



School Newsletter

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

12.11.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Judaism Week

As part of their *Come and See* curriculum, children across the school have been learning about the Jewish faith in their study of Judaism this week. In this afternoon's awards assembly, children from the different classes shared what they have learned with each other.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021 and Remembrance Day



Thank you for your support for this year's Poppy Appeal. It is greatly appreciated. In Wednesday's assembly, Mrs Nicklin talked to the children about Remembrance. And, at 11.00 yesterday morning, the whole school took part in a minute's silence to honour those who made such huge sacrifices in the First World War and the wars and conflicts that have

followed.

Children in Year 1 made this poppy wreath with Mrs Grandi to help them gain an understanding of remembrance. Kinga Grey-Grzeczynska took it up to Church where it will be kept on display for the parishioners to see. Thank you to Mrs Houghton, our parent helper for her hard work in putting it all together.



Year 2 History Remembrance Walk

Children in Y2 have been studying the topic of remembrance to explore key historical concepts. They have used sources to investigate the Chorley Pals and men who fought in WWI. Yesterday, they went on a walk around Chorley visiting addresses where young men from Chorley left to go on fight in the trenches.

This helped deepen their knowledge and understanding of the events of that time. On their journey, they stopped at the Cenotaph in Astley Park to take part in the Remembrance Service there. They met and chatted with our governor, Mrs Grey-Grzeczynska, a number of veterans and the Mayor of Chorley. Thank you to our parent volunteers who helped escort them. Mrs Nicklin told me that their

behaviour on the walk and at the war memorial was excellent. She was delighted by how much they know and have remembered from their learning.

In the afternoon they were visited by Jacob's uncle, Marine Snape, who has served in the Royal Marines. He spent an hour answering all sorts of questions related to his military experiences from the inquisitive Y2 children. Thank you Marine Snape for giving up your time to come and see us.

See photos below.



Here is a link to the 2018 report in the *Lancashire Post* regarding work done by the children of St Mary's on the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War One. *REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018: Deputy headteacher's campaign to teach today's children about the sacrifices of 100 years ago*

<https://www.lep.co.uk/news/remembrance-day-2018-deputy-headteachers-campaign-teach-todays-children-about-sacrifices-100-years-ago-232682>

Choir visitor

Later on this year, Mrs Grandi is taking the choir to perform once again in a *Let's Go Sing* performance with other schools. On Wednesday this week, the choir were visited by Tom, the conductor, from *Let's Go Sing*. He was very complimentary about how much the children had learnt already and said they made a beautiful sound together. Mrs Grandi was also hugely impressed with the children's wonderful engagement and excellent behaviour during the session.

Valuing Difference

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be looking at diversity, anti-bullying and celebrating difference. On Monday, children can come into school in odd socks to symbolise the fact that we are celebrating difference.



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

St Mary's has taken delivery of 70 trees from the Woodlands Trust including cherry trees, rowan trees and silver birch trees. Next week, the children will be planting these in various locations in the school's grounds. Your child's class teacher will let you know if they need to come in own clothes and wellies for their particular planting day next week. The two publicity officers from the school council, Lewis and Charlotte, accompanied Mrs Nicklin to present one of our neighbours with a rowan tree earlier today.



Chorley Number 1 Food Club – Chorley SVP

Please see the poster attached to this newsletter from the Chorley SVP. The poster says - *Over 2 million tonnes of good food goes to landfill EACH YEAR... Join The Club! Help Divert That Food from Landfill !! For £3 per week, you will receive up to £25 of food of your choice. Yes, you read that correctly.*

Christmas Joy Toy Appeal

Last year we took part in the Christmas Joy Toy Appeal. Paul Macbeth writes: *It was a wonderful inaugural year where we managed to collect in and re-distribute over 3,500 new toys! The vast majority of these toys came from the Catholic Community in Chorley. What a response to a cry to make Christmas as joyful as possible! The toys do not need to be wrapped and they will be collected by SVP Chorley Buddies and be re-distributed via Chorley Council.* I will give you more information on this when I receive it.

2022 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 2022 is on 15 January 2022.

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

Messages from the school office:

Mrs Wilson has asked me to pass on the following:

St Mary's school has been on Hornchurch Drive for 40 years this year. To celebrate we are busy designing a 40th Anniversary tea towel - the children are busy working out their masterpieces (on the smallest pieces of paper going!!). Look out for more information via Groupcall.

A reminder to parents that payments for the EYFS & KS1 visit to The Stickman are now due on ParentPay. KS2 parents, a trip is in the process of being organised - please watch out for the letter/information coming through.

Payments for those children who are booked in for 'Breakfast with Santa', can now be made on ParentPay as the 'glitch' has now been sorted. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any further bookings as all sessions are now full.

An email has been sent out regarding the PTFA Christmas Raffle, tickets can be purchased via ParentPay, thank you to those who have already purchased. Tickets will be sent out to parents via the children once payment has been confirmed from ParentPay.

A whole school Christmas lunch is taking place on Friday, 17th December. An order form has been sent out via a Groupcall email form. On this day, children are able to come to school in their Christmas/festive jumper instead of their school jumper/cardigan if they wish for a suggested donation of 50p

School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. **Please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance.** This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.

COVID symptoms – however mild

If your child has:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

they must not come into school, you should get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have coronavirus and stay at home until you get their result, even if the symptoms are mild.

One of the recent changes for this term means that if your child is a 'close contact' of someone, e.g. a parent, who has tested positive for COVID, but has no symptoms themselves the child no longer needs to self-isolate, they may come to school. However, in this instance, we would also ask that your child has a PCR test (but they can still come to school while awaiting result – if no symptoms).

 **Sickness/ Diarrhoea**

If your child is suffering from sickness and/ or diarrhoea, then the minimum absence must be 48 hours. This is to prevent the spread of any infection such as norovirus (winter vomiting bug).

 **Absence**

If your child is absent, please inform the office directly by calling in or by telephone. Please do not pass messages on via siblings or *Class Dojo* or indeed class teachers, thank you.

 **Medical absences**

If your child has an appointment with the doctor or dentist, please inform the office prior to the absence where possible. Thank you.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2020/2021


12.11.21



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 6	97.51
2 nd	YEAR 5	97.48
3 rd	YEAR 2	97.35
4 th	RECEPTION	97.19
5 th	YEAR 4	97.16
6 th	YEAR 3	97.13
7 th	YEAR 1	95.00

Congratulations Y6 on **100%** attendance this week!

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 12.11.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Billey	For joining in and super singing
YR	Willow	For a fabulous week and maths work
Y1	Finley N	Very pleasing attitude and engagement in all his work this week.
Y2	William W	Impressive interest in History when on our Remembrance Walk
Y3	Cody	Impressive interest in History when on our Remembrance Walk
Y4	Charlotte	For her wonderful diary entry in English.
Y5	Oliver	For excellent research on the Kennedy Space Centre.
Y6	Anna	Great work in maths investigating factors, multiples and prime numbers.

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.

Best wishes,

P Smyth 12.11.21