



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

15.01.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Well done to our whole school community on a successful week of remote learning: the children, staff and parents/ carers. It has been a great team effort once again.

Remote learning survey

Thank you for your excellent response to our quick survey yesterday about remote learning. We will study and carefully consider your responses. By working together, we can refine the learning provision to meet the needs of all of our learners. Thanks for all your suggestions and very positive comments too.

Home learning support

We have managed to get hold of a number of documents to support you in helping your child learn at home, if needed. They contain information about:

- Supporting a home learning routine
- Top tips to support reading at home (and a specific KS2 doc)
- TRUST ideas to take advantage of everyday learning opportunities.

I have attached them to this newsletter.

There is also a short video to watch:

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/videos/EEF_Supporting_daily_routines_during_school_closures.mp4

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>

2021 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY – URGENT IF NOT YET DONE!

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 2021 is this Monday 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).****

Stars of the week w/e 15.01.21

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Willow	Trying really hard all week.
	YR	Nathaniel	Lovely creative ideas and independent learning.
	Y1	Charlie R	His excellent start to home learning. Keep it up!
	Y2	Freddie	Fabulous participation during live lessons this week.
	Y3	Charlotte S	Completing her home learning to a high standard all week.
	Y4	Owen R	His hard work and amazing effort.
	Y5	Dylan	Wonderful piece of art based on the painting, <i>Surprised</i> by Henri Rousseau (I looked it up – it's very good!)
	Y6	Finlay	Hard work and outstanding effort during the first couple of weeks of home learning.

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.**



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 15.0.1.21**