



School Newsletter

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

13.05.22

Dear parents and carers,

Reception Class visit to Blackpool Zoo

In the week before last, our Reception class team took their children to Blackpool Zoo as part of their learning about animals. They had a brilliant day. Mrs Ainscough and Mrs Cassidy told me that the children were very excited in meeting all the different animals including the wallabies and kangaroos. They visited the giraffe enclosure to find out for themselves if *Giraffes Can't Dance* (a book they are reading in class).

The staff were so impressed with the children's behaviour and inquisitiveness and were not surprised that a few of the children took some time for some 'shut-eye' on the journey home. Thank you to the teachers and teaching assistants for organising the visit and a big thank you, as always, to all the volunteers who came along to make the visit a success.

Year 1 Trip to Bury Transport Museum

Mrs Grandi and the Y1 team took the class on a visit to Bury today. To enhance their learning in English (which involves a story about trains), they had a ride on a steam train on the East Lancashire Railway and visited the Bury Transport museum. They had a wonderful day and learned lots about trains and other forms of transport over the ages. Mrs Grandi said they had a great time, were very enthusiastic and behaved beautifully – I am sure that this visit will inspire them in their English lessons over the next few weeks. Thank you to our volunteers for taking them and to our staff for organising the visit and for making it so memorable for the children.

Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Commemorative Clay Coins

The whole school are doing work around the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the next few weeks to mark the seventy years of Queen Elizabeth's reign. As part of this, most classes are visiting the *Alabaster Jar* shop in Chorley during this fortnight to turn their jubilee designs into commemorative clay coins. Year 1, 2 and 3 visited on Monday this week. I went with the Y2 group and I was very impressed with the staff at the shop who explained what the children had to do very clearly. They had all the materials to hand and they enabled the children to produce some very fine pieces of work, which will be a great keepsake for them to remember this special milestone in the Queen's

reign. I also need to say I was very impressed with the children's work and behaviour too! Thank you to all the parents and helpers who have volunteered to accompany the children.

EYFS Garden Party

The Reception and Nursery classes are welcoming parents and family members to a garden party on Monday afternoon as part of their Jubilee celebrations. The children are dressing up in all their finery as if they were attending an event at Buckingham Palace! Fingers crossed that the rain holds off. If it does not, then we will make our way into the dry of the school hall and carry on celebrations there.

Chorley Marlins Amateur Swimming Club

We have been contacted by Chorley Marlins Amateur Swimming Club, who are advertising for new members to join. See leaflet attached.

Good afternoon

I am emailing on behalf of Chorley Marlins Amateur Swimming Club. We are currently looking for new members to join the club and I think this may be of interest to some of your pupils. Chorley Marlins is run by volunteers and has for the last 49 years been providing learn to swim lessons, swimming coaching and opportunities to participate in competitive swimming to children locally. Could you please share the attached flyers with parents by including it with your newsletter?

Thank you, Best regards, Dominic, Chorley Marlins ASC

A message from Paul McBeth, Chorley Buddies

Hi,

You may have heard about our 2 highly successful Good Food Clubs at Buttermere Community Centre and Coppull Methodist Church Hall.

We intercept surplus food to stop it going to landfill and make it available to members. We currently have 107 members at Buttermere and over 90 at Coppull. They pay £10 annual membership fee and £3 per week subscription and can have up to £25 of food of their choice.

The good news is that we are opening another at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane on a Tuesday morning. Starting on 7th June. It will be of great interest to many of your parents, I'm sure.

Volunteering may also be of interest to your parents. It would be on a Tuesday, between 9am and 12pm. We have great flexibility on hours!

I have attached a flyer [see opposite] calling for volunteers and I would be forever thankful if you could get it out to your parents [see attached to this newsletter].

Paul J McBeth - SVP Chorley Buddies



St Mary's Little Church has started up again!

Just a reminder - after a long absence due to COVID Little Church started back again. It is on again every Sunday from now on.

What is Little Church?

"Little Church" is the "Liturgy of the Word for Children". Our Parish welcomes families and the full participation of young children in the celebration of the Mass. Since 1987, children at St Mary's have enjoyed their own Liturgy of the Word through 'Little Church' at the 10.00am Sunday Mass. There are two groups: 3-6 and 7-10 year olds.

We try to ensure that Children's Liturgy is an enjoyable experience for the children which helps develop their relationship with God. We discuss the Gospel of the day at a level the children can understand and enjoy. We enrich this with discussion, prayers, songs, and readings. We also try to raise awareness of God's love, the humanity of Jesus, the Seasons of the Church, the understanding of symbols in the Mass and the context of the Bible.

The children gather in Church for the beginning of the Mass with their families and after a blessing from Father they go out to the activity rooms with the leaders and helpers.

We return to lead the offertory procession and join our families for the rest of Holy Mass.

Car Parking – Pick up and Drop off

Can I ask all parents/ carers, when dropping off and picking up:

- Please bear in mind especially, the safety of child pedestrians
- Please do not park across driveways.
- Please do not park in the hammerhead on Warton Place. Signs are now in place there.
- If possible, set off a little earlier, park a little further away and walk the rest of the way. The children get rewarded for a *Park and Stride*.

SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!

National Curriculum Tests – SATs

Well done to our Y6 children who completed their SATs tests this week – end of KS2 national curriculum tests. Although they can be quite scary at first, they found that they soon took them in their stride. Mr Cahalin and the Y6 staff settled the children down each morning with a fruit and toast snack.

These SATs are meant to be a measure of the quality of education that they receive from school and not really meant to be a measure of the children themselves. That's why we always say to them – just do your best – this is a test of the school and not them!

Our Y2s will be doing tests next week to help Mrs Nicklin make her assessments of the children as they reach the end of KS1. These test results do not get reported to the DfE or the local authority, they are just there to support Mrs Nicklin in her judgements. Ideally, the children shouldn't even know they are doing tests! Our aim is that the children should feel no pressure whatsoever – in fact,

it should feel like doing any other piece of school work. Let us know if your child is worried and we will do our very best to reassure them.

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

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 06.05.22

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Keeley	For always following instructions in Nursery and trying hard in everything she does
	YR	Caitlin	For trying really hard and joining in with role play
	Y1	Freddie	For his improved writing and his super attitude to work.
	Y2	Penny	Wonderful writing
	Y3	Harrison	For great focus, concentration and detail on his Seed Dispersal poster.
	Y4	Hettie	her hard work and determination in maths this week.
	Y5	Amelia	excellent participation during our geography lesson this week learning about climate.
	Y6	Sienna	For persevering with learning to ride her bike.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 13.05.22

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	William R	For joining in with all aspects of Nursery and a great role model for how to be a good friend
	YR	Joshua A	For asking lots of questions and listening carefully
	Y1	James M	Working hard all week in mathematics.
	Y2	Veronica	Super effort in all her work
	Y3	Ellie	Excellent work all week across all subjects.
	Y4	Jack	For his hard work and determination in mathematics, not only this week but every week in Year 4.
	Y5	Zach	For a super effort presenting his work thoughtfully linked to our Jubilee work.
	Y6	All of Y6	Whole Class for their hard work this week during SATs

Sports News

Invasion games festival

Invasion games festival – A big thank you to Mr Hodge for taking Y3 and Y4 children to the CSSP Invasion games festival last week. They had a tremendous time like the Y5s and Y6s in the previous week. And, like the Y5s and Y6s Mr Hodge said that their behaviour and attitude was excellent as always.

Euxton Girls Football Tournament

Mr Hodge and Mrs Blackwell are taking teams from Y4, 5 and 6 to compete in a tournament at Euxton Girls Football Club tonight. We wish them all the very best of luck!

CSSP - Chorley Schools Sports Partnership Tri Golf

The St Mary's year 4 golf team went to Holy Cross last night to take part in the annual CSSP Tri Golf competition. They performed a number of chipping and putting challenges, demonstrating a lot of skill and effort. The children listened attentively and engaged enthusiastically throughout.

The Y9 sports leaders from Holy Cross and Albany were superb in running the various challenges and explaining to our golfers what they had to do – we spotted a couple of former pupils amongst them! Although there were no medals for us this year, the children enjoyed themselves tremendously. Five of the children made their sporting debuts for St Mary's – well done! Thanks to the CSSP as always for a well-organised and highly enjoyable event.

Leyland Play scheme (summer holiday)

Please see attached leaflet regarding the Leyland play scheme in the upcoming summer holiday. *Leyland Play scheme offers supervised summer Play schemes for children aged 5 to 14 and is a registered charity supported entirely by volunteers. Children get the chance to experience a wide range of activities from arts & crafts through to crazy 'big show' entertainment onsite along with trips off site to bowling, cinema and outdoor adventure activities.*



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2021/2022 13.05.22



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	95.96
=2 nd	YEAR 2	95.81
=2 nd	YEAR 5	95.81
4 th	YEAR 1	95.76
5 th	YEAR 4	95.57
6 th	RECEPTION	94.78
7 th	YEAR 6	93.43

Congratulations to **Reception** and **Year 5** who both achieved 100% attendance w/c 06.05.22

Yarrow Schools Teaching Alliance



P Smyth, Headteacher 13.05.22