



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

12.02.21

Dear parents/ carers,

We have made it to the end of the half term. I am proud of the efforts of our whole school community. Parents/ carers, you have done an amazing job in juggling your own jobs and housework, whilst also supporting learning at home for one or more children. Well done!

Well done to all our staff for their superb effort in providing and supporting remote learning, and for looking after those vulnerable children and children of critical workers children. Last but not least, well done to the children in keeping going; we are all very proud of you.

On behalf of everyone at school, I wish you all a restful half term and a good break from remote learning.

February half term break

School closes today and will reopen for vulnerable children and children of critical workers on Monday 22nd February.

Parents' Evening

This week you had the opportunity to speak to your child/ren's class teacher(s). I hope you found the meetings useful.

Year 1 News

When we return after the half term break, we are going to be joined by Mrs Ritson. She is an associate teacher with the Yarrow Teaching School Alliance (YTSA) and will be spending her final placement at St Mary's. She will be working with Mrs Grandi and Mrs Garrett in Year 1 until about the middle of June.

Uniform Exchange

Mrs Wilson, our school business manager, has devised a uniform exchange scheme. She has sent out a GroupCall message to parents this afternoon to gauge interest. The idea is to set up a 'uniform exchange' shop/service to recycle uniforms which have had very little wear over the last year due to closure to some pupils because of lockdowns.

Food Provision Help and Support for Families – Chorley Borough Council

I think we are all well aware of the huge pressures this pandemic has placed on many families' finances. Many Chorley families are suffering significant hardship. Bernie Heggarty, from Chorley Borough Council, has written to schools to ask us to signpost where people can access support in being able access food over the coming weeks and months. It gives details of providers in Chorley and contacts to whom referrals can be made. Please see attached.

Messages from the school office – Regarding Positive COVID tests and contact tracing

Contact tracing up until Thursday 18th February 2021

What to do if ... ?	Action needed
Child or staff member has symptoms before 3.30pm on Sunday, 14th February 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, 18th February at the latest, so that school can inform contacts.
Child or staff member has symptoms after 3.30pm on Sunday, 14th February and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.	Do not contact school. 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, 18th February	Do not inform school about absence until Monday, 22nd February 2021.

School will not be involved in contact-tracing from 5pm on **Thursday 18.02.21** until 8.30am on **Monday, 22nd February 2021.**

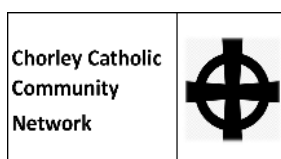
If...	School will ...
School is notified that child or staff member has symptoms before 3.30pm on Sunday, 14th February and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19,	Inform contacts of that child or staff member up until, but not beyond Thursday, 18th February

Lent

For the last few years, we have been in school for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Fr Marsden and/ or Kinga usually come up to school to distribute the ashes. This year, however, Ash Wednesday falls during the half-term break. It is on Wednesday 17th February. The parish newsletter attached provides information on St Mary's Parish arrangements for Ash Wednesday.

Lenten Challenge - *To eradicate Digital Poverty in Chorley by Easter Sunday –*

A message from Paul MacBeth - Chorley Buddies



Research by Chorley Borough Council says that there are still approximately 140 children who do not have a device upon which they can complete their schoolwork.

Will you join us in accepting this Lenten Challenge?

Chorley Catholic Community Network, Chorley Buddies and the Chorley United Reformed Church, with the support of Chorley Borough Council, are working with the Chorley Repair Café to try to help eradicate Digital Poverty in Chorley.

From Ash Wednesday onwards, we need your surplus laptops or tablets so that we can give them to the children who desperately need them. All personal data will be erased and all Covid safety measures will be in place before the devices are redistributed.

Please bring your surplus tablets and laptops to

- School – we can collect and quarantine at St Mary’s school.
- Massa’s Café Dessert Bar, 3 Cunliffe St, Chorley PR7 2BA
- Frederick’s Ice Cream Parlour, Bolton Road, Chorley PR7 4AL
- Inspire The Youth Zone
- Or email chorleybuddies@hotmail.com to arrange pick up.

Together We Can Eradicate Digital Poverty By Easter Sunday!

Mental health and wellbeing

If you have concerns about your child’s mental health or wellbeing during this period, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Please contact me or your child’s class teacher, or any trusted adult within school.

Here are a couple of websites you may find useful in the meantime:


A comprehensive guide from the Government/ Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

NSPCC

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/april/supporting-children-young-people-mental-health>

Stars of the week - w/e 12.02.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Holly	Joining in and trying hard in group work.
YR	Jake	His confidence and participation in remote learning.
Y1	Patch	His interesting answers and enthusiastic involvement in all that we do.
Y2	Michael	Excellent participation and work produced in class.
Y3	Alex	His enthusiasm toward the Rock and Roll topic this half-term. He has turned his back garden into a palaeontologist's dream.
Y4	Bella	Her wonderful work , not only this week but for the whole half - term.
Y5	Matthew	Persevering, showing resilience towards his maths work and participating really well in our live lessons.
Y6	Niamh	Super use of similes, metaphors and personification in her poetry.

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 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 12.02.21**