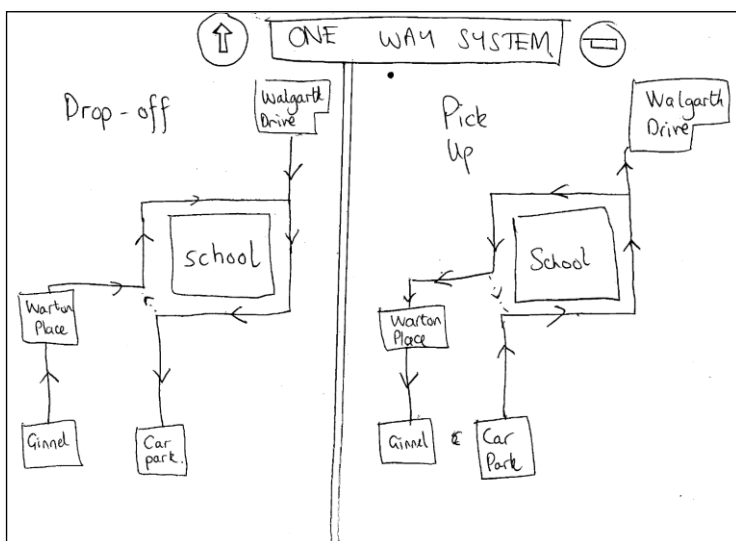
You will note that we have allocated neighbouring year groups one of two drop-off/ pick-up times. We have done this to **avoid congestion at points** around the school site. **Please adhere to these times, i.e. please do not arrive either too early or too late.** We want to keep the site as clear as possible for as much of the time as possible.

To keep numbers of people on site to a minimum we are allowing **one adult per family** to drop-off and pick-up children.

If you are dropping-off/ picking up children from two or more year groups, please drop off at the earlier time and pick up at the latest time to avoid waiting around on site.

We ask parents not to gather in groups at pick up and drop off time.

For your own safety and the safety of the school community, despite the temptation please do not gather to meet socially at pick up and drop-off times. **Please keep a minimum of 2 metre distance at all times between households.**



One-way system –

Drop-off.

Parents/ carers/ children to *enter* either through the *Warton Place* or *Walgarth Drive* entrances and then all make their way *clockwise* around the school to access classrooms. Then parents/ carers should depart via the *Hornchurch Drive* school car park footpath entrance *only*.

Pick-Up

Parents/ Carers to *enter* via the *Hornchurch Drive* school car park footpath entrance *only*, make their way *anti-clockwise* around the school to collect their children and then *depart* either via the *Walgarth Drive* or the *Warton Place* entrances.

Please do not be tempted to take short cuts.

Thank you in advance!

Christmas Holidays and Positive COVID tests

The DfE emailed schools yesterday (10.12.20) to ask us to share the following information with you and I would be grateful if you take note. At the bottom of this item, I have tried make the information easier to follow in a table.

We recommend all schools ensure staff, parents and carers are aware of the following information and relevant arrangements regarding positive cases in the holidays:

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school i.e. from 3.30pm on Sunday 20th December, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

For the first 6 days after teaching ends i.e. until Thursday 24th December, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, the school is asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school.

School staff will not be on-call or conduct any contact tracing more than 6 days after the final day of teaching i.e. there should be no pupil contact tracing asks beyond Thursday 24th December.

For the first 6 days after the end of term, schools are not asked to be on-call at all times. Staff responsible for contact tracing may designate a limited period in the day to receive notification of positive cases and advise close contacts to self-isolate (this can be done by text or email). The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and PHE advice service are available to support with any queries you have about positive cases in your school.

Where pupils are required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after the first 6 days following the end of term, schools do not need to be informed about their absence until the first day of the new term.

What to do if ... ?	Action needed
Child or staff member has symptoms before 3.30pm on Sunday 20th December and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.	Contact school by email at office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk as soon as possible, but before 5pm Thursday 24 December at the latest, so that school can inform contacts.
Child or staff member has symptoms after 3.30pm on Sunday 20th December and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.	<u>Do not contact school.</u> Parents/ carers/ staff should follow contact-tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Child or staff member is required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after Thursday 24th December	Do not inform school about absence until Monday 4th January 2021.
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School will not be involved in contact-tracing from 5pm on Thursday 24th December until 8.30am on Monday 4th January.

If...	School will ...
School is notified that child or staff member has symptoms before 3.30pm on Sunday 20 th December and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19,	Inform contacts of that child or staff member up until, but not beyond Thursday 24th December.

Parking

Again, sorry to nag, but I am receiving regular complaints from our neighbours about parking. Part of this, I know, is down to the congestion caused by the one-way system we have put in place.

However, parking and traffic at the 'hammer head'; at the top of Warton Place do give me cause for concern. Many people have told me that there have been a number of near-misses between vehicles turning and pedestrians entering by that gate.

One of our grandparents, who is a neighbour on Warton place, came up with a really good suggestion, which I would like to try from Monday. Please do not park or wait in the 'hammer head' at the school end of Warton Place. This will allow cars to come to the 'hammer head' and turn safely.

So by way of reminder:

- Please do not park across neighbours' driveways
- Please do not park near the corner of Walgarth Drive and Collingwood Drive, especially on the zigzag lines.
- From Monday, please do not park or wait in the 'hammer head' at the school end of Warton Place.

Walk to School Initiative 2021

In the New Year we are taking part in a national 'walk to school' initiative. We did a baseline survey with the children this week. 166 said they come to school in a car. That means a significant amount of traffic for a short period of time at the start and end of days. 52 said they walked. We would obviously like to increase the amount of walkers. One way of doing this will be to promote the idea of *park and stride* – to park in a space 10 minutes walk from the school. Watch this space!

Value of the week - *Celebration*

Well done to the following children who demonstrated an understanding, in their behaviour and attitudes of the value of **celebration** this week in school.

YR **Violet**
Y1 **Charlie W**
Y2 **Poppy**
Y3 **Brooke**
Y4 **Ethan**

Y5 Charley B
Y6 Florence

Christmas Jumper Day Fundraiser for party food

Thank you for your donations for bits and pieces for next Thursday's Christmas party day - much appreciated.

The Gruffalo - online viewing of a live performance – Friday 11th December

The children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 joined with hundreds, maybe even thousands of other children this morning to enjoy the excellent, online live performance of Julia Donaldson's *The Gruffalo* this morning. Thanks again to our Reception parent who donated the cost of the performance for that class – they loved it!



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT Running total %
1 st	YEAR 3	99.14
2 nd	YEAR 1	99.01
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.92
4 th	RECEPTION	98.42
5 th	YEAR 4	98.07
6 th	YEAR 5	96.77
7 th	YEAR 6	96.61

W/E 11/12/2020

Well done Year 3 for their 100% attendance

for the SECOND WEEK RUNNING!


Synod 2020

Mr Hodge as parish representative has worked hard to gather the views of members of St Mary's parish and school community. He has put together a very good summary document which I have attached to this newsletter. Thank you to Mr Hodge for his hard work and dedication to his role as the Synod 2020 representative for the parish.

FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Kinga has asked me to let parents/ carers know about this initiative. A free Christmas lunch is available in the Town Hall on Christmas Day. There are three sittings, and you need to book: 12 noon. 13.30 and 15.00. If you will be on your own on Christmas Day and would like to have lunch with other people or if you would like to have a home delivery of food, please contact 07462 29460 3. This is being organised annually by our friends from St Laurence's. We have sent a donation to St Laurence's to assist with the financial needs. If you would like to volunteer to help, please ring the same number. Thank you. See leaflet attached.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 11.12.20

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Charlie H	For being super helpful in the classroom
	YR	Tommy	Always trying to do the right thing.
	Y1	Thea	For her enthusiasm in all that we do.
	Y2	Victoria	being such a bright cheerful shining star.
	Y3	Jimmy	For consistently working hard in class this week.
	Y4	Oliver	For working really hard on his Learn its, he has achieved full marks for the last 6 weeks!
	Y5	Oliver	For creating a really descriptive setting for his science fiction story.
	Y6	James	Great work calculating the volume of cubes and cuboids.

2021 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY

Nursery Pupils/Primary School Admissions: If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

VERY IMPORTANT: You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2020 is **15 January 2021.**

****Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF).****

School COVID Risk Assessment

Please see school website for the most up-to-date COVID risk assessment for school.

Christmas Sports Camp, Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd December 2020

We have been contacted by Jennie Swarbrick regarding a sports camp at Bolton Arena over the holidays.

Dear School,

With children missing out on physical activity over the last 9 months, it is even more important that we find ways to help children stay active and health. I am pleased to say that we will be running our Sports Camp this Christmas and we would like to invite your parents to book their children on for 3 days of fun!

Please find attached our brochure to advertise our Christmas Sports Camp at Bolton Arena, which I would be extremely grateful if you could pass onto your parents.

Multi-Sports Camp

Dates: Monday 21st December – Wednesday 23rd December 2020 (3 days)

Time: 9am – 3pm

Ages: 5-12 years

Price: £20.00

16 Spaces available

Tennis Camp

Dates: Monday 21st December – Wednesday 23rd December 2020 (3 days)

Time: 9am – 3pm

Ages: 5-8 years

Price: £20.00

12 Spaces available

Gymnastics Camp

Monday 21st December – 12pm – 4pm - £14.00

Tuesday 22nd December – 12pm 4pm - £14.00

Wednesday 23rd December – 9am – 3pm - £20.00

Ages: 5-12 years

18 Spaces available

How to book: If you would like to book please call our reception team on 01204 488100.

Childcare vouchers accepted. Please note that advanced booking must be made when paying by childcare vouchers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send me an email. ***Please note, I am on limited working hours, so I will return you query asap.***

Thank you for your continued support in helping children to stay active and healthy.

Kind Regards

Jennie Swarbrick

t.

e. JennieSwarbrick@boltonarena.com



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.

A message from the Yarrow Teaching School - Alliance Open Event – Autumn Term 2020

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. **Our next Zoom open event is on Tuesday 1st December.**



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 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 11.12.20