



# School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

13.11.20

**Dear parents/ carers,**

We have enjoyed another full and busy week at school. Well done to the Y2s on completing their phonics screening check; Mrs Grandi, our phonics lead, and all of our staff are very proud of how well they did. The success is a tribute to the hard work of the children and staff and also of the excellent work of their parents during the lockdown months.

## **Learning about other faiths**

As part of our *Building Bridges* partnership with the *Interfaith* centre in Burnley, we have several faith visitors to come and visit us throughout the year. This helps support our Come and See, PSHE and Personal Development (including global learning) provision for our children. Today, we were visited via Zoom by Hinduism expert, Neetal. She spoke to the children about Hinduism and shared aspects of her faith and culture with us.

## **Holiday Dates 2021/2022**

Earlier in the week, Mrs Wilson sent out the term dates for 2021/2022. These are also available on the school website. Please note that there is a difference with our dates and the majority of schools in Lancashire. Our February half-term week will be a week later and so too will the Easter holiday.

This is because we and the other Catholic primary schools in Chorley stay in line with the term dates of Holy Cross Catholic High School, where the majority of our children move on to after Y6. We do this so that as few families as possible are adversely affected by different holiday weeks.

## **Message from BBC's Blue Peter**

*Dear Headteacher,*

*We would like to inform you that we have launched [Blue Peter on YouTube](#) at CBBC and we were wondering if your pupils and parents would be interested in this.*

*Blue Peter is the longest running kids TV show in the world and we are uploading videos to it that are suitable for 5-11 year olds. We have world record breaking challenges, arts and crafts, environmental videos, cooking and baking how tos, inspirational films, gaming, celebrity appearances, dance routines and music performances. We also feature ways of getting a Blue Peter badge, behind the scenes footage and extra content about our incredible presenters Adam, Lindsey, Mwaksy, Richie and Henry the Blue Peter dog.*

If you think your pupils would be interested in this, please do send this out to your parents and ask them to subscribe

to <https://www.youtube.com/bluepeter> - (it's obviously completely free to subscribe!) and don't forget to watch the live programme on CBBC at 5.30pm every week, or on BBC iPlayer.



Thanks so much for your time,  
The Blue Peter Team!

**Dave Coulson, Producer/ Director,**  
**YouTube Team, Blue Peter, CBBC,**

### Message from the school office ...

- Thank you for your excellent support of the Poppy appeal
- Reminder to parents that any absences or notifications of medical appointments to come via the office please.

### Value of the Week – Peace

Well done to the following children who were spotted demonstrating **the value of peace** during Remembrance week last week -

Class	Pupil
YR	Niamh
Y1	Charlie W
Y2	Joseph
Y3	Declan
Y4	Zach
Y5	Adam



## Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021




CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 1	99.13
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 3	99.10
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 2	98.92
4 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	98.23
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	98.19
6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	96.83

7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	96.68
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W/E 13/11/2020 Well done to **Y2** and **Y4** on their **100%** attendance award this week!

### STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 13.11.20

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Sienna	For the fantastic way she has been learning lots of new things this week.
	YR	Jessica	For being such a brave girl this week when she broke her arm
	Y1	Alfie	For bravely coming into school this week and getting on with his work very sensibly.
	Y2	Sophia	for fantastic mathematics this week on shape.
	Y3	Emily	Brilliant involvement in Faith Week
	Y4	Emilia	For writing a wonderful piece of writing in English. She thought carefully about her language and sentence openers.
	Y5	Melodie	For her outstanding presentation to the class on Black History.
	Y6		

### Remote Learning or Blended Learning

You will have no doubt heard about year groups in different schools being required to self-isolate for two weeks due to positive test results in those cohorts - you may even have experienced this yourselves in your own families with siblings or relations at other schools.

You will want to know what we plan to do if, and when, this happens at St Mary's. Our plans are these:

- ✓ In the event of a year group having to self-isolate, our teachers have prepared two days' worth of learning for children to be doing. This will allow the class teacher to prepare work for the remaining twelve or so days. Our plan is to keep the teaching and learning going as near as possible to what it would be like if the children were in school.
- ✓ You will all have received the half-termly curriculum newsletter.
- ✓ Weekly plans will be sent home at the start of each week of the isolation period. A plan of each day's learning will also be sent home.
- ✓ Video introductions to lessons will be given, where required.
- ✓ There will be a daily Zoom check in with the class teacher and opportunities for communication between school and home.
- ✓ Our principal platforms for the delivery of teaching and learning will be Tapestry for the Nursery and Reception classes, and SeeSaw for Y1 – Y6.
- ✓ Teachers will also be providing work for children who are self-isolating even though they have no symptoms e.g. a family member has symptoms and is awaiting a test result.

## 2021 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 2020 is **15 January 2021**.

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

### 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.

**A message from the Yarrow Teaching School - Alliance Open Event – Autumn Term 2020**

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. **Our next Zoom open event is on Tuesday 1st December.**

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](mailto: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 13.11.2020**