



# School Newsletter

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

14.01.21

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

We have continued to be impacted by both pupil and staff absence. We have tried to maintain as normal a service as possible and I think quite successfully. A number of staff are currently isolating including teachers who are delivering lessons remotely. A number of teaching assistants are filling in the gaps and supervising classes. The staff and volunteers have pulled together incredibly well and I would like to say another big thank you to them all. Well done also to all the children self-isolating at home in joining in with the learning – like I said last week, we know none of this is easy.

## **COVID News**

Due to the number of positive cases, we were contacted by LCC's COVID Outbreak Management team. We have exceeded the threshold number of cases in our nursery and Y3 classes. I was asked to advise parents of **children in Y3 to test their children daily with LFDs for the next seven days**. The adults in those classes have been asked to do the same.

## **Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19**

From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period **after 5 full days** if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both **day 5 and day 6** and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school/ nursery immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

A couple of reminders:

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

- People who are fully vaccinated, or children aged between 5 and 11 years, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school and nursery as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.
- Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

### **Nasal Flu Vaccination – letter from the school flu immunisation team**

*Dear Head Teacher,*

*Public Health England/NHS shall be texting all parents on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022, to advise that they can still book their child in for a flu vaccination. This is in response to recent media activity about health impacts of flu on children.*

*The text will direct parents to contact 119 service should they have missed the flu sessions in schools. I am aware that parents may also contact the school directly for advice and we kindly request you update your parents today on the Flu email address (as below) to reduce the number of calls to your school office.*

*Intrahealth is commissioned by Public Health to deliver the school flu immunisation programme. Our team has prepared external clinic catch up sessions to deliver additional flu vaccines within the LEA, outside of school hours.*

*Please note that parents can contact the Intrahealth flu vaccination team on the email below to book in appointments this month. (Ideally giving school name/borough and a contact number in the email)*

*Many thanks for your support.*

[lancsschoolflu@intrahealth.co.uk](mailto:lancsschoolflu@intrahealth.co.uk)

*Warm Regards,  
Area Coordinator for School Flu immunisations*

### **Annual Holocaust Memorial Service at Astley Park on 22nd January at 11am.**

Our parish lead catechist and school governor, Mrs Grzeczynska, is also Director of the Annual Holocaust Memorial Service in Chorley. She has asked me to publicise that it is the Annual Holocaust Memorial Service at Astley Park on Saturday 22nd January at 11am. Following on from the tree planting ceremony in November here at St Mary's with the Association of Jewish Refugees, she

thought that maybe some of our older children would like to go and see for themselves how we remember the Holocaust and the millions who suffered terribly and were killed.

### **Parking**

I have been contacted by a neighbour who has emailed on behalf of a number of residents on Warton Place. They are very concerned about the parking of a minority of parents/ carers at drop-off and pick up times. He says that driveways are regularly blocked and that cars are using them to turn around on causing damage to them. Furthermore, cars are parking in the hammerhead next to the entrance on Warton Place. This space is designed to help cars turn around and not to be parked in. This creates a serious risk to pedestrians especially our younger, smaller children whom drivers may not be able to see over their bonnets or through rear-view mirrors.

- Please can I ask all parents to park, considerately.
- Please bear in mind especially, the safety of child pedestrians
- Please do not park across driveways.
- Please do not park in the hammerhead.
- 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*.

I have attached a leaflet produced by LCC on parking near schools.

There's a phrase I have seen on signs outside another school which says simply ...

**SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!**

### **Football Finals – Fleetwood**



Mr Hodge took the St Mary's football team (reigning champions of Chorley) and their parents to compete in the regional football finals at Fleetwood FC.

Mr Hodge sent me texts during the day to let me know how they were getting on. They played some very tightly contested matches winning the first, drawing the second and losing the last two both by a single goal. Unfortunately, they did not proceed to the knockout stages. They did however win their two remaining matches. Mr Hodge told me that they had a great day and that the children did themselves proud.

Well done St Mary's, thank you parents for giving lifts and supporting and well done to Mr Hodge for his time and effort in bringing the team to the event.

### **Football Coaching**

We were asked by Pine Villa Football Club to advertise the following:

Hi, I'm the admin for Pine Villa, so the coach has asked if I spread the word about new training sessions for girls and boys.

### **Pine Villa Football club**

Looking for any keen football players U9s (year 4) to play for the club on Sundays at Burscough for Pine Villa.

Training available at Buckshaw during the week if available to attend.

Doesn't matter about the ability, please email [pinevillayouthfc@gmail.com](mailto:pinevillayouthfc@gmail.com)

Or call Paul on 07540 081976

Also doing football training for U6s, U7s, U8s and U11s at Standish leisure centre -Saturdays at 11am.

Many Thanks

Jane x

### **Unavoidable School Closures**

Over the course of this term, the hours of daylight will lengthen and I think we can sense that happening already. Hopefully, it will begin to warm up a little bit too. However, in the unlikely event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

### **Primary School Admissions September 2022 Deadline**

Applications must be submitted by **tomorrow Saturday 15 January 2022**

Please see Mrs Wilson's letter below regarding admissions to school for September 2022. Occasionally, I have to go to appeals meetings for pupils not admitted to school due to missed deadlines or non-completion of **supplementary information forms** (SIFs). If you are unsure about any part of the process please contact the school office – or if you are aware of anyone who is seeking a place at St Mary's next September and may not see this note please make them aware of it. Thank you.

Dear Parents & Carers,

A reminder that if you have a child that is due to start school in September 2022, that the closing date for applications is **Saturday 15th January 2022**. Please be aware that if you are applying to our school (or any other faith school) that a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) **must be completed** for each school and the evidence provided where necessary.

Should you have any questions or require any further help or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mrs Wilson  
School Business Manager

## Sport England Active Lives Survey

**Mr Hodge has asked as many children as possible from Yrs 1, 3 and 5 to take part in the survey and as many parents as possible in Year 1. The school will earn sports vouchers for the amount of entries it contributes.**

The Active Lives Children and Young People survey provides a world-leading approach to gathering data on how children engage with sport and physical activity.

It gives anyone working with children aged 5-16 key data to help understand children's attitudes and behaviours around sport and activity.

Schoolchildren across England are asked to take part in this survey, which sits at the heart of the Sport England vision – that everyone in England, regardless of their age, background and level of ability, should feel able to take part in sport and activity.

The survey was developed with the Department for Education (DfE), the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. It'll provide Sport England, government and other partners with a broad and deep understanding of activity levels and behaviours, to help shape future policy and investment decisions.

**A £100 worth of sport vouchers for your School  
And a Healthy schools report and rating which can be used towards your Ofsted review**

To receive the voucher, report and health schools rating we only require the following numbers of completed surveys

- 30 pupil responses - ideally across Year 1 and 3
- 5 pupil responses across Year 5
- 1 parent response from Year 1 - ( As I say, It is worthwhile encouraging as many Year 1 parents to complete as possible. **For each parent that completes the survey you will also receive an additional £10 of vouchers**)
- 1 teacher responses (essential for Healthy schools rating scheme)

The survey is completed online via a unique link for the years chosen for your school. Please find below the survey links and attached information so that you can start the online surveys.

This term the school years selected are Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5

Year 1 - <https://ipsos.uk/XBZKDI>

Year 3 - <https://ipsos.uk/UQZKFG>

Year 5 - <https://ipsos.uk/XKZKLL>

Parent Year 1 - <https://ipsos.uk/JBZKXR>

## Parent Pay Balances



Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to remind you to check balances on Parent Pay and settle any outstanding amounts. Thank you.

## 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.

### STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 14.01.22

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Rory H	For super imaginative play and story telling.
YR	Teddy	For being very kind to his friends
Y1	Seb D	For his continued enthusiasm and effort in all that he does over the last 2 weeks.
Y2	India	for outstanding work
Y3	Victoria	Excellent engagement in the maths lessons this week
Y4	Owen	Great work and focus in mathematics
Y5	Jaden	A really good effort during our mathematics work on multiplication.
Y6	Dylan	A great letter to Lady Macbeth from Macbeth



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



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 4	96.81
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 5	96.16

3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 3	95.63
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 2	95.51
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	95.50
6 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	95.48
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	94.45

W/E 14.01.22

Unsurprisingly, no 100% attendance this week.

**P Smyth 14.01.22**

**Headteacher**