



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

18.06.21

Dear parents/ carers,

COVID UPDATES

1. Y4 Bubble closure

Unfortunately, but probably inevitably, one of our class bubbles, Y4, had to close this week due to a positive COVID case in the class. The children have moved immediately to remote learning. All being well, they will all return to school on Monday 28 June. Thank you to the Y4 team: Mrs Banwell, Mrs Howarth, Mrs Root, Mrs Owsianska and Mrs Holt for getting the remote learning up and ready so quickly. Thank you to the Y4 parents for your support and cooperation too.

I thought it would be worth sharing the following with you if, in the unfortunate event, we have further positive cases in school. In summary, we would give you this information:

- I. That the bubble of children are asked to self-isolate for a period of 10 days. (Household members are not asked to self-isolate unless asked to do so separately).
- II. Advice on what to do if your child develops COVID symptoms during period of self-isolation.
- III. To request that you arrange for PCR tests (not lateral flow) for your child and all household members.

2. What to do if a member of your household tests positive for COVID over a weekend?

We would be very grateful if you could inform school if, in the unfortunate event, your child tests positive for COVID during any of the next few weekends, so that we can make arrangements for the rest of the class who would then need to self-isolate on the Monday. To contact us. Please email office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk . This email account will be monitored over the weekends.

If another member of your household tests positive over any weekend so that your child needs to self-isolate on a Monday, please let school know on the Monday.

World Oceans Day

We considered the importance of the World's oceans in assembly on Wednesday this week. We looked at the enormous amount and the enormous variety of living things that dwell in them. We also considered the negative impact of humans on the oceans in recent decades and what we can do

to reduce the harm that is being caused. I have attached a leaflet which gives 25 tips on how to be a water hero; I told the children I would attach it to the newsletter this week.

Uniform exchange

As mentioned in the newsletter last week, thanks to the support of parents, the uniform exchange raised **£105.50** for school funds. We aim to have another sale during the summer holidays of the remaining items and will also give additional parents to opportunity to add/donate items. We will send out a letter nearer the time for those then wishing to sign up. Thanks again to Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves for organising.

PE kits

Thank you for your support in this. Most children wore the correct PE kits last week; please can you note the paragraph below.

Now we are in the summer months and enjoying much warmer weather, I would like the children to return to wearing their normal PE kit to school i.e. **white t-shirt and black or blue shorts**. They can also wear trainers, as their PE will be taking place outdoors unless of course it is raining. If it is a cooler day they can wear their school jumper or cardigan on top rather than wearing hoodies or tracksuits.

COVID Lateral Flow Device tests

A reminder that anyone in Lancashire is eligible to access free, rapid coronavirus tests for themselves and their families to use twice a week and we are being urged to use them particularly during this period of rising cases.

These can be obtained locally from **Woodlands Conference Centre** (opposite Parklands School), from the **Tesco Extra supermarket** on Foxhole Road, **Lloyds Pharmacy** on Devonshire Road and from The Hub pharmacy on Peel Street.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to our Sacramental class in Y4. They have now all received First Holy Communion. On Tuesday, Mrs Grzeczynska and Mrs O'Neill came into the school grounds (outside) and presented each of the children with a beautiful cross and an ornate certificate with which to commemorate this most special occasion. The children celebrated wearing their Communion outfits and with cupcakes and a cup of squash. Thanks again to Fr Marsden, Mrs Grzeczynska and Mrs O'Neill and well done to the children and their families.

Music lessons

Please find attached information for parents/ carers to sign up for Lancashire Music Service - Parental Direct Payment Scheme (PDP) tuition. This is the programme for music tuition in school delivered by peripatetic teachers from the Lancashire Music Service. We currently have a number of children who access lessons on a range of instruments: flute, keyboard and guitars.

Children currently on the PDP scheme do not need to sign up again as they will receive information to re-register for September 2021 through the LMS 'Speedadmin' communications channel.

The cost of the tuition is

- Group (max 4 students) £7.50 p/lesson
- 20 minute individual £12.00 p/lesson
- 30 minute individual £14.00 p/lesson

Please see the brochure attached, for more information.

Messages from Paul McBeth - Chorley Buddies

We're raising £1000 to Help Chorley Buddies Put a SMILE on Peoples' Faces in Chorley. We need the money to keep and improve our phone system and other general expenses. This is our one and only appeal per year – please help!

Please donate to our JustGiving Crowdfunding Page and help make it happen:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/paul-mcbeth-3?utm_id=1&utm_term=N3Rk237m8

Thanks for your support Paul J McBeth SVP Chorley Buddies

Thank you to Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves for organising the uniform exchange over the last week. Moreover, thank you parents for your support of it - it has been a great success. It seems to have been a very popular idea. Thanks again.

Postponed - The Big Sunday Festival ~~11 July~~ – new date for the diary – **Sunday 12 September**



Paul McBeth of the Chorley & District Laity Network has asked us to let you know about the *Big Sunday Festival* has been postponed and is now taking taking place at St Gregory's in September, due to the extension of the current restrictions. Further details will follow.

Pre-pandemic, the group ran a similar summer family festival. It was a lovely day with food, a bouncy castle, the fire brigade and so on. Look out for a writing and or poster competition nearer the date!

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	98.99
2 nd	YEAR 1	98.95
3 rd	RECEPTION	98.56
4 th	YEAR 2	98.50
5 th	YEAR 4	98.20
6 th	YEAR 5	96.42
7 th	YEAR 6	96.40

w/e 18.06.21 Congratulations **Year 1** on achieving **100%** attendance this week!

Stars of the Week - 18.06.21

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Reuben	For super phonics work and good listening!
YR	Arthur	For following classroom rules and making new friends
Y1	William B	For his perseverance with reading and also his confident use of the iPad in English.
Y2	Rory	For taking a more active part in his learning
Y3	Hettie	Awarded by Mrs McGeown for being helpful in class this week.
Y4	Joel	For always taking pride in his written work, Joel never rushes his work often choosing to complete it at the start of lunch times.
Y5	Melodie	For her engagement and inquisitive questions during our topic on Islam.
Y6	Harriet Maddison Peter	Spirit of Hothersall Award. These three members of Y6 have been awarded the coveted Spirit of Hothersall Award . Mr Cahalin said that there were many strong candidates for the award this year and it made his task of choosing very difficult. We usually only pick two! The award acknowledges the children's engagement, enthusiasm, the way they throw themselves into activities, trying something new, their team work abilities, their leadership skills and the way they encourage one another during the week they were together.

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 18.06.21**