



School Newsletter

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

13th September 2019

Dear parents,

We've come to the end of the children's first full week back at school and they have done you proud. Each class is a hub of activity; the children are working hard and behaving beautifully. They've made a great start.

Parent Governor Vacancy

Please look out for a separate communication sent out via Groupcall regarding a vacancy for a parent governor to join the governing body:

Dear Parents & Carers,

As a result of a present parent governor's 4 year term of office coming to an end, it is a requirement for the school to seek nominations from any parent interested in becoming a governor. Please find included in this email [sent separately] the relevant information and nomination form. The nomination form (both pages) is to be returned in a paper copy (with signatures) before 12 noon on Monday 23rd September. If you require a paper copy of the nomination form, please contact the school office.

If more than one nomination form is received an election will have to take place. Should you require any further information on the role. please contact the school office.

ALDI stickers



Xavier, in Y6 came to see me yesterday to tell me about a promotion that one of the supermarkets, Aldi, is doing. He wants us to get involved. He is making a box for us to collect stickers in. These stickers will then be put on the giant Olympics 2020 poster which is on the wall outside the Y4 classroom. The Aldi website tells us this ...

Every time you spend over £30 in any Aldi store you'll receive a Team GB sticker. Take your stickers to school to help complete your poster. Once complete with 300 stickers send the poster back to us to receive an exclusive sports kit and to be in with a chance to win £20,000 for your school.

Roald Dahl day 13.09.19

Today is the annual Roald Dahl Day celebration. Classes across school have spent a little time looking at one of our most celebrated children's authors. Y5 are carried out some mindfulness exercises using Roald Dahl quotes and Y3 watched some short video clips from some of Roald Dahl's stories.

Advance notice for Y6 (and Y5) parents - Hothersall Lodge Residential Visit Dates

We have booked the dates for this year's Y6 residential visit to Hothersall Lodge. It will take place from Monday 1st June to Friday 5th June, 2020. This is the week we return after the half term break in the summer term. For parents of children in Y5 we are looking at a potential change with an earlier than usual visit. We are looking at dates in autumn 2020 for their residential visit when they move into Y6.



Walking to and from school alone policy

It has been custom and practice in most primary schools up and down the country for many, many years for some of the older children in school to walk to and from school alone. We have done this ourselves at St Mary's. As part of our safeguarding procedures, I have put together a policy about this and am sending it out with this newsletter. This is because, as a school, we have a responsibility to hand children safely over to their parents (or other nominated collector) at the end of a school day, but obviously when they walk home on their own, we cannot do this.

That said, we realise that when the Y6s move up to high school into Y7, many of the children make their way to and from school by themselves. Therefore, Y6 parents like to give their children this independence in preparation and often in the last half term of the school year. Yesterday we sent out an electronic consent form to parents in Y6 to let them notify us if they wish their child to walk to and from school alone.

If parents notify us that their child is able to walk home alone, then we will release them at the end of the school day. If parents indicate that they do not want their child to walk home, we will keep them in school until collected.

In terms of effective management and organisation, it has to be an 'all or nothing' arrangement. By that, I mean that we are unable to monitor if a child only walks home on certain days of the week or for example on a Friday in two weeks' time. This would be impossible to manage. So, to clarify, if a parent allows their child to walk to and from school alone, we will let them go alone at the end of each and every school day. If a parent does not allow their child to go home alone, we will hang on to them each and every day until collected. I have amended the policy (3.19) to show this.

Prospective Parents Open Day/ Open Evening



There will be an open day/evening event on **Thursday 3rd October** for parents interested in a place for their child in St Mary's Reception class for September 2020. More details will follow.

Start of school year Mass at St Mary's

Children from Years 3, 5 and 6 attended Mass on Wednesday morning to celebrate the start of the new school year. Children from Y5 read the Bidding Prayers beautifully and clearly as did Evie in Y6 with the Responsorial Psalm. The rest of the children joined in well in singing the hymns and behaved very well throughout. Fr Marsden spoke to the children in his homily about making a good start to their school year and Martin Fyles, trainee priest, introduced himself to the children and set them a challenge for when he comes into school with Fr Marsden next Monday afternoon.

Y4 Sacramental Programme - Sacramental Cheese & Wine Evening

This year's Sacramental Programme began with a Cheese and Wine Evening at school for parents last Tuesday. Fr Marsden and Mrs Gray-Grzeczynska, introduced the programme and explained the process of *Family Catechesis*.



The programme has run very successfully since it started a number of years ago. Father Marsden reminded us of the importance and strength of the partnership we have between home, school and parish at St Mary's. Mrs O'Neil and Miss Wilson have joined the family Catechesis team and will be supporting the children in their Sacramental journey this year. Thank you parents for a great turnout.

Reception Reading and Phonics meeting 11.09.19

Mrs Singleton gave a presentation to Reception parents on Wednesday evening to inform parents about how reading and phonics (the learning of letters and sounds) are taught in the Reception class. Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend and thank you to Mrs Singleton for presenting.

Early Years 'Stay and Play' Session Nursery and Reception – Wednesday 18th September

Our Early Years team in Nursery and Reception are welcoming parents to take part in a 'stay and play' session next Wednesday morning to see what their little ones get up to in a typical morning at school and nursery.

Y1 Parents' Meeting Monday 09.09.19

Mrs Grandi met with Y1 parents on Monday after school to share information about what and how children will be learning in Year 1 this year and how parents can support pupils in their learning. Thank you to all the parents for attending and to Mrs Grandi for presenting.

Y2 Parents' Meeting 18.09.19

Miss McCluskey will be meeting Y2 parents on Wednesday next week to share information about what and how children will be learning in Year 2 this year and how parents can support pupils in their learning. She will also touch upon the end of KS1 assessments that children will be taking part in next May.

Tempest School Photographs

We have booked the photographer to come in on **Monday 16th September**. The photographer will take individual and family photos. Parents will have the option to buy or refuse from the proof that is sent home with the child, therefore to ease the process all children will have his/her photograph taken unless requested otherwise by the parent. Siblings within school and nursery will also be taken.



If you do not wish your child to have a photograph taken, please let the school know as soon as possible. You can do this by email through the school website.

If you wish a family photo with older or younger siblings. Please arrange to attend between 3.15pm and 4.00pm. The photographer's session will finish at 4.00pm. Look out for a Groupcall message about this.

2020 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

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: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools
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 23:59 on 15 January 2020.

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

Year 6 Pupils

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

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 secondary applications for September 2020 is 23:59 on 31 October 2019

Extra- Curricular Activities

Various clubs and activities will be starting over the next few weeks. We will also be hosting a fencing club for the juniors this half term and a judo club later on. More details of all the clubs will follow.

Volunteers



We really appreciate the help we receive from parents and grandparents who come in to help with reading, supporting children's learning, clubs etc. We have had a couple of parents in recent years who started off volunteering and then have decided to pursue a career in teaching! If you feel you can spare half an hour or more a week please get in touch with the school office. Many thanks.

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.**

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.

Messages from the school office:

Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to pass on a couple of messages.



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 2019/2020



CLASS	CURRENT %	CURRENT POSITION
YEAR 6	99.41	1st
RECEPTION	99.29	2 nd
YEAR 2	98.33	3 rd
YEAR 3	98.19	4 th
YEAR 4	98.19	4 th
YEAR 1	97.29	6 th
YEAR 5	97.07	7 th



Some beginning of school year and nursery year reminders

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!



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, then the lost property box is available on **Tuesdays** after school by the front entrance.

Health and Safety notices

Nut allergies



We have a number of children in school who have an allergy to nuts and may experience a severe allergic reaction. We therefore make every effort to be as **nut-free** as possible in school. Therefore, we ask that you do not to send food products into school which may contain nuts. Thank you for your understanding.

Grapes in lunch boxes

If your child brings grapes to school either as a snack or as part of their packed lunch, it is very important that they are halved first. This is because whole grapes present a significant risk of choking hazard to children.



Parking



By way of a reminder at the start of the school year, I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not park on the staff carpark, the yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. Thank you.

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.

High School Open Evenings



Holy Cross
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL


Holy Cross Catholic High School will be holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents on the evening of Thursday 10 October. Parents of children in Y5 and Y6 will shortly be receiving written invitations from the school.

In addition to this, Mr Gaughan, Headteacher and the head or assistant head of Y7 will also be visiting **St Mary's** to speak to our Y5 and Y6 parents about all that Holy Cross has to offer on **Wednesday 25th September at 6pm** – this date has now been confirmed and Y5/6 parents have been given a letter about this.

Parklands High School has its open evening on Thursday 19th September between 5.15pm and 8.15pm



STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 13.09.19

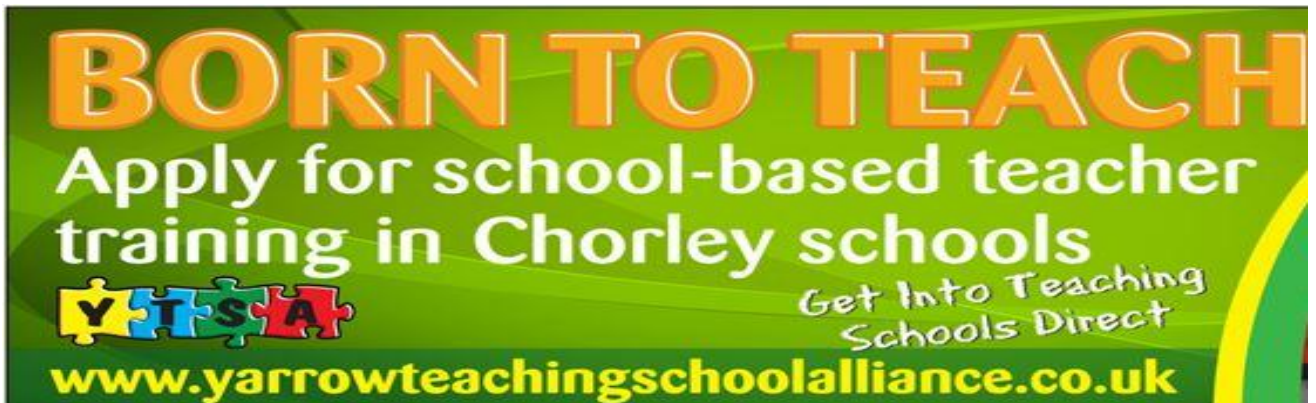
	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Myka	A fabulous start to Nursery, always having a smile on her face and being kind and caring.
	YR	Alfie	Settling into Reception really well.
	Y1	Heidi	Settling in really well and showing excellent knowledge in all areas.
	Y2	Jack Brooke	A fantastic start to Y2! Wonderful presentation of her work.
	Y3	Jamie	Settled in well at St Mary's
	Y4	Isla	A great start back at St Mary's and being enthusiastic about everything.
	Y5	James	Always setting a good example to others.
	Y6	Sam	A wonderful start to Y6.

Notable Dates – There are a few dates which I have pencilled in which have yet to be fully confirmed (TBC) but I wanted to give you some advance notice of our plans.

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Autumn HT - 1		
VALUES OF THE WEEK	September	
3 DEMOCRACY	16	Tempest Photography
	18	EYFS Breakfast Stay & Play
	18	'Roots to routes' prize being presented in assembly
	18	Year 4 CSSP Athletics Club
	18	Y2 Parents Meeting
4 RULE OF LAW Harvest RE FSC Friday	23 - 27	National Eye Health Week
	23	Y6 Gifted and Talented Assessment (Hall)
	25	Holy Cross Parents' Meeting
	27	FSC Friday
Wks 5/ 6 TRUTH/ GENTLENESS <i>October Month of the Rosary</i>	30	1415 Harvest Mass School
	October	
	2	Chorley Lodge Artists Y2
	3	Open Day - am session and evening session
7 MERCY <i>October Month of the Rosary</i>	14	Judo Presentation in assembly
	15	Parents' Evening
	18	End of half-term
	21-25	Half term break

Autumn HT - 2		
1 PEACE Bonfire Night	28 Oct for two weeks	Remembrance Fortnight
	29	School reopens for pupils
	November	
	1	Y3-6 Attend All Saints Mass
2 DIVERSITY	4 – 8	Book People in
	6	EYFS Stay and Play (phonics lesson)
3 JUSTICE Judaism Week Anti Bullying Week	11 – 15	Judaism Week
	11 - 15	Anti-Bullying Week
	11	Remembrance Day
	14	BBA Launch
4 HUMILITY	19	Nasal Flu Vaccinations from 0900 - 1430
	21	World Philosophy Day
5 COMPASSION		
	December	
6 CELEBRATION	2	Sacramental Class - First Confessions School
	6	Nativity EYFS Dress Rehearsal 0915 - 1015
	6	Nativity KS1 Dress Rehearsal
7 TOLERANCE	9	Y3-6 Attend Mass Immaculate Conception/ Advent Mass
	10	Nativity - KS1 performance to parents 0930 – 1030 TBC - Details to follow
	10	Nativity - KS1 performance to parents 1830 – 1930 - TBC - Details to follow
	11	Nativity – EYFS performance to parents 0915- 1015 - TBC - Details to follow
	11	Nativity – EYFS performance to parents 1700- 1800 - TBC - Details to follow
	12	KS2 Carol Concert Practice – Church
	13	Panto Trip - Rec - Yr 6
8 FORGIVENESS	16	Carol Concert
	19	Party Day
	20	End of term



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 we are having two **Open Events:**

Thursday 26th September at 6.00pm

Thursday 7th November at 6.00pm

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.