



School Newsletter

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

15.10.21

Dear parents/ carers,

National Poetry Day - 7 October

Children at St Mary's love reading poems or having poems read to them. Last week, each class marked *National Poetry Day* by celebrating and enjoying poetry. In this week's Wednesday assembly, we shared some of the poetry work done by the children for the day: Y4 gave a class performance of *Eletelephony* by the poet, Laura Elizabeth Richards and Y5 shared a video of their performance of the *The Story of Squiddly Diddly (after Julia Donaldson)* by the young poet Theodora Shillito. It is a powerful, yet amusing poem about the environment. The children performed the poem beautifully.

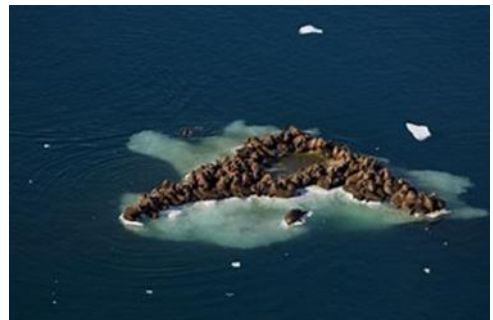
Thanks to Miss Hesketh for helping us all to celebrate National Poetry Day.

Operation Walrus

Mrs Nicklin has asked me to draw everybody's attention to *Operation Walrus from Space* and she has already got Y2 inspired and involved in the project. All are welcome to join in – half a million volunteers are required.

Mrs Nicklin writes:

Optional Walrus from Space WWF task is part of a call to action task to help in the climate change effort. The children have been very excited about this when we have looked at this together today. It will also help them practise their maths counting skills.



<https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/walrus-from-space>

This is taken from the Guardian Newspaper: ***Conservationists are on the hunt for “citizen scientists” to spot walrus from their own home to help track populations of the creatures and give scientists an understanding of how many are left in the wild ...***

... It is hoped half a million people worldwide will join the Walrus from Space research project, and look through thousands of high-resolution satellite images – a task too gargantuan for researchers to complete alone.

Sports News – Ten out of ten!

Football: St Mary's v Lancaster Lane, St Mary's v. Whittle-le-Woods

Mr Hodge and Mr Southern took the St Mary's football team for their fourth visit to the Westway Sports Centre in Chorley to take part in the final round of fixtures. St Mary's perfect season continued with further 4 – 2 and 7 – 1 wins, respectively. They have finished the mini league top of the pile with a perfect record of ten- out- of ten wins. This means they have qualified for the finals night, which takes place after the half-term break.

Mr Hodge has used a squad of 20 players from Year 5 and Year 6 who have contributed to this success story. They have been absolutely faultless in their attitude and behaviour. They can be very proud of themselves. They are a credit to the school and their families. Well done St Mary's and thank you once again to Mr Hodge and Mr Southern for training them and taking them. Good luck in the finals!

Prospective Parents Meeting – Wednesday 6th October 6.00pm

If you know of any parents considering applying for a place for the child at St Mary's next September and they were unable to come to the Open Evening, please direct them to the video below:



<https://youtu.be/Oiaso2y9Lag>

2022 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: <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 2022 is on 15 January 2022.

****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 <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 secondary applications for September 2022 is on 31 October 2021

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.**

Messages from the school office:

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



COVID symptoms – however mild

If your child has:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

they must not come into school, you should get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have coronavirus and stay at home until you get their result, even if the symptoms are mild.

One of the recent changes for this term means that if your child is a 'close contact' of someone, e.g. a parent, who has tested positive for COVID, but has no symptoms themselves the child no longer needs to self-isolate, they may come to school. However, in this instance, we would also ask that your child has a PCR test (but they can still come to school while awaiting result – if no symptoms).

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.

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.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2021/2022 W/E 15.10.21



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 4	98.69
2 nd	YEAR 5	98.49
3 rd	YEAR 6	97.51
4 th	YEAR 3	97.35
5 th	YEAR 1	97.16
6 th	RECEPTION	97.06
7 th	YEAR 2	96.90

No class managed **100%** attendance last week.



Message from the Chorley School Sports Partnership – October half-term holiday club [please see attached leaflet]

Hello,


We are running an October holiday club at St Peters C of E primary school during half term. I have attached the leaflet if you could send out and advertise to your parents that would be great.

Thank you,

Micaela

Senior Bikeability Instructor & School Sports Coach

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 15.10.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Jacob	Following picture cues in nursery
YR	Charlie H	For super writing
Y1	Myka	Super work on number bonds in maths this week.
Y2	Noah	For amazing effort in maths
Y3	Poppy	Amazing maths work this week!
Y4	Jacob	For his amazing work in English, he is writing a wonderful fictional story.
Y5	Harry W	For his outstanding effort all week and for a wonderful effort describing a setting linked to the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.
Y6	Charlie E	Great work on written division this week.

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.

Best wishes,

P Smyth 15.10.21