



School Newsletter

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

18.02.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy half term, to say the least. The children have been excellent in their attitude to their school work, have continued to enjoy their learning and continued to make good progress along the way; I hope you got that sense from the parents' evening meetings over the last couple of weeks.

I would also like to say thank you parents, for cooperating so well with the COVID measures over the last few weeks: isolating and testing your children when asked to. Thank you to the staff for their flexibility and adaptability in keeping the learning going in spite of the challenges. Thank you to the governors for their support throughout the half term, too.

As I think I have said before, it has been a great team effort. The school closes for the half term break today. I think the staff and children deserve a well-earned break. School reopens on **Monday 28th February** with a busy week of activities once again.

First week back after half term is a busy week at St Mary's...

Monday 28.02.22 Sacramental Class Meeting - on Zoom 6pm

It is a very busy first week back. On Monday evening, 28.02.22, at 6pm there is a brief meeting for parents of children in Y4 receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion this year. Y4 parents have been informed of this separately, with Zoom details shared.

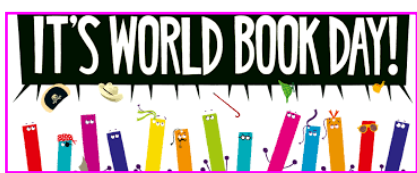
Wednesday 02.03.22 – Ash Wednesday – KS2 Visit to St Mary's Church for 9am Mass.



On Wednesday 2nd March, it is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the season of Lent. Children in **Y3, Y4, Y5** and **Y6** will be going to Mass at St Mary's, so we ask that the children are dropped off at Church from **8.45am at the earliest** where they will be registered. The Mass is exclusively for the staff and children of St Mary's although parents who drop off are welcome to attend if they wish. Children in the Breakfast Club will walk up to Church with staff from school. At the end of Mass, the children will walk back down from Church to school in time for morning break.

All being well, Mrs Grzeczynska, governor and parish administrator will be bringing ashes in the afternoon to distribute to the children in the infants.

Friday 04.03.22 World Book Day (at St Mary's!)



World Book Day (WBD) falls on Thursday 3rd March; however, this year at school we will be celebrating it on **Friday 4th March**.

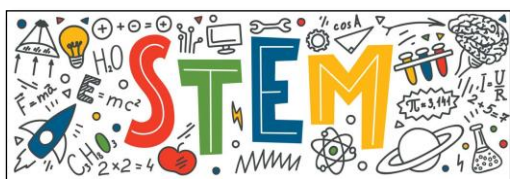
We know some parents and children love the idea of dressing up for WBD, and some can think of nothing worse. We want everybody to enjoy the day, so the theme this year is quite open again – it's about **favourite authors**. So children, you could dress up as a character from one of your favourite authors' books or bring in a prop linked to this book, should you choose not to dress up. If you have a copy of the book, please bring that to school too, so you can share this with the rest of your class.

Footlights Theatre Company will be coming into school during the morning to perform to EYFS, KS1 and KS2. The children will take part in some exciting activities during the school day too in their classes. We hope the children have a great day and enjoy celebrating their favourite authors and the pleasure they gain through the wondrous world of books.

Thanks for your continued support, Miss Hesketh (English Lead).

The week just gone in school ...

STEM Week 14.02.22 – 18.02.22



We have just enjoyed a fantastic STEM week in school, this week. I would like to begin by saying a big thank you to Mrs Banwell and Mr Cahalin for organising the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths focus event, this year. It has been a huge success.

We had a Mad Science Show, a number of visitors including parents, Mr Cahalin visited classes performing some maths magic and each class held a wonderful STEM fair. Hopefully, children have been inspired in their STEM learning and had their eyes opened to possible future work destinations in the world of STEM. And, of course, probably most importantly, they have had a wonderful time and learned lots of new things.

Secondly, thank you to all the parents and children for your work for the STEM fair; there have been some incredible exhibits, displays, experiments and videos. Thank you for your support, hard work and enthusiasm in making the STEM fair a success. During the process, there has been a great deal of STEM learning going on - which children have shared with each other and with the adults.

Thirdly, thank you to those very brave mums and dads, who work in the world of STEM, for coming in to school to speak to the children about their jobs. The children found these visits inspirational – thank you!

One of the several maths puzzles that Mr Cahalin posed to children, on his visits to the different classes, proved especially challenging. Incredibly, only one pupil across the whole school was successful in solving it. Even more incredibly, this pupil is not in Y6, she is in Y1! Well done Myka, who was telling me excitedly this morning about her impressive achievement.

In assembly this afternoon, Mrs Banwell invited teachers to announce the first, second and third places for the various classes' STEM fairs and for poster design winners. Each received a special commemorative certificate.

Car Parking – Pick up and Drop off

Can I ask all parents/ carers, when dropping off and picking up:

- Please bear in mind especially, the safety of child pedestrians
- Please do not park across driveways.
- Please do not park in the hammerhead on Warton Place.
- If possible, set off a little earlier, park a little further away and walk the rest of the way. The children get rewarded for a *Park and Stride*.

There's a phrase I have seen on signs outside another school which says simply ...

SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!

Yarrow Schools Teaching Alliance



YSA
Yarrow School
Alliance

New Year, new challenge
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email
r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk for more information

St Mary's School has been at Hornchurch Drive for forty years – share your memories! – A message from Mr Hodge

To the wider school community on our 40th Anniversary of the school site,

- *Did you attend St. Mary's School in the past?*
- *Do you know someone who did?*
- *Was it at our current site or next to the church at Mount Pleasant?*

If you did, no matter how long ago it was, please do share those memories with us...

In order to collate the memories and mark this special occasion, we have set up an e-mail address where you can send photographs, typed memories, achievements etc, etc, about your time at St. Mary's. Mr Hodge will then collate everything and share these memories as part of our celebration in the Summer Term.

The address is memories@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk

You may know an older parishioners for whom sending an e-mail doesn't suit them? Could you ask them to write something down and you submit the details on their behalf? Do they have any old photographs? Any old certificates? Anything and everything is welcomed.

We look forward to looking at your memories and sharing them with you in due course.

DEADLINE – Friday 13th May 2022

Accompaniment - Side By Side – Archdiocese of Liverpool events



Our school and parish members are invited to take part in an archdiocesan initiative: *Accompaniment - Side By Side*. These events take place Saturday, 19th March 10am-4pm in Liverpool, Sunday 20th March 12- 6pm and on Tuesday & Wednesday, 26th and 27th April online. The organisers invite us to:

Join us for this interactive event, exploring the vision of a Church that walks together and accompanies people in life and faith. We'll consider how deepening our existing practice of accompaniment will help our Catholic community be recognised as relevant and impactful, and how it will offer us all hope for growth.

See leaflet attached for more details.

Unavoidable School Closures

Over the course of this term, the hours of daylight will lengthen and I think we can sense that happening already. Hopefully, it will begin to warm up a little bit too. However, in the unlikely event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

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 18.02.22



| Class | Name | Star of the Week for ... |
|-------|---------------|---|
| YN | Alex | Some amazing answers in our science experiments this week! |
| YR | Keira | For super blending in phonics! |
| Y1 | James | His exciting 'light investigation' at our STEM fair. |
| Y2 | Lucy A | Fabulous tone and intonation used in her news report. |
| Y3 | Emma | Super effort with her independent joined handwriting this week. |
| Y4 | Eva & Harriet | Super effort with her independent joined handwriting this week. |
| Y5 | Elsie | Outstanding effort - four weeks in a row on her Learn its |
| Y6 | Harry | An amazing hybrid text titled The Most Villainous Villain in Literature |



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021 18.02.22



| CURRENT POSITION | CLASS | CURRENT % |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 st | YEAR 5 | 96.01 |
| 2 nd | YEAR 2 | 95.42 |
| 3 rd | YEAR 4 | 95.07 |
| 4 th | YEAR 1 | 95.06 |
| 5 th | YEAR 3 | 95.03 |
| 6 th | RECEPTION | 94.41 |
| 7 th | YEAR 6 | 93.02 |

Still no class with 100%

P Smyth 18.02.22

Headteacher