



School Newsletter

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

12th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Dear Parents and Carers, Happy New Year and welcome back to school for the new term. I hope you all had a happy, holy and restful Christmas break. The children returned refreshed, looking very smart and ready to go. They have settled down quickly to hard work since their return. On behalf of all the staff, thank you very much for all the Christmas cards from the children and families and for all the gifts received.

Staffing News

When we return after the Easter holidays, (15th April), Mrs Cahalin will be reducing to teaching 4 days a week, Monday-Thursday. We will update parents of who will be teaching on a Friday in Year 1 in due course.

Primary School Admissions September 2024

Final Reminder Final Reminder - applications for children to start reception class in September 2024 must be submitted by 11:59pm this Monday, 15th January 2024. If you have not done so already, the application can be made using this direct link:

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

VERY IMPORTANT: If you require a place, you must still apply even if your child has already has siblings in school.

Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic/faith primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF). You can access this from the following link: <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions>

Parents' Evenings – spring term

The spring term parents' evenings will be held before the half term, and they will be up to ten minutes in duration and will be face-to-face. You will also have the opportunity to come in and look at the children's work too. Details of the dates/times and how to book will be sent out next week.

Parental Questionnaire

Please look out for the questionnaire that we will be sending out via Groupcall next week, your views and opinions are very important to us.

Unavoidable School Closures

We are about midway through the winter months and have been lucky to escape snow so far, but in the event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the GroupCall text, Class Dojo, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

Site Supervisor

We are looking for a part-time site-supervisor (caretaker) to work 15 hours a week, 0600 - 0900 each day, with some flexibility to work additional hours, if possible. If you are interested or if you know anyone else who is, please let the office know. The job advert, with full details should appear on the LCC website over the next couple of weeks. https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_index.asp

Christmas Fair Raffle Prizes

The deadline to claim prizes has now ended; the unclaimed prizes will now be added to the prizes we collect for the Summer Fair raffle.

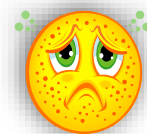
Changes to contact details

If there are any changes to contact numbers e.g. from new mobile phones, please let the office know your updated details asap. Moving house or have recently moved? Please ensure that you have informed the school office!

Health and Safety Reminder – sickness and/ or diarrhoea

This is the time of year when there are more bugs and germs around than usual. If your child does become ill with **sickness or diarrhoea**, the guidance for schools from Public Health England gives a minimum recommended absence from school of **48 hours**. This is to limit the spread of the bug around school. On that note, we have been asked to share the following link with you:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-reminds-parents-of-back-to-school-advice?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=d2897b05-876e-4b17-96d6-0a01fa2e1827&utm_content=daily



Free School Meals – Are you missing out?

Find out if you are eligible and find out how to apply – follow this link.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>



Earrings and Jewellery - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If parents wish their children to have their ears pierced then please have them done at the beginning of the six-week break to allow ears to heal. The only form of jewellery children are permitted to wear is watches.

Hair styles

We expect pupils to have sensible hair styles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school and nursery a fashion-free zone!

Hair tied-up to prevent head lice infection, please!

As we all know, head lice do not fly or jump from head of hair to head of hair, they just walk! Therefore, to prevent the spread of head lice in school we ask that hair, longer than shoulder length, be tied back. Many thanks.



Shoes Pupils are expected to wear plain black shoes. Again, we want school to remain a fashion-free zone. Some sports companies make black trainers for children. We ask you not to use these for school. They



are trainers and not shoes and of course, the children will prefer to wear them! However, once one has them, this puts pressure on the other children to ask their parents for them. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Labelling Uniforms




The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing, we will be putting the lost property box in the newly available space in the main entrance.

Additional parental newsletters

Attached to the newsletter you will find:

- Parish Newsletter
- Online Safety Newsletter
- Collective Worship Newsletter

We also have the following online newsletter for you www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Gloria	A super update on life as a new big sister
YR	Scarlett	Trying very hard with phonics
Y1	James M	His lovely written work in English this week
Y2	Sienna	Amazing history answers
Y3	Luke S	Confidently answering questions in class
Y4	Penny P	Amazing work on blackout poetry – super ideas and interpretation of the language
Y5	Eleanor	Creating a fantastic limerick
Y6	Eva	A great formal review of the Wonka movie



**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2023/2024**



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 1	97.97
2 nd	YEAR 6	97.59
3 rd	YEAR 3	96.92
4 th	YEAR 5	96.86
5 th	YEAR 4	96.07
6 th	YEAR 2	95.24
7 th	RECEPTION	95.00

Well done to Year 5 on 100% attendance this week!

YSA Yarrow School Alliance

New Year, new challenge
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email
r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk for more information