



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

18.12.20

Dear parents/ carers,

We finally made it to the end of the longest term of the school year. Thank you for all your support. The children have been a credit to you and the school, in their attitude to their school work and in their excellent behaviour. I also want to thank all of our staff for their commitment and effort over the last term; it has been a huge effort by our whole school community. Well done, all!

From everybody here at Chorley St Mary's, we wish you a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing everybody back here on **Monday 4th January 2021**.

Nativity/ Christmas Performances

I hope you have had the chance to watch this year's Christmas performances. The EYFS Nativity was beautiful and the children performed with the teacher and the camera as their only audience – they did a brilliant job. Year 1 and Year 2 celebrated by giving us a wonderful rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* and the junior classes did their own Nativity with songs on location around the school grounds. If you have not had the chance to see them yet, you can find them on <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/news>

Christmas Party Celebrations

It is probably the most excited I have ever seen the children for Christmas Party Day this year. Thank you, parents/ carers for your voluntary contributions for the bits and bats they enjoyed. From what I could tell, the children had a great day. Thank you to PTFA and Mrs Wilson for helping Father Christmas supply his presents this year. Thank you to Margaret Morgan for wrapping up each Christmas present and thank you once again to Father Christmas for delivering.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST MARY'S CHURCH – taken from parish newsletter

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS FULLY BOOKED - PLACES AVAILABLE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

- Christmas Eve Mass at 17.30 Carols on CD at 17.00
- Christmas Day at 09.30. Carols on CD at 09.00.

You are warmly invited to our Christmas Masses, but you must have a ticket. Each family member (not including babies) must have a ticket. Each Mass can hold 120 people under the COVID RULES. Tickets are not transferable to any other Mass. If you cannot come to the Mass, please return the

ticket for someone else to use. Thank you. Tickets are available from the parish office or at Masses. First come first served applies. You will be asked for your Track & Trace details when you order your ticket. After Mass, please leave your ticket on the pew, indicating that the area needs cleaning. No evening Mass on Boxing Day (Saturday).

Please note that you may wish to watch Christmas Masses Livestream. The Sunday Obligation Rule is still suspended. It is also possible to come to any Mass during the Christmas Octave for your Christmas Mass.

Messages from the school office

Contact tracing up until Christmas Eve

What to do if ... ?	Action needed
Child or staff member has symptoms before 3.30pm on Sunday 20th December and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.	Contact school by email at office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk as soon as possible, but before 5pm Thursday 24 December at the latest, so that school can inform contacts.
Child or staff member has symptoms after 3.30pm on Sunday 20th December and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19.	<u>Do not contact school.</u> Parents/ carers/ staff should follow contact-tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.
Child or staff member is required to self-isolate due to contact with a positive case after Thursday 24th December	Do not inform school about absence until Monday 4th January 2021.

School will not be involved in contact-tracing from 5pm on Thursday 24th December until 8.30am on Monday 4th January.

If...	School will ...
School is notified that child or staff member has symptoms before 3.30pm on Sunday 20 th December and then subsequently tests positive for COVID-19,	Inform contacts of that child or staff member up until, but not beyond Thursday 24th December.

Attendance

This year, we have decided to reinstate the Attendance Award Scheme, which recognises the achievements of those children who have attended school every morning and afternoon during the whole term.

As a school, we set our own annual targets for attendance and our target this year is 97%. Certificates for the Autumn term 2020 (2nd September to 18th December) will be emailed to parents after school today and are explained below.

Gold Award - for any child with attendance of 100%

Silver Award - for any child with attendance of 98% - 99.9%

Bronze Award - for any child with attendance of 97% - 97.9%

Congratulations to all those children who receive a certificate. If your child has not received an Attendance Award this term, perhaps that is something they could aspire to during the Spring 2021 term and beyond!

As set out in our Attendance Policy, once the COVID pandemic has passed and does not have significant impact on attendance, it is the school's intention to send "Traffic Light Letters" to all parents on a termly/half termly basis in order to keep parents informed about attendance levels. These letters will indicate the following:

Green Letter = Good Attendance, Well done (100 to 96%)

Amber Letter = Attendance Below Target, Improvement Required (95.9 to 92%)

Red Letter = Red Alert, Pupil Progress at Risk (below 92%)

Please see <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/school-policies> for more information.

ParentPay

Please could we ask all parents to ensure that their Parentpay accounts are paid in full by the end of December. Payments relating to extended day and uniform should be cleared and lunch payments should be in credit for January.

Toast

Please also be aware that if you have ordered toast for your child for the Spring term (4th January to 26th March) payment must be made before 3rd January to ensure that your child receives toast on the first day back.

Parking

Thank you for your support in our efforts to improve parking around school this week. Clearing the 'hammer-head' at the top of Warton Place has seemed to make the area safer for pedestrians.

Thank you.

By way of reminder:

- Please do not park across neighbours' driveways
- Please do not park near the corner of Walgarth Drive and Collingwood Drive, especially on the zigzag lines.
- Please do not park or wait in the 'hammer head' at the school end of Warton Place.

Walk to School Initiative 2021

In the New Year we are taking part in a national 'walk to school' initiative. We did a baseline survey with the children this week. 166 said they come to school in a car. That means a significant amount of traffic for a short period of time at the start and end of days. 52 said they walked. We would obviously like to increase the amount of walkers. One way of doing this will be to promote the idea of *park and stride* – to park in a space 10 minutes walk from the school. Watch this space!

FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Kinga has asked me to let parents/ carers know about this initiative. A free Christmas lunch is available in the Town Hall on Christmas Day. There are three sittings, and you need to book: 12 noon. 13.30 and 15.00. If you will be on your own on Christmas Day and would like to have lunch with other people or if you would like to have a home delivery of food, please contact 07462 29460 3. This is being organised annually by our friends from St Laurence's. We have sent a donation to St Laurence's to assist with the financial needs. If you would like to volunteer to help, please ring the same number. Thank you. See leaflet attached.

Value of the week - *Forgiveness*

Well done to the following children who demonstrated an understanding, in their behaviour and attitudes of the value of *forgiveness* this week in school.

YR	Seb
Y1	India
Y2	Poppy
Y3	Harriet Mc
Y4	Niall
Y5	Charlie E
Y6	Mason & Emily



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021

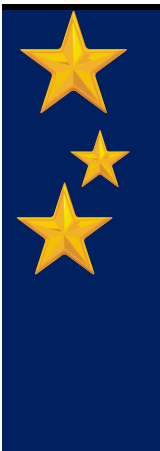


W/E 18/12/2020

CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	99.20
2 nd	YEAR 1	99.04
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.83
4 th	RECEPTION	98.52
5 th	YEAR 4	98.20
6 th	YEAR 6	96.76
7 th	YEAR 5	96.66

Well done Year 4 for their 100% attendance this week.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 18.12.20

 Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Joshua	For super phonics work
YR	Ella G	Fantastic speaking and listening
Y1	Jacob	For his excellent information text in our independent writing.
Y2	Faith	for being a superstar helper!
Y3	George	A huge improvement in his spelling scores
Y4	Oliver	For his wonderful art work created this week when printing.
Y5	Jessica	For a super effort on our limericks work.
Y6	Daisy	For improvement and perseverance with her sewing skills

2021 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY

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).****

School COVID Risk Assessment

Please see school website for the most up-to-date COVID risk assessment for school.

Christmas Sports Camp, Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd December 2020

We have been contacted by Jennie Swarbrick regarding a sports camp at Bolton Arena over the holidays.

Dear School,

With children missing out on physical activity over the last 9 months, it is even more important that we find ways to help children stay active and health. I am pleased to say that we will be running our Sports Camp this Christmas and we would like to invite your parents to book their children on for 3 days of fun!

Please find attached our brochure to advertise our Christmas Sports Camp at Bolton Arena, which I would be extremely grateful if you could pass onto your parents.

Multi-Sports Camp

Dates: Monday 21st December – Wednesday 23rd December 2020 (3 days)

Time: 9am – 3pm

Ages: 5-12 years

Price: £20.00

16 Spaces available

Tennis Camp

Dates: Monday 21st December – Wednesday 23rd December 2020 (3 days)

Time: 9am – 3pm

Ages: 5-8 years

Price: £20.00

12 Spaces available

Gymnastics Camp

Monday 21st December – 12pm – 4pm - £14.00

Tuesday 22nd December – 12pm 4pm - £14.00

Wednesday 23rd December – 9am – 3pm - £20.00

Ages: 5-12 years

18 Spaces available

How to book: If you would like to book please call our reception team on 01204 488100.

Childcare vouchers accepted. Please note that advanced booking must be made when paying by childcare vouchers.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send me an email. ***Please note, I am on limited working hours, so I will return you query asap.***

Thank you for your continued support in helping children to stay active and healthy.

Kind Regards

Jennie Swarbrick

t.

e. JennieSwarbrick@boltonarena.com



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.

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 next Zoom open event is on Tuesday 1st December.**



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 18.12.20