



School Newsletter

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

18.03.22

Dear parents and carers,

We are halfway through the second half of the spring term. It feels like the weather is starting to warm up a bit, which will be great for break times and outdoor PE.

This week the infants ate together as a group in the hall for the first time in their time at school – I think - and that worked very well. We did all our assemblies in the hall this week including our first awards assembly there for exactly two years. Next week the KS2 children will eat in the hall rather than in their classrooms and they will all go out into the playground together.

Of course, we are keeping our eyes on the rapidly rising COVID rates and we may need to revert back to taking measures to minimise the spread once again.

Please could I ask if children have COVID symptoms that you arrange for PCR tests for them to help us identify positive cases and minimise spread in school. We have a couple of children who have tested positive and are self-isolating in this current wave.

Message from the school office regarding nuts and nut allergies

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

There were at least two items today during lunchtime, which both contained hazelnuts. Please can we ask you to double-check any items you pack into your child's lunch box or their Friday treat. Thank you for your understanding.

Appeal from the Archdiocese of Liverpool

Last week, we mentioned the appeal from the Archdiocese of Liverpool, thank you to all those who were able to help. In the parish newsletter this week, it says,

'Please note that the collections for the Ukraine Appeal have now stopped at the Parish Centre. A van from Liverpool took all the donations on Thursday afternoon. Thank you to everyone for your generosity. It is much appreciated. Other medical items etc. can be handed in via the International

Aid Trust. Not clothes at the moment, because they have plenty in store – the problem is that of logistics – getting things transported out to the refuges and into Ukraine.'

Resources to talk to children about Ukraine

More resources can be found on the following link. They have been produced by the **First News** group, a children's newspaper that we subscribe to.

What is happening in Ukraine and why?

'The news is pretty scary right now and we imagine the children in your life will have a lot of questions around the rapidly changing news coming out of Ukraine. If you are struggling to discuss the situation in Ukraine with your children, **First News** is here to help navigate those difficult discussions with our free Ukraine Explainer and daily news updates.'

See First News link on the school website:

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/news/2022-03-14-ukraine>

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership CSSP Easter Holidays Multi Sports Camp 11-14 April.

Please see attached a leaflet advertising the CSSP's Easter holiday sports camp. Unfortunately, our own Easter holiday and that of the other Chorley Catholic schools is slightly 'out of sync' with the other schools so will only be available for one week for our children: 11- 14 April at St. James' CofE Primary School & Clayton Green Leisure Centre (see attached).

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!

Sports News

Netball

The St Mary's netball team were in action again this week in the CSSP netball league. Miss Hesketh was incredibly proud of the whole team for their skills, enthusiasm, effort and sporting behaviour. They have had mixed set of results so far, with a roughly equal amount of wins and defeats against local primary schools. They play again next week. Well done, team and thanks to Miss Hesketh and Mrs Blackwell for taking them and for all their work on training the team this year.

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.

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.


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

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 18.03.22

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Jacob	For following instructions and showing excellent listening skills
	YR	Joshua W	For playing well with others and being a good role model
	Y1	Myka	Myka is so willing to learn and is always polite. She has been a delight to teach this week.
	Y2	Lydia	trying her hardest to remember her targets in writing
	Y3	Joseph	Full marks on his spelling test this week.
	Y4	Hettie	For her wonderful start to her adventure story based on Gulliver. She is working hard on her handwriting and use of complex sentences.
	Y5	Jensen	For writing a great letter in role and for showing empathy towards the character.
	Y6	Eleanor	Great mathematical explanations and for helping others with their maths.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2021/2022 18.03.22



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 5	96.33
2 nd	YEAR 2	95.69
3 rd	YEAR 4	95.57
4 th	YEAR 3	95.55
5 th	YEAR 1	95.34
6 th	RECEPTION	94.94
7 th	YEAR 6	93.67

Congratulations to Y3 who managed to achieve 100% attendance. Well done! Great job!!

P Smyth, Headteacher 18.03.22