



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

12.03.21

Dear parents/ carers,

It has been a great first week back at school. It has been great to see how much the children have enjoyed being here, meeting their friends and seeing their teachers and teaching assistants face-to-face. Not only have they settled in beautifully, but they also have hit the ground running in their learning. The teachers have been delighted with the children both in their work and in their behaviour. Well done to them all – it was great to have them back.

Remote Learning Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the opportunity to complete our short questionnaire regarding remote learning. Fingers crossed, there will be no further whole school closures but in case there are, or in the event that a class has to self-isolate, it is really helpful to us in our planning to know what parents/ carers found worked well or feel could be improved further. The questionnaire will close on Monday for those who still wish to comment.

Vacancy for a local authority governor

There is a vacancy on the Governing Board of St Mary's for a local authority governor. There are different categories of governors including:

- Co-opted – appointed by the Board
- Parent – elected by the parents
- Staff – elected by the staff
- Foundation – appointed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool
- Local Authority - appointed by the Board with the agreement of Lancashire Local Authority.

I have attached an information sheet, *'Becoming a school governor in Lancashire'* to the newsletter. If you are interested or you know someone else who is, please contact the school office 01257 262811 or office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk and we will let you know what the next steps are.

Lancashire Adult Learning – Easter activities

We have received an email from Lancashire Adult Learning services outlining some family learning sessions over the coming weeks – see below.

Good afternoon from the Family Learning team at Lancashire Adult Learning. Just a quick email to let you know about the FREE Family Learning Events we have running over the Easter Holidays:

Please share the padlet link with your families to access information on the sessions:

https://padlet.com/Family_Learning_LAL/familycourses

- Family Learning Spring fair (online) Sat 27th March, 10am-11:30am For primary school aged children and their parents/ carers
- NEW-Let's Do LEGO- Family Challenge (online) Monday 29th March, 1-2:30pm For primary school aged children and their parents/ carers
- Easter 'Egg'stravaganza (online) Thurs 1st April, 1pm-2:30pm For children aged 3-6 and their parents/ carers

Laura Myers

Partnership & Recruitment Officer for Family Learning

Lancashire Adult Learning, Northlight, Glenway, Brierfield, BB9 5NH

Mrs Oldham retiring

Mrs Oldham is retiring at the end of term, after twenty-one years supporting children at St Mary's and a number of other years supporting children in other schools. Mrs Oldham has brought care, expertise and vast experience to the role especially when supporting children with special educational needs. We will be sad to see her leave but we are hugely grateful for the immense contribution she has made over those years.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	99.38
2 nd	YEAR 1	99.20
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.85
4 th	RECEPTION	98.83
5 th	YEAR 4	98.46
6 th	YEAR 6	97.02
7 th	YEAR 5	96.76

W/E 12/03/2021

Well done to Year 1 and to Year 3 in achieving



attendance this week.

Good Shepherd Talent Show 2021

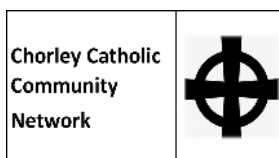
There was no Good Shepherd Talent Show in 2020; we did not want that to be the case for 2021. Mr Hodge has come up with a novel way we can do it using technology this year. He has sent a letter out via the teachers and Class Dojo, which will explain in more detail. Hopefully, the children can get involved, have a bit of fun and raise some money for the Nugent Care - Good Shepherd Appeal.

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.

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 12.03.21

			
Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...	
YN	Alex	Always smiling and being cheerful.	
YR	All the YR children	Those that were here during lockdown for being kindly and considerate in welcoming back those who were not. Those that have been at home for settling in so well after being home for so long.	
Y1	James	His excellent work on 'Time' in maths.	
Y2	Kyle	Being a caring and considerate friend. He has been spotted for this with his partner in the playground too.	
Y3	Phoebe	Working hard in all lessons this week.	
Y4	Annabelle	Her great work in English, creating expanded noun phrases.	
Y5	Adam	An excellent investigation into fractions.	
Y6	Jake	Great use of language in his detective story.	

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 12.03.21**