



School Newsletter

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

17.09.21

Dear parents/ carers,

The children have enjoyed another good week back in school; our new starters in nursery and reception have settled in very well. The KS2 classes each enjoyed a samba-drumming session with a music teacher from LCC over the last couple of days – thanks to Mr Hodge for organising. Next week, we will be celebrating FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council) Day and welcoming our local MP, Sir Lindsay Hoyle to school fresh from his involvement in the G7 Speakers' Conference at Astley Hall.

G7 Speakers and Presiding Officers Visit to Chorley

Chorley will be in the national spotlight this weekend as Sir Lindsay Hoyle hosts the G7 Speakers and Presiding Officers at Astley Hall. Just a reminder, that there is an open invitation for pupils, parents/ carers and school staff to line the driveway as Speakers of the G7 drive into the park and arrive at Astley Hall from 8.45am on Saturday morning. *Please arrive at the park by 8.45am to see the arrival party. You will need to enter the park via the entrance on Park Road. The Hall Gate car park will be closed.*

Melodie in Y6 will join pupils from schools across Chorley, to be involved in a special tree-planting ceremony with the international visitors later on Saturday morning.

Watch out for the Red Arrows doing a flypast at 1pm sharp!

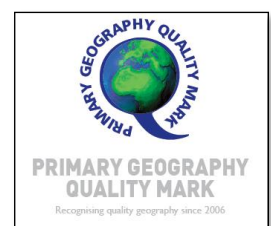


Sir Lindsay Hoyle visit to St Mary's school Friday 24 September

We are honoured and excited to be welcoming Sir Lindsay Hoyle to St Mary's school, next Friday. We will take him on a tour of the classes before he speaks with the school council and spends time with children in Y5 and Y6. He will be fresh from hosting the Speakers from the G7 countries and hopefully, will be able to tell us about some of his experiences from this weekend.

Primary Geography Quality Mark

Congratulations to all the staff whose combined efforts helped the school attain the prestigious Geography Association Primary Geography Quality Mark 'SILVER AWARD.'



Thanks especially to Mrs Nicklin for her superb leadership of the subject and thanks of course to the children for their excellent work in Geography. It makes us very proud when we receive external validation for the quality of education at school. Well done to all concerned.

FSC Friday 2021 – non-uniform day

Friday 24th September is FSC Friday. FSC stands for Forestry Stewardship Council. For over 25 years, FSC has worked to take care of forests and the people, plants, and animal species that depend on them. The FSC label assures that wood, paper, and other forest products have been responsibly sourced from well-managed forests and recycled materials. Next Friday, St Mary’s will be carrying out activities to celebrate and raise awareness of responsible forest management and the role that FSC plays in it.



Since the children will be doing hands-on learning outside for some of the day, they **can wear non-uniform** but please ensure that they wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear e.g wellies – not their best clothes! They will also need to wear their PE pumps when they are inside the building. Thanks. Should be a good day!

School council elections

Thank you to all the boys and girls who put themselves forward for election to the office of school councillor this year. The teachers told me that the standard of the presentations was excellent. Thank you to those children for your time and effort in preparing and presenting speeches and well done to the rest in listening carefully to the presentations and deciding who you would like to represent you. Democracy in action!

Commiserations to those who were not elected this time and please do not let it put you off putting yourself forward again in the future. Finally, congratulations to our newly elected school councillors and I look forward to working with you over the course of the year.

Betsy (Y4), who was school councillor when she was in Y2, reminded me that I promised the school council a chippy lunch back in 2019-2020. At some point over this term, I will have to honour that promise!

School Councillors autumn 2021

Year 1	Year 1 councillors will join us in January	
Year 2	Billy	Erin
Year 3	Johnathon	Heidi
Year 4	Brody	Brooke
Year 5	William S	Emilia
Year 6	William GB	Eleanor
Year 6	Lewis	Sophie
Year 6	Harry	Charlotte E
Year 6	Dylan	Melodie

Holy Cross Open Day arrangements 2021



Due to COVID safety measures, Holy Cross Catholic High School are not holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents. Instead, parents have been invited to book short time slots to visit the school. Y6 parents have been given details by Holy Cross.

Mr Gaughan visit to St Mary's Wednesday 29.09.21 at 5.30pm

In addition to the above, Mr Gaughan, Headteacher will be visiting **St Mary's** to speak to Y6 parents only, about all that Holy Cross has to offer on **Wednesday 29th September at 5.30pm**. We will hold the meeting in the school hall, space the chairs out and keep the room as well ventilated as possible. He will give a twenty-minute presentation followed by a short Q&A session.

PE and Sports Steering Group Meeting Thursday 23rd September 7.00pm

Mr Hodge is holding meeting for the PE steering group on Thursday 26th Sept at 7.00pm on Zoom. All are welcome especially new members wanting to get involved in the direction of PE and sports at St. Mary's. Mr Hodge will be joined by the four house sports leaders from Y6.

At the meeting, he will discuss the year ahead in terms of PE and School Sport, talk about ideas for the future, ask for parental support with competitions and discuss any other business.

The meeting code is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81394559197?pwd=NHJxdDNKZGhWVFFSM1psNzQvc1ZLZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 9455 9197

Passcode: j4BjDK

Early Years Curriculum Meeting – Tuesday 21st September 6.00pm

There is a meeting for parents of children in our nursery and reception classes regarding the Early Years curriculum and some of the changes in it for this year on **Tuesday 21st September at 6pm**. The meeting will be held on Zoom. Parents have been sent the meeting details. If for some reason you do not have the details, please contact the school office.

Prospective Parents Meeting – Wednesday 6th October 6.00pm



There will be a meeting on for parents interested in a place for their child in St Mary's reception class for September 2022. It will take place on **Wednesday 6 October at 6.00pm**.

As we still need to be highly cautious about reducing risk of COVID transmission, we will not be giving a tour of the school this year. Instead, I will give a short presentation and parents/ carers will be able to ask any questions that they may have. We will hold the meeting in the school hall, space the chairs out and keep the room as well ventilated as possible.

There is an opportunity to watch our school open day video, which will give a further insight into school life at St Mary's. It is available on our school website.

PTFA

The PTFA is a body that meets to organise social and fundraising events for the school. The funds that the PTFA raises go towards enhancing the experiences of the children at school. It has paid for visitors such as authors, it has also subsidised trips e.g. to the theatre and sometimes it pays for equipment in school. However, an even more important role it performs is in bringing the school community together in different events. COVID has severely curtailed the work of the PTFA over the last couple of years, unfortunately.

Q. Who are the PTFA members? A. We all are!

As soon as your child starts St Mary's school or nursery, you automatically become a member, along with all the staff.

The PTFA committee met last night and set a date for the annual general meeting - Thursday 30th September at St Mary's Parish Centre to which **you are all invited**. A Groupcall invitation will be sent out in the next week or so, in order for us to determine the numbers in advance for the room we need at the club.

The PTFA committee are in the process of planning a number of events bearing in mind what is possible during these pandemic times.

They are planning a Spooky Dress-Up day - children come to school in spooky clothes on Friday 22nd October in return for a £1 donation. They felt it would be unwise to have the normal 'Spooky/Monster Ball' at the present time.

The committee have decided against holding a Christmas Fair this year, again on the grounds that they think it is unwise given the circumstances. Instead, they intend to hold a large Christmas raffle. Donations will be sought from local businesses and a cash prize offered potentially. They would also like to have two 'Christmas Jumper/non uniform days' for a £1 donation.

We will give further details of all these after the annual general meeting.

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

Volunteers

A number of people have made enquiries about helping out in school. We would like to welcome volunteers back into school. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the school office in the first instance.



We really value the help that you can give however small. In order to be as COVID safe as possible, we would ask volunteers to be fully vaccinated against COVID and be willing to test twice-weekly. We would also need to do a short induction meeting with you.

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.



Some beginning of school year and nursery year reminders

Earrings and Jewellery - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If parents wish their children to have their ears pierced then please have them done at the beginning of the six-week break to allow ears to heal. The only form of jewellery children are permitted to wear is watches.

Hair styles

We expect pupils to have sensible hair styles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school and nursery a fashion- free zone!



Shoes Pupils are expected to wear plain black shoes. Again, we want school to remain a fashion-free zone. Some sports companies make black trainers for children. We ask you not to use these for school. They



are trainers and not shoes and of course the children will prefer to wear them! However, once one

has them this puts pressure on the other children to ask their parents for them. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Labelling Uniforms

The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing, then the lost property box is available on **Tuesdays** after school by the front entrance. Please enquire at the school office if you would like to look in.



Health and Safety notices

Nut allergies



We have a number of children in school who have an allergy to nuts and may experience a severe allergic reaction. We therefore make every effort to be as **nut-free** as possible in school. Therefore, we ask that you do not to send food products into school which may contain nuts. Thank you for your understanding.

Grapes in lunch boxes

If your child brings grapes to school either as a snack or as part of their packed lunch, it is very important that they are halved first. This is because whole grapes present a significant risk of choking hazard to children.



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 17/09/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 4	99.54
2 nd	YEAR 5	99.24
3 rd	YEAR 1	98.42
4 th	RECEPTION	97.39

5 th	YEAR 6	97.24
6 th	YEAR 3	97.10
7 th	YEAR 2	96.70

No class had **100%** attendance this week.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 17.09.2020

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Coby	For coming into Nursery so well this week. A little superstar.
YR	Nevaeh	always following the class rules
Y1	Jake	For his determined effort with all of his work, especially his writing.
Y2	Kristian	trying his best all wee
Y3	Rory	For kindly allowing another pupil to take their turn on the drum before him in the Samba music lesson.
Y4	Alex	His wonderful enthusiasm towards our English topic the Loch Ness monster.
Y5	William	For his enthusiasm, passion and hard work whilst working on his school councillor speech.
Y6	Iris	Excellent explanations in mathematics.



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 CofE 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

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 17.09.21