



# School Newsletter

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

19.11.21

Dear parents/ carers,

## Anti- Bullying Week

This week was national anti-bullying week. We have looked at differences between people and at how we could and should celebrate those differences. On Monday, the children came to school in odd socks to symbolise the theme. In assembly on Wednesday, we spoke about the importance of making an effort to do at least one kind thing. I have had many reports over the course of the week of kind things happening in school – even more than usual – hopefully, the children went home and did some extra kind things there too.

## Governor Vacancies

There are now two vacancies on the school's governing body. Mr West, one of our longest serving governors has stepped down from the role. The Governing Body thanks Mr West for his commitment and service to the school over many years. As headteacher, I would also like to express my gratitude for his help and support too.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in the role of Governor at St Mary's, even if you have expressed an interest before, please contact me at school for an informal chat and I also can put you in touch with the Chair of Governors, Kath Smith who may be able to answer some of your questions. It is a very strong and very experienced group who are committed in its support of the school and in wanting to drive it forward.

## KS2 Virtual Tour of Parliament

As part of UK Parliament Week, a couple of weeks ago, we booked our junior classes on a live virtual tour of the Houses of Parliament. Today, children were taken on that tour by a couple of tour guides down in Westminster. They were shown many of the rooms, the lobby, the corridors and the chambers of the palace of Westminster and had an interactive discussion on what those rooms are used for. Our children earned plaudits for recognising the Speaker's Chair and who sits on it. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



*Y4 on virtual tour today*

## **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the school's move to Hornchurch Drive**

St Mary's school has been on Hornchurch Drive for 40 years this year. To celebrate this milestone, we are putting together a commemorative tea towel. The children and members of staff have produced mini- self-portraits. They have been gathered in by Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves who have put together the pictures to create the design. It looks brilliant! Thank you Mrs Wilson for organising.

Mr Hodge has also come up with a plan for past pupils to contact school with their memories of St Mary's Catholic Primary over the last 40 years to produce a commemorative souvenir. Keep an eye out for more on that.

## **COVID cases**

We have had 5 or 6 positive COVID cases in school this week and we have asked a number of year groups and children who have attended on certain After School Club nights to take PCR tests. If you have been asked to obtain a PCR test for your child, although we cannot insist, we would be very grateful you could do this to prevent any outbreaks in school. Thank you.

## **Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) Christmas Sports Camp**

Please see attached a flyer for a Christmas holiday sports camp on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December.

## **Nasal Flu Vaccinations**

This year's programme of nasal flu vaccinations will take place on Tuesday morning, next week, in school for children in Rec - Year 6 whose parents have opted for them to receive it.

## **The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)**

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree-planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

Children across school have been busy planting trees this week all around the school grounds. It will be interesting to watch the trees mature over the years to come and hopefully, the children will remember which ones they planted and keep an eye on them too.

Thank you to the parents and families who took some of the trees home and thank you to Mrs Nicklin for organising.

## **Chorley Number 1 Food Club – Chorley SVP**

Please see the poster attached to this newsletter from the Chorley SVP. The poster says - *Over 2 million tonnes of good food goes to landfill EACH YEAR... Join The Club! Help Divert That Food from*



*Landfill! For £3 per week, you will receive up to £25 of food of your choice. Yes, you read that correctly.*

### **Christmas Joy Toy Appeal**

Last year we took part in the Christmas Joy Toy Appeal. Paul Macbeth writes: *It was a wonderful inaugural year where we managed to collect in and re-distribute over 3,500 new toys! The vast majority of these toys came from the Catholic Community in Chorley. What a response to a cry to make Christmas as joyful as possible! The toys do not need to be wrapped and they will be collected by SVP Chorley Buddies and be re-distributed via Chorley Council.* I will give you more information on this when I receive it.

### **2022 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 2022 is on 15 January 2022.***

**\*\*Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF).\*\***

### **Messages from the school office 19.11.21:**

Mrs Wilson has asked me to pass on the following:

- ❖ 40th Anniversary Tea Towel - a reminder has been sent to those who have not yet responded to the email regarding tea towel orders. Please can you place any orders by Wednesday of next week. Thank you to all those who have already replied - we have just short of 300 on order so far!
- ❖ Christmas Raffle Tickets - thank you to all those who have purchased raffle tickets already, so far, £394 has been raised. Tickets will be sent out next week to those who have already paid. Tickets can be purchased through ParentPay, £1 per strip of tickets and for £5 you get 6 strips of tickets. All you need to do is decide how much you wish to spend, and we will automatically send any bonus tickets out with your order.

- ❖ Breakfast with Santa - a reminder regarding time slots and arrangements will be sent out, week commencing 29th November to all those who have booked slots. As mentioned last week, we are unable to accept any more bookings.

## School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. **Please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance.** This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.

### COVID symptoms – however mild

If your child has:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

they must not come into school, you should get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have coronavirus and stay at home until you get their result, even if the symptoms are mild.

One of the recent changes for this term means that if your child is a 'close contact' of someone, e.g. a parent, who has tested positive for COVID, but has no symptoms themselves the child no longer needs to self-isolate, they may come to school. However, in this instance, we would also ask that your child has a PCR test (but they can still come to school while awaiting result – if no symptoms).

### Sickness/ Diarrhoea

If your child is suffering from sickness and/ or diarrhoea, then the minimum absence must be 48 hours. This is to prevent the spread of any infection such as norovirus (winter vomiting bug).

### Absence

If your child is absent, please inform the office directly by calling in or by telephone. Please do not pass messages on via siblings or *Class Dojo* or indeed class teachers, thank you.

### Medical absences

If your child has an appointment with the doctor or dentist, please inform the office prior to the absence where possible. Thank you.



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

19.11.21



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 5	97.62
2nd	YEAR 6	97.59
3rd	YEAR 2	97.57
4th	YEAR 4	97.11
5th	YEAR 3	97.08
6th	RECEPTION	96.35
7th	YEAR 1	95.10

No classes had 100% attendance this week.

**STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 19.11.21**

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Alex K	For sharing with others and showing kindness to his friends
YR	Reuben	For trying hard and being a super role model
Y1	Ariana	Realising she can get on with her work independently now
Y2	Charlie W	Excellent effort in his work this week.
Y3	Marnie	Amazing work in maths this week looking at multiplication and division.
Y4	Tilly	Her use of adventurous language and fronted adverbials in her story based on The Pied Piper.
Y5	Megan	For her excellent work on her cross-curricular writing on the topic of space.
Y6	Sophie	A great plan for her new chapter of The Wizard of Oz.

**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.

Best wishes,

P Smyth 19.11.21