



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

14.05.21

Dear parents/ carers,

We have been in school for eight weeks since the return after the January/ February lockdown - five weeks since the start of the summer term and three weeks before. Many parents, quite understandably, will be worried that their child(ren) may have fallen behind due to not being in school in January/ February and also due to the lengthy closure in 2020.

I would just like to reassure you that the children (and staff) are working incredibly hard – one Governor remarked, *'it's a hive of industry – every nook and cranny of the school is being used for learning.'* The children's attitude to their schoolwork is excellent, whether in regular lessons or in catch-up sessions – all the staff are telling me this. Although it is way too early to assess the impact fully, I can tell you that pupils across school are getting the support they need to catch up to where they need to be and then to keep up.

Mental Health Awareness week – 10 May – 14 May

This week was a national Mental Health Awareness week. In assembly on Wednesday, we defined what we mean by the term 'mental health,' that we all have it (like our physical health) and how important it is to look after it. We discussed the fact that it is really all about our thoughts and feelings. Sometimes these thoughts and feelings are small or sometimes they can become quite big and too much for us. We told the children about the need to talk to someone if this is ever the case. Please the *You're never too young to talk about mental health* resource attached for you to explore some of these issues at home, if you so wish.

COVID Lateral Flow Device tests

A reminder that **anyone in Lancashire** is eligible to access **free**, rapid coronavirus tests for themselves and their families to use twice a week.

These can be obtained locally from Woodlands Conference Centre (opposite Parklands School), from the Tesco Extra supermarket on Foxhole Road, Lloyds Pharmacy on Devonshire Road and from The Hub pharmacy on Peel Street.

Another plea from the EYFS (Nursery and Reception classes)!

The EYFS team have asked me to pass on the following message. Please note that children must not play on play equipment at the start or end of the school day e.g. the wooden house in the infant playground or the trim trail in the junior playground.

Similarly, children are not allowed in the Early Years play area (next to the Nursery class). The staff work hard to tidy the area and make it ready for the next day. I have reminded children about both these things in assembly today. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Walk to School Week w/c 17.05.21 – next week!

We are taking part in an initiative with a charity called 'Living Streets' to encourage children, parents and carers to walk to school. The ambition of the charity is: Week beginning 17 May is the charity's annual Walk to School Week. You can find more about this on their website:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school>

Messages from the St Mary's Church

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS take place during the Corpus Christi Masses 5/6 June and the following weekend 12/13 June, after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. There are additional children from the Chorley area who will be also making their First Holy Communion. Please would you pray for all the children and their families. We entrust all the children to Our Blessed Lord and His holy Mother, Our Blessed Lady.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR NURSES 12th May saw the International Commemoration day for nurses and midwives, otherwise known as Florence Nightingale Day. The Lady with the Lamp – Florrie- was born on 12th May 1820 in Florence, Italy. A Service was held in Westminster Abbey on 12th May and this is now an annual event.

We pray for our nurses and midwives and we thank them for their courage and fortitude. We pray for the repose of the souls that have been taken away by COVID and we give thanks for the sacrifices given and still ongoing by our nurses and midwives. God bless them All, as we thank them for their Service.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Dear parent/guardian, the Archdiocese of Liverpool is inviting young people in year 8 (and above) to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is the sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger and more perfect Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ.

The preparation for the sacrament will be started through a series of video introductions to the sacrament from Animate, the archdiocesan youth ministry team (if your child has not seen these in school please direct them to <https://www.youtube.com/user/AnimateYouth> and find the four 'Called ... videos.

Year 8 pupils will then study the subject of confirmation in their RE classes. There will also be preparation sessions at a local level in your town/local area. Following these local preparation times young people will be invited to be confirmed. If your child would like to receive the sacrament of

confirmation this year it is essential they register online at: <https://liverpoolcalled.co.uk/>
Registration must take place before 28th June.

Please complete the form that can be accessed through clicking the button at the top right-hand side of the webpage ('Register for Confirmation'). If you are unable to do this at home, please inform the school chaplain who will be able to help.

When a young person has registered they will be contacted by your local confirmation co-ordinator who will take you through the next steps of the preparation process. If you have any questions, please contact Fr Simon Gore on 01744 740467 or s.gore@animateyouth.co.uk

Yours sincerely, +Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

St Mary's Beavers Cubs and Scouts News

St Mary's Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have asked us to let you know about recommencement of their meetings (outdoor) and if anyone would like further information to contact St. Marys leader Tom Whittaker at: thomaswhittaker@chorleyscouts.org.uk

Summer Play scheme at St George's Primary, Chorley

Our friends at St George's primary school have asked us to publicise a privately run holiday club which will be operating on the St George's school site over the summer holiday. See the flyer attached if interested.

The Big Sunday Festival 11 July – date for the diary



Keep this date in your diary. Paul Mcbeth of the Chorley & District Laity Network has asked us to let you know about the *Big Sunday Festival* taking place at St Gregory's in July.

Pre-pandemic, the group ran a similar summer family festival. It was a lovely day with food, a bouncy castle, the fire brigade and so on. Look out for a writing and or poster competition nearer the date!

The Big Ask - Final Reminder - Please complete by 19th May



All children up and down England have been asked to share their thoughts and opinions in a nationwide survey. Let us try and ensure that every child at St Mary's has their voice heard!

Hi, my name is Rachel de Souza and I'm the Children's Commissioner for England. My job is to speak up for children in England, stand up for their rights, and make sure that the people in power listen to what children need and want. This survey will only take you 5-10 minutes.



https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/?utm_source=dynamics&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tba-school-initial&msdyntrid=SKij_gRp_LDoRwGx4bdgOumQVnfWOOexY373-JHbX4k

Half-term activities

The Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) are delivering a half-term holiday sports camp at St Peter's school in the summer half-term break. It is four weeks off yet but you may be interested. There will be a huge variety of games and sports to keep children fit, active, engaged and most importantly having fun throughout the holiday period. Each day will range from football to rounders, Basketball to athletics, dodgeball to netball and so much more! Please see the attached leaflet for details.

Mental health and wellbeing

If you have concerns about your child's mental health or wellbeing during this period, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Please contact me or your child's class teacher, or any trusted adult within school. Here are a couple of websites you may find useful in the meantime: A comprehensive guide from the Government/ Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

NSPCC

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/april/supporting-children-young-people-mental-health>

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	99.19
2 nd	YEAR 1	99.13
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.80
4 th	RECEPTION	98.69
5 th	YEAR 4	98.22
6 th	YEAR 6	96.77
7 th	YEAR 5	96.54

It is very close between Year 1 and Year 3 – could Y2 or Reception still catch up?

W/E 14/05/2021 Unfortunately, no classes managed **100%** attendance this week!

Lancashire School Games - Resources



We have been asked to share this with you: on Monday 12th April the new Lancashire School Games website went live. Resources are available for schools and families to use for activities, competitions, PE etc. Have a look around here; <https://www.lancshireschoolgames.co.uk/> The team have also released a video (aimed at Primary) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-mb6ualGgg>

Stars of the Week - 14.05.21

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Ruby	For fantastic phonics and super counting!
YR	Luke N	For amazing use of phonics in his writing – brilliant segmenting and orally sounding out!
Y1	Arthur	For his extra effort in all of his work
Y2	Max	For excellent work on position and direction
Y3	Faith	Excellent enthusiasm and delivery of lines in our play script work.
Y4	Joel	For his wonderful work in maths this week on fractions, he has worked hard and participated well.
Y5	Lewis	For always giving 100% effort and for his enthusiasm to succeed when completing a challenging maths problem.
Y6	Stan	Excellent participation and Concentration in <i>Bikeability</i> sessions

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.

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.

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 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 14.05.21**