



School Newsletter

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

13th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas Performances

Well done to all the children in the Nursery and the infants for their wonderful Nativity performances over the last week.



The **Nursery** and **Reception** children were fantastic in their acting, singing and in remembering their lines for their Nativity performance of ***A Miracle in Town***. It was a brilliant performance and made parents and school staff, alike, very proud. Well done!

Well done to **Year 1 and Year 2** for their Nativity, ***A Magical Christmas Journey***. The two classes combined extremely well to tell the story of the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago. They spoke clearly, sang beautifully, acted and danced very well in order to share with us, this special story.

As I said at the end of all the performances, these productions serve as one of the ways in which the children learn the story of the first coming of Christ and they help them prepare for Christmas Day which is now only just over a week away.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for their hard work in preparing the children so well and to the team of parents for their work on the fantastic set design this year. Thank you, parents, for supporting all our performances in great number and for contributing to our collections for Derian House, St Catherine's Hospice, Meningitis Now and towards meeting costs of licenses and costumes etc. at the end. The Nativity collections raised £550. Licenses and costumes cost approximately £120 so we will be able to donate on your behalf nearly £430 which is an amazing total.

DVD Recordings of the Rec/Y1/Y2 Nativity

The deadline for ordering copies of the Reception, Y1 and Y2 performance on DVD is Monday 16th December.

Junior Carol Concert Monday 16th December at 6.00pm

The children in the juniors (Y3 to Y6) will be performing their Carol Concert and tableau in Church on the evening of **Monday 16th December at 6.00pm**. Prior to that they will have one final practice at Church on Monday morning. Parents of



children in the juniors, **please could you drop your children from 8.45 at Church on Monday morning.** Many thanks.

On Monday evening, we would like all the children to meet in Church. We would like children in **Y4** to arrive no earlier than **5.45pm** as they will need to get changed in the sacristy. Children in Y3, Y5 and Y6 should arrive from no earlier than **5.50 pm** and no later than **5.55pm**.

Children must wear full uniform and look smart please - coats and other belongings to be left with parents, please.

The concert will start at 6.00pm and the performance will last between 40 minutes and an hour at the most. There will be a collection at the end to contribute to the Church's heating costs for the evening and for local charities such as Derian House and St Catherine's as well as *Meningitis Now*. It should be a lovely evening if previous years' events are anything to go by.

Christmas Day Mass at Church

Mrs Gray-Grzeczynska would like parents to ask their children if they would like to take part in the tableau at St Mary's Church on Christmas Day. It has become a hugely enjoyable annual event with Fr Marsden taking on an acting role too! The children will need to come to the 10.30 Mass and talk to the Little Church leaders.

Pantomime Trip – *Cinderella: A Fairy tale* at the Dukes, Lancaster

Chorley St. Mary's had a great time at The Dukes Theatre in Lancaster on Friday. They went to see the production of *Cinderella: A Fairy tale*. The children were all filled with Christmas joy and cheer as they watched and actively took part in the production.



It was such an enriching and valuable experience that I am sure the children will remember it for many years to come. I want to say a special well done to all the children for their behaviour - you always make St. Mary's proud. Thank you to all parents for your support and especially to the parents who helped us by coming along too - we know you will have enjoyed the show as much as we did! - Mrs Nicklin.

Thank you, goodbye and good luck to Mr Swarbrick

Last Friday (December 6th), Mr Swarbrick left St Mary's to take up the post of Site Manager at a school in Blackburn. We wish him well in his new post and thank him for looking after our school so well and keeping it in good order and keeping it clean since 2012.

PTFA CHRISTMAS FAIR



Many thanks for your generosity and for all your donations of gifts of bottles, chocolates, toys and raffle prizes; it has been greatly appreciated. Many thanks to all the parents, staff and volunteers who helped put together the Christmas Fair this year and for giving your time and energy to make it the huge success it was. Once again it raised an incredible amount - **£1533.49**. Thank you so much for your support!



Ice Hockey Event – Blackburn Hawks 08.12.19



Last Sunday quite a few families from St Mary's took advantage of an offer from the Blackburn Hawks Ice Hockey team to go and watch them play and also to have skate on the ice afterwards. The children were able to watch an exciting, fast paced game and according to Mr Hodge, St Mary's won the cheering competition. Thank you, Mr Hodge for organising and to Mrs Hargreaves and Mrs Wilson for sorting out the tickets.

First Confessions – In school on Monday 2nd December

Father Marsden was joined by Father Crowther from St Joseph's, Brinscall and Father Ball, from Sacred Heart, Chorley on Monday a couple of weeks ago, here at school to hear the First Confessions of children in the Sacramental class (Y4).



Father spoke to the children and parents first, assuring them that he is not allowed to tell anyone about their confessions – he could only act if there was a safeguarding issue. While they waited their turn, children carried out written activities prepared by Mr Hodge while enjoying a drink and a snack. Many of the children said that they felt different afterwards. Thank you to Mrs Gray-Grzeczynska, Mrs O'Neil and Fr Marsden for preparing the children so well.

A couple of messages from Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves in the office:



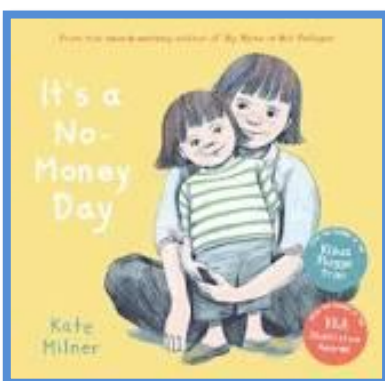
- As we come to the end of a long autumn term Mrs Hargreaves and Mrs Wilson have asked if any overdue payments are settled as soon as possible. Thank you.
- As parents will be aware, the Reception, Y1 and Y2 performance was recorded. DVD copies can be purchased for £10 each. The deadline for orders is Monday 16th December.
- We've registered with **Easyfundraising** and we need your help! Thank you to all those who have signed up.

Easyfundraising is a great website where you can help Chorley, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping with over 4,000 big name retailers like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S.

Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you' and it's completely free too! We want to raise as much as possible so please sign up and help us at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chorleystmaryscatholicprimaryschoolandnursery/>

You will also have been sent the following letter separately by Mrs Wilson. We would like to say a big 'thank you' for the tremendous response already. It's much appreciated.

Dear Parents & Carers,



Year 1 recently received a book from Ebb & Flo bookshop that had a moving effect on the children (and staff!).

The book is called 'It's a No Money Day' by Kate Milner - Mum works really hard, but today there is no money left and no food in the cupboards. Forced to visit the local foodbank, Mum feels ashamed that they have to rely on the kindness of others, but her young daughter can still see all the good in her day like reading and drawing, and even the foodbank. Maybe one day things will be different but for now together they brighten up even the darkest of days. A moving insight into the sad rise and necessity of foodbanks from the perspective of society's most vulnerable.

The children realised how lucky we all are and as such they all brought foodbank donations in and one of the parents - Mrs Houghton has very kindly wrapped the parcels up for them and for Year 2 who have also read the book and wanted to help, and these will be taken to the foodbank tomorrow.

Following on from this, we as a school wish to offer our support and Living Waters foodbank have

put out a plea as they are - DESPERATE for the following items:

Tinned Meat, Jars of sauces for pasta, sugar, Rice, Jam, Shower gel, Shampoo, Soap and of course are very grateful of any donations of food/toiletry items.

If you are able to assist - we will have a box in the main entrance where you can drop off items either of a morning or afternoon when you bring/collect your child from school.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Mrs Wilson
School Business Manager

Synod 2020 Chorley Pastoral Area

Another message from Mr Hodge regarding SYNOD 2020:

The dates for Theme 3 meetings have changed and are now scheduled as follows:



- Tuesday 21st January – St Chad's Social Centre 7.30pm
- Wednesday 22nd January – St Mary's Social Centre 7.30pm
- Thursday 23rd January – Sacred Heart Primary School 7.30pm

Applying for School Places September 2020

PRIMARY

Nursery/ pre-school children – due to start Reception class in primary school in September 2020.
The statutory **closing date is 15 January 2020 – just over four weeks away.**

The application to be made by the closing date using this direct link:

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

Should you need any help, support or guidance, the Pupil Access Office Contacts are listed below
Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley
01772-532109

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.

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

Break time snacks

Children (and staff) do get a bit peckish around about break time and we are happy for them to have a snack. Our policy is for this snack to be toast or a piece of fruit on Monday to Thursday and a snack of their choice on a Friday. The school provides toast which works out at 20p a day on a pre-ordered

basis. Alternatively, children may bring in a snack from home. We do ask that all pupils adhere to this rule. **Chocolate bars, sweets and crisps are not allowed on Monday to Thursday.**



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2019/2020 13.12.19



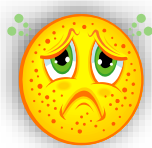
CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	97.83
2 nd	YEAR 4	95.99
3 rd	YEAR 1	95.45
4 th	YEAR 2	95.10
5 th	YEAR 5	94.89
6 th	RECEPTION	94.85
7 th	YEAR 6	94.51

W/E 13/12/2019

The winter bugs have hit attendance over the last couple of weeks.

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. Thank you.



Traffic/Child near misses

I have had two near misses reported to me at morning drop-off time. Please take the utmost care on the junction between Walgarth Drive and Collingwood Road.

Little Church

Little Church is the Liturgy of the Word for children. St Mary's Church 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 10.30am Sunday Mass.

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.

Notable Dates –

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Autumn HT -		
	December	
Week 8	16	Carol Concert 1800
FORGIVENESS	19	Party Day
	20	End of term

P Smyth 13.12.19

BORN TO TEACH
Apply for school-based teacher training in Chorley schools
YTSA
Get Into Teaching Schools Direct
www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk

Are you interested in training to become a primary school teacher?

Have you considered school-based training?

We have vacancies now to start training in **September 2020** and we would be very interested to hear from you if you are thinking of becoming a teacher or know someone who is. We are looking for people who have (or will have) a degree, have a passion for teaching and want to make a difference to the lives of the children of Chorley.

To help you if you're interested keep an eye out for Open Events.

The events will take place at;

St George's CE Primary School, Carr Lane, Chorley, Lancs PR7 3JU.

Please contact the Director of Teaching School, Bernard Golding,

b.golding@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk to reserve your place.

Visit our website www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk to find out more about

what is on offer.