



# School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

19.03.21

Dear parents/ carers,

## Remote Learning Questionnaire

Thank you for your time in completing the questionnaire. In summary, parents/ carers and their children were generally very pleased and satisfied with the remote learning offer. Thank you for your kind comments, they are very much appreciated by the staff. Below are a few of the typical responses.

*Remote learning went well for us. Time table was sent out earlier enough to know what we were doing. Feedback on work was always done on same day and it was nice to have recorded message feedback from teacher to hear how well he had done or anything that wasn't quite right.*

*Teacher was amazing! The voice clips, Zoom classes, very quick replies, oodles of praise for the children and lots, lots more*

*I think it was really nice to see the whole class together, even if it was through a screen, it brightened up X's day being able to see everyone including the teachers. He definitely got a lot out of the zoom classes. He enjoyed being able to take part and put his hand up to answer questions, it made him feel like he was still a part of the school.*

The head of OFSTED, Amanda Spielman, said this week '... it's increasingly clear that for most children, remote education can never replace the classroom, however hard teachers try. It was a necessary stop gap, but one that reinforced just how important it is for children to be in school – for academic, social and health reasons.' She added that 'And some parents simply had more time and capacity than others to help children get down to their schoolwork.'

The different home circumstances meant the replies to the '**even better if...**' question were varied. For example some parents reported the live lessons created organisational issues in households with more than one child. Some parents preferred recorded sessions so that they could support children after they had completed their own work or meetings and so on. Some parents wanted even more live sessions. This suggests to me, that there isn't a 'one size fits all' solution and we probably got the balance about right.

## Easter Holiday Activities

Lancashire County Council's Holiday Activity Fund Team, HAF have online activities on offer covering the Easter Holiday period, entitled '*Discover Camp*'.

### **The Lancashire HAF Easter Offer**

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, our Easter offer will be an online programme delivered between the Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021; consisting of exclusive online content supported by a digital activity pack. We at [Youth Action](#) are going to deliver the '**Discover Camp**' <https://discovercamp.youthaction.org.uk>, and this will be available to **all** children and young people of primary and secondary school age, regardless of FSM status.

### **The Offer**

- **Digital Activity Packs**
- **Exclusive live daily online workshops/ activities** with a range of fun workshops/ activities to suit all ages (6 live sessions per day!)
- **Competitions and quizzes** with some great prizes!

### **Sign Up Process**

The sign up process is very simple:

- 1) Parents/ carers need to go online: <https://discovercamp.youthaction.org.uk>
- 2) Click on '*Sign Up*'
- 3) Fill in the brief sign up form
- 4) They will receive an email confirmation, once submitted

*It's really simple, and only takes a few minutes!*

If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact the central team on: [discover@YouthAction.org.uk](mailto:discover@YouthAction.org.uk)

Many thanks,

**Lancashire HAF Team**

**Tel:** 01254 695847

*"encouraging young people to empower themselves!"*

**Patrons:** HRH Princess Badiya bint El Hassan of Jordan, Lord Shuttleworth

### **Lancashire Adult Learning – Easter activities**

We have received an email from Lancashire Adult Learning services outlining some family learning sessions over the coming weeks – see below.

*Good afternoon from the Family Learning team at Lancashire Adult Learning. Just a quick email to let you know about the FREE Family Learning Events we have running over the Easter Holidays:*

*Please share the padlet link with your families to access information on the sessions:*

[https://padlet.com/Family\\_Learning\\_LAL/familycourses](https://padlet.com/Family_Learning_LAL/familycourses)

- *Family Learning Spring fair (online) Sat 27th March, 10am-11:30am For primary school aged children and their parents/ carers*
- *NEW-Let's Do LEGO- Family Challenge (online) Monday 29th March, 1-2:30pm For primary school aged children and their parents/ carers*

- Easter 'Egg'stravaganza (online) Thurs 1st April, 1pm-2:30pm For children aged 3-6 and their parents/ carers

Laura Myers

Partnership & Recruitment Officer for Family Learning

Lancashire Adult Learning, Northlight, Glenway, Brierfield, BB9 5NH



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



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 3	99.28
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 1	99.25
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 2	98.77
4 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	98.71
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	98.34
=6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	96.78
=6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	96.78

### W/E 19/03/2021

Well done to Year 1 in achieving



attendance this week.

### Good Shepherd Talent Show 2021

There was no Good Shepherd Talent Show in 2020; we did not want that to be the case for 2021. Mr Hodge has come up with a novel way we can do it using technology this year. He has sent a letter out via the teachers and Class Dojo, which will explain in more detail. Hopefully, the children can get involved, have a bit of fun and raise some money for the Nugent Care - Good Shepherd Appeal.

### Holy Week and Easter at St Mary's Church, Chorley (taken from the parish newsletter)

#### Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April

18.30

#### Fri 2<sup>nd</sup>

10.00

15.00

#### Sat 3<sup>rd</sup>

17.00

#### Sun 4<sup>th</sup>

10.00

#### HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper

#### GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

#### HOLY SATURDAY

Easter Vigil

#### EASTER SUNDAY

Mass of the Resurrection



**HOLY WEEK** starts on Palm Sunday. Palms will be blessed at the start of Mass but distributed at the end of Mass on your way out of the church. On the instructions of the Vatican and of our bishops, the Holy Week Liturgies are somewhat abbreviated. On Holy Thursday there is no foot washing and no

procession to or watching at the Altar of Repose. Stations of the Cross on Good Friday will be without procession. The Liturgy of the Passion will be shorter, with no reading of the Passion Gospel in parts, and only the priest venerating the Cross. **The Easter Vigil** will begin in church at 17.00 with the Easter Candle already on the altar, and no individual candles. No Easter fire in the garden or procession. Holy Water will be blessed but not the font.

### Vacancy for a local authority governor

There is a vacancy on the Governing Board of St Mary's for a local authority governor. There are different categories of governors including:

- Co-opted – appointed by the Board
- Parent – elected by the parents
- Staff – elected by the staff
- Foundation – appointed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool
- Local Authority - appointed by the Board with the agreement of Lancashire Local Authority.

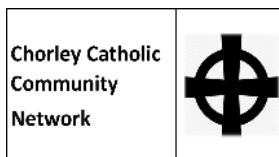
I have attached an information sheet, *'Becoming a school governor in Lancashire'* to the newsletter. If you are interested or you know someone else who is, please contact the school office 01257 262811 or [office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk) and we will let you know what the next steps are.

### Food Provision Help and Support for Families – Chorley Borough Council

I think we are all well aware of the huge pressures this pandemic has placed on many families' finances. Many Chorley families are suffering significant hardship. Bernie Heggarty, from Chorley Borough Council, has written to schools to ask us to signpost where people can access support in being able access food over the coming weeks and months. It gives details of providers in Chorley and contacts to whom referrals can be made. Please see attached.

### Lenten Challenge - *To eradicate Digital Poverty in Chorley by Easter Sunday –*

#### A message from Paul MacBeth - Chorley Buddies



Research by Chorley Borough Council says that there are still approximately 140 children who do not have a device upon which they can complete their schoolwork.

*Will you join us in accepting this Lenten Challenge?*

Chorley Catholic Community Network, Chorley Buddies and the Chorley United Reformed Church, with the support of Chorley Borough Council, are working with the Chorley Repair Café to try to help eradicate Digital Poverty in Chorley.

From Ash Wednesday onwards, we need your surplus laptops or tablets so that we can give them to the children who desperately need them. All personal data will be erased and all Covid safety measures will be in place before the devices are redistributed.

Please bring your surplus tablets and laptops to

- School – we can collect and quarantine at St Mary’s school.
- Massa’s Café Dessert Bar, 3 Cunliffe St, Chorley PR7 2BA
- Frederick’s Ice Cream Parlour, Bolton Road, Chorley PR7 4AL
- Inspire The Youth Zone
- Or email [chorleybuddies@hotmail.com](mailto:chorleybuddies@hotmail.com) to arrange pick up.

### Together We Can Eradicate Digital Poverty By Easter Sunday!

#### Mental health and wellbeing

If you have concerns about your child’s mental health or wellbeing during this period, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Please contact me or your child’s class teacher, or any trusted adult within school.

Here are a couple of websites you may find useful in the meantime:


A comprehensive guide from the Government/ Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

NSPCC

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/april/supporting-children-young-people-mental-health>

#### Stars of the week - w/e 19.03.21

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Ruby	Trying hard with phonics
	YR	Olivia	For fantastic segmenting for writing – wonderful use of phonics
	Y1	William B	For his determined effort in all of his work this week.
	Y2	Hendrix	Great effort and work all week, well done!
	Y3	Krystian	Great focus and attention in lessons.
	Y4	Megan	For working hard with her writing in English. She has started to write a wonderful story inspired by Gulliver’s Travels
	Y5	Archie R	For trying really hard to learn his spellings and making a real effort with his handwriting.
	Y6	Grace O	Great use of cohesive devices in her writing.

## 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.

Yarrow Teaching School  
Alliance  
Open Event:  
Tuesday 1st December 7pm



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](mailto: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 19.03.21**