



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

16.04.21

Dear parents/ carers,

The children have made an excellent start back to school. Teachers and teaching assistants have been telling me how delighted they are with the children's application and enthusiasm and with the work that they are producing.

It is great news that the incidence of COVID infection is coming right down. For the time being and until we are advised otherwise, we will need to continue with our safety measures around school and at pick up and drop off times. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this regard.

Catch-Up Premium Funding

The Government has provided schools with funding to reduce the impact on children's learning of the COVID pandemic, for example during the period of remote learning and the closure of schools to most pupils. This funding is called the 'catch –up premium'. Our plans for using this funding can be found on the school website.

One of the ways that we are using the funding is to enable small groups to receive targeted support either from the teaching assistant who works with them in class or from the class teacher. In most classes, these sessions will take place on two or three afternoons a week and in most cases, the support will be in reading, writing or maths.

Teachers and TAs will liaise with each other to determine which children they feel will benefit most from this support. This means that from time to time your child might access this additional support in the afternoons depending on the area of learning and depending on the need.

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

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League Table

W/E 16/04/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 1	99.29
2 nd	YEAR 3	99.22
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.84
4 th	RECEPTION	98.83
5 th	YEAR 4	98.33
6 th	YEAR 6	97.04
7 th	YEAR 5	96.72

Well done to both **Year 2** and **Year 5** on achieving **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.lancashireschoolgames.co.uk/> The team have also released a video (aimed at Primary) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-mb6ualGgg>

Stars of the week - w/e 16.04.21

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Evie	For playing so well and getting on so well with her friends in nursery
	YR	CiCi	Fantastic listening and participation in her online lessons this week - a star home learner!
	Y1	Charlie W	A super start to the new term, showing an even greater determination to achieve.
	Y2	The whole class	All being real superstars and working hard all week.
	Y3	Hettie	Great focus on the presentation of her work since returning back to school after the Easter break.
	Y4	Niamh	Working hard consistently and always facing new challenges with perseverance and a smile.
	Y5	Izzy	Izzy has worked so hard since coming back after Easter and has set a good example to the rest of the class.
	Y6	Daniel	An outstanding effort in his work in both English and mathematics 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.

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.



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 16.04.21**