



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

16.10.20

Dear parents/ carers,

CAFOD Harvest Collection

Thank you once again for your generosity. The CAFOD harvest collection came to **£381** – which is phenomenal in current circumstances. THANK YOU.

Parents' Evening - Tuesday 20th October

A last reminder about parents' evening. The deadline, in booking a session, is 12 midday on Monday.

Lancashire now in Tier 3 COVID restrictions

You will all be aware of the Government announcement today, which placed Lancashire in Tier 3 of the COVID restrictions from 00:01 on Saturday. This should not drastically change anything that happens at school. If it does, I will inform you straight away. The information below is from the BBC website:

What are the rules in Lancashire at Tier 3 (very high alert)?

- Areas with the most rapidly rising transmission rates are placed in Tier 3.
- You are not allowed to meet socially with anybody who is not part of your household, or support bubble, indoors.
- You cannot meet in private or pub gardens, but can meet in parks, beaches, countryside or forests, as long as you are not in a group of more than six.
- Pubs and bars must close unless they are serving substantial meals. Alcohol can only be served as part of a meal.
- People are being advised not to travel into or out of Tier 3 areas, other than for work, education, youth services or because of caring responsibilities.
- Extra measures for Tier 3 areas can be introduced, following discussions between central and local government.
- Casinos, bingo halls, bookmakers, betting shops, soft play areas and arcades must close
- Car boot sales are not allowed

COVID Safety measures

As part of our risk assessment at the start of the term, we said that **teachers are not able to speak to parents/ carers at the door in the mornings or at the end of the school day**. In order to keep school as COVID-secure as possible, we need to minimise the risk of transmission. Thank you for your understanding in this. If parents/carers need to pass a message on to the class teacher, we ask them to do so via Class Dojo during school hours. Thank you.

Coats and Jumpers

For St Mary's, measures such as: children remaining in bubbles, children and staff staying off school if they or household members have COVID symptoms, regular hand washing, good cleaning regime, social distancing, staff with face masks are all helping to keep us as safe as possible from COVID.

Another very important measure is **good ventilation and fresh air**.

Last week in the newsletter, I mentioned the **importance of children bringing their jumpers** into school to keep warm in class, as we need to keep windows and doors open for good ventilation, in our attempts to keep COVID-19 at bay. As the weather gets colder, children might also be advised to wear vests if you think that appropriate. We will have the heating on but we will need to keep doors and windows open – so it will be draughty and chilly!



We also need to make sure children have good **waterproof coats** with them. We want children outside at break times and lunch times and we want them outside as much as possible when doing PE - even if it is raining! Obviously, if the rain is torrential, we will have to stay indoors. Mrs Wilson is investing in some plastic ponchos from Amazon for about £1 each if that is something parents would be interested in.

SYNOD 2020

The SYNOD 2020 journey was due to end this weekend. However, the Archbishop has extended the process until June 2021 because of the COVID pandemic. Mr Hodge is giving a talk at St Mary's this weekend and he has asked me to bring to your attention a list of proposals that have been drawn up as a result of the Year of Listening (see attached).

Value of the Week – Justice

Well done to the following children who were spotted demonstrating **the value of justice** last week -

Class	Pupil
YR	Gabriella
Y1	Joseph Mc
Y2	Victoria
Y3	Charlotte
Y4	Owen R
Y5	Izzy



**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2020/2021**



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 1	99.44
2 nd	YEAR 3	98.97
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.62
4 th	RECEPTION	97.95
5 th	YEAR 4	97.52
6 th	YEAR 5	96.99
7 th	YEAR 6	96.15

W/E 16/10/2020

No **100%** attendance awards this week, I'm afraid!

Car Parking – Drop-off and Pick-up times

A neighbour came into school today to complain about the parking on Warton Place. She offered to come in on behalf of her neighbours, as seemingly, there were a few who wanted to complain. It seems that a number of our neighbours are unhappy about

- Parents reversing onto driveways
- Parking across driveways, blocking householders in
- Parking right up to cars, blocking their movement
- When drivers challenged by householders, **they have received verbal abuse**
- General inconsiderate and rude behaviour

Also, a lady who lives on Hornchurch came into the office after the first week back to complain that she was in a disagreement with a parent for asking her not to park on the pavement because she couldn't get her pram past - she was told not to scratch the car!

We have also had reports of people parking on the zigzag lines outside the school, parking in the staff carpark and even double-parking to let their child out on both Hornchurch and Walgarth.

I know that the COVID safety measures have created pinch points at drop-off and pick-up times but these are necessary measures. My overriding concern is for the safety of the children and their families as they enter and exit the school ground at these busy times.

Therefore, I would urge parents to park a little further away if necessary and show consideration to our neighbours particularly during these challenging times. Thank you for your understanding.

Remote Learning or Blended Learning

You will have no doubt heard about year groups in different schools being required to self-isolate for two weeks due to positive test results in those cohorts - you may even have experienced this yourselves in your own families with siblings or relations at other schools.

You will want to know what we plan to do if, and when, this happens at St Mary's. Our plans are these:

- ✓ In the event of a year group having to self-isolate, our teachers have prepared two days' worth of learning for children to be doing. This will allow the class teacher to prepare work for the remaining twelve or so days. Our plan is to keep the teaching and learning going as near as is possible to what it would be like if the children were in school.
- ✓ You will all have received the half-termly curriculum newsletter.
- ✓ Weekly plans will be sent home at the start of each week of the isolation period. A plan of each day's learning will also be sent home.
- ✓ Video introductions to lessons will be given, where required.
- ✓ There will be a daily Zoom check in with the class teacher and opportunities for communication between school and home.
- ✓ Our principal platforms for the delivery of teaching and learning will be Tapestry for the Nursery and Reception classes, and SeeSaw for Y1 – Y6.
- ✓ Teachers will also be providing work for children who are self-isolating even though they have no symptoms e.g. a family member has symptoms and is awaiting a test result.

2021 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY – **SECONDARY DEADLINE APPROACHING FAST!**

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 2020 is 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).****

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 2020 is 31 October 2020.

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

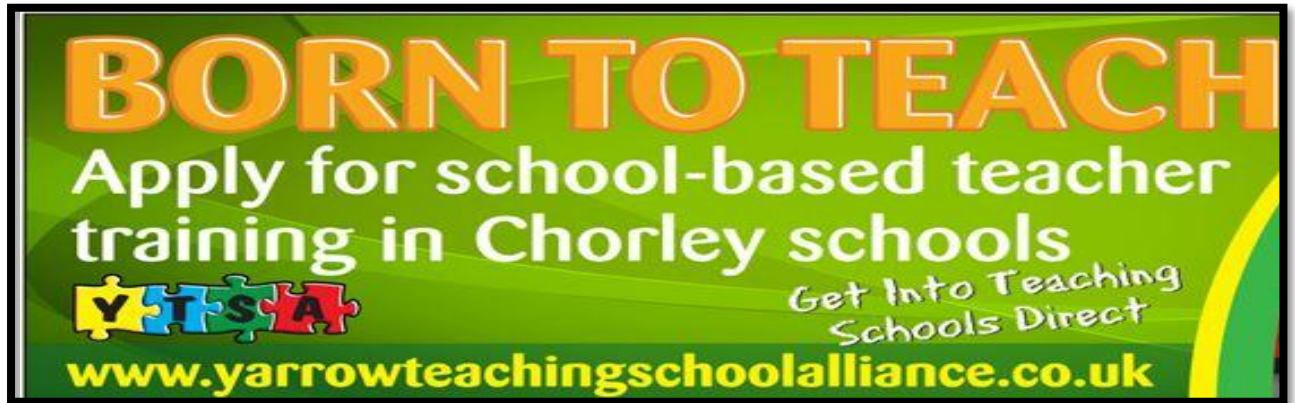
Free milk If you receive benefits, your child could also get free milk. Contact us to find out what arrangements we make for school milk.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 16.10.20

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Lucas	his super number work and home learning.
	YR	Seb	amazing understanding of texts when reading. Super explanations about the characters, setting and plot.
	Y1	Penny	great concentration this week and her super clay model of a mouse in Art.
	Y2	Sophie	amazing mathematics.
	Y3	Charlotte	working hard on her 'Guide to Chorley' in English.
	Y4	Harry W	showing great determination in lessons and participating well.
	Y5	Eleanor	For her enthusiasm, passion and dedication towards all her work in school, especially in our English unit of work linked to 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.'
	Y6	Harriet	great descriptive writing in English this week.

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 Zoom open event is on Tuesday 10th November – flyer with newsletter.**



<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 16.10.20