



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

16.07.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Our school vision (this is our aim as a Catholic school):

From their first day to their last at St Mary's, we support our children on a journey of learning and faith.

In learning, we want our children, by the time they leave our school: to be numerate and literate, to have received their full entitlement in all areas of learning and to have the opportunities to succeed in areas of particular interest to them. We want the children to be active and healthy. We want the children: to be challenged, to be exposed to the highest quality teaching, to take risks, to be unafraid of making mistakes and to reach their full potential.

On their journey of faith, we want to support our children to develop into well-rounded citizens for the future. We want the children to be thoughtful, loving, caring and considerate members of society. We want the children's attitudes, decision making and relationships to be underpinned and informed by Christian values with Christ at the centre of all we do at school. We want to be a Catholic, Christian community which aims for excellence and which learns, improves and achieves.

It is good; therefore, at the end of the school year for us to review how well we feel we have done against what we say we aim to do. It is with tremendous pride then, that we say farewell to our current Y6 cohort. We feel, given what we set out to do, it is pretty much 'mission accomplished.' The class are an absolute credit to the school.

Although the COVID virus rudely interrupted their final couple of years at St Mary's, we are very proud of each and every one of the Y6 children, in what they have achieved in their time here and how they have all turned out. Thank you also to the Y6 group of parents; your children are a credit to you and we thank you for your support over the years. We wish your children all the very best in their new schools.



Thank you and goodbye to the parents and children who will be leaving us this summer – it has been a pleasure working with you. Goodbye to the families of Lucia, Grace O',

Grace B, Stan R, Mason, Zachary, George, Joe, Amelia, Sam, Louis, Oliver, Lydia, Harrison, Daniel, Joe J and Isaac.

Thank you to all our parents and carers

It has been another very busy and successful year across the school and nursery. Thank you, parents and carers, for your support over the year and particularly during the closure in the spring term. Thank you for putting up with the small number of bubble closures and self-isolations too. The way in which you supported your children in their home learning was incredible. Well done!

Thank you staff

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work with the children since September whether in school or from home – you have done a magnificent job – enjoy your well-earned rest.

Thank you Governors

Thank you to the Governors of the school for their hard work and support for the school. Thank you to Father Marsden, Kinga Gray-Ggrzeczynska, Mrs O’Neil and the Family Catechesis team for your time, effort and support this year.

Thank you to you all, for your efforts and for making this school and nursery such a great community of which to be a part.

September Opening

Although ‘bubbles’ are officially ending on Monday 19th July and there is updated guidance from the DfE for schools for September openings we are going to review the situation during the period mid-to end of August in order to determine what we will actually do in September. At this point in time, it is too early to say what September might look like in school. In the last couple of weeks of the holiday, I will write to you with full details of our arrangements for the safe reopening of school.

Goodbyes

We say goodbye to Mrs Corry who looked after Year 2 during the summer term as Mrs Nicklin took on the temporary role of headteacher at St Joseph’s, Withnell. We thank Mrs Corry for the excellent job she has done looking after and teaching our Y2 children. We wish her all the best for the future.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Howarth who has taught our Y4s on Mondays over the last year. We thank her for teaching and taking care of the class and wish her good luck in her future.

We say goodbye to Mrs St John, who has been a teaching assistant and much more at St Mary’s for nearly twenty years. They say nobody is irreplaceable but Mrs St John comes pretty close. We thank her for all her care and hard work in supporting the children and staff at St Mary’s. Thankfully, she

will continue to be a school governor and will help out in school on occasion too. We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

Returner

We are looking forward to the return of Mrs Nicklin in Year 2 in September after her secondment in Withnell. Welcome back!

New appointments

We also welcome to the team, Mrs Southern and Mrs Roby as teaching assistants and welfare next term and we welcome Mrs Cooper as Year 4 teacher on Mondays.

Class teachers for September 2021

Nursery – Mrs Singleton

Reception – Mrs Ainscough and Mrs Cassidy

Year 1 – Mrs Grandi

Year 2 – Mrs Nicklin (Deputy head)

Year 3 – Mr Hodge

Year 4 – Mrs Banwell and Mrs Cooper

Year 5 – Miss Hesketh

Year 6 - Mr Cahalin

Lancashire Quality Awards in *Early Reading and Step with Boys*

It is with great pride that I can tell you that our early years team have achieved two prestigious local authority awards. They have achieved the *Early Reading Award* and the *Step with Boys Award*. I would like to say congratulations to the whole team on this wonderful achievement which shows what a great start in their education the children who attend our nursery class and reception class receive. I would also like to say thank you the whole team for their hard work and dedication in attaining the awards.

Competition Winner - a new Promethean interactive whiteboard

Late last month, our school entered a competition to win a new interactive whiteboard worth thousands of pounds for school and we won! Can I say a big thank you to the staff who put together videos for the competition and to the staff who edited the video and entered the competition. The new board will be fitted in the reception class over the summer.

OFSTED Report

OFSTED called me yesterday to say that the turnaround for the report was indeed too short so it will not appear today. The report will be published on 1st September.

COVID information

Contact tracing up until Thursday 22nd July, 2021

What to do if ... ?	Action needed
Child or staff member has symptoms before 3.30pm on Sunday, 18th July and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.	Contact school by email at office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk as soon as possible, but before 5pm, 22nd July at the latest, so that school can inform contacts.
Child or staff member has symptoms after 3.30pm on Sunday, 18th July and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.	Do not contact school! Parents/ carers/ staff should follow contact-tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
Child or staff member is required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after Thursday 22nd July	Do not inform school about absence until Friday 3rd September

School will not be involved in contact-tracing from 5pm on **Thursday 22nd July**.

If...	School will ...
School is notified that child or staff member has symptoms before 3.30pm on Sunday, 18th July and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19,	Inform contacts of that child or staff member up until, but not beyond Thursday, 22nd July

Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings from 19th July

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts (see accompanying letter with this newsletter).

The Big Sunday Festival 12 September

A date for your diaries...



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.

<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 16.07.21**