



School Newsletter

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

01.05.2020

Dear parents/ carers,

Good evening. We have come to the end of the fourth week of home schooling and sixth week of childcare in school. I have been having a look at the work the children, parents and staff have been doing online and it's amazing what you have all achieved in that time, in spite of all the challenges you are facing. As I said earlier in the week, as I will keep saying and I know the class teachers will say the same: if you find yourself under pressure, and feel like there's too much to do and you cannot fit everything in, **our message to you is simply do what you can; we know you are trying your best.** Thank you.

INSET Day, Thursday 7th May and Bank Holiday Friday 8th May

Next Thursday, school was due to be closed for polling, which has now obviously been postponed. We have already planned to use this day for staff INSET. Therefore there will be no lessons set for Thursday and teachers will not be responding to pupils' work. That said, there are plenty of activities children can access if you or they wish to, such as the VE day activities Mrs Grandi has prepared. There are also plenty of activities on the Home Learning tab on the school website too.

As Friday is a bank holiday, there will be no work set or marked for Friday either. Therefore next week, there will only be work prepared next week for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

VE Day Commemoration

Next Friday, the nation is commemorating the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Mrs Grandi, as history subject leader, has prepared some lovely activities for the children to do based around this. The teachers will signpost you to them and they will also be available on the school website next week under the Home Learning Tab.

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/home-learning>

Regarding the VE/ VJ commemoration, we received the letter below from Mr Clewlow, local historian, to share some information with you. I have attached some documents he sent with the letter for you to look at.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wondered if you would be good enough to share the attached Letter, 'Message' and VE Day Remembrance Service to Staff, Parents, Guardians and Pupils via email.

This year we will acknowledge the 75th anniversaries of VE Day (Victory in Europe) on 8th May and VJ Day (Victory over Japan) on 15th August. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Cllr. Aaron Beaver and I have worked together to issue the attached message and raise awareness of these very special anniversaries.

I would also like to draw your attention to a unique and very special online VE Day Remembrance Service. I have worked on this with Rev. Neil Kelley of St. Laurence's Church in Chorley and it will be available to view from 3pm on Friday 8th May. It is hoped that this service will act as an appropriate replacement for the cancelled public gatherings. It has been further enhanced by the inclusion of commentary from invited guests, local history, wartime footage and much more. The video can be viewed at www.stlaurencechorley.co.uk

Far from wanting to glorify conflict, we are commemorating the service of the wartime generation and celebrating the peace their actions brought us. It is a peace we still enjoy today and it has given us a way of life that we should not take for granted.

I do hope you can help and ensure that this message reaches as wide an audience as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Stu

*Stuart A. Clewlow, FRHistS
Local Historian, Chorley.*

Facebook: Chorley & District in World War Two

The Week Newspaper – Free online additions until 22.05.2020

Just to let you know we were contacted today by *The Week Junior School Newspaper* which children in KS2 will be familiar with. It is being made available online and via an app for the next few weeks. See the letter below.

THE WEEK
Junior | SCHOOLS

Dear subscriber,

We want to ensure that we are supporting our schools, teachers, pupils and parents during this difficult time. That's why we have taken the decision to temporarily make our new app available for everyone to access for free until Friday 22nd May.

Please feel free to share this information with your pupils so they can still access the magazine whether they are learning from home or still in school.

To access our digital edition, simply search "The Week Junior" in the iOS App Store and download the app. Once the app has downloaded, you will be able to read the magazine immediately. You can also access online at magazine.theweekjunior.co.uk or by clicking [here](#). We are also developing an Android app and we will notify you as soon as this is available.

After the free period, app access will be reserved for subscribers. We will provide you with a voucher code which you and your pupils will need to login in.

If you have any issues accessing the app or your digital edition, please email us at learn@theweekjunior.co.uk.

Best wishes,

Anna Bassi

Anna Bassi
Editor-in-chief, *The Week Junior*

Online learning platform to boost workplace skills launched



The DfE has asked us to share information with parents about free courses for adults. Free courses are available through the new online platform, the Skills Toolkit. This platform signposts to free, high-quality digital and numeracy courses to help people build up their skills, progress in work and boost their job prospects and confidence whilst at home.

Courses on offer cover a range of levels, from everyday maths and the use of email and social media at work to more advanced training. All courses are available online and are flexible so that people can work through them at their own pace.

The Skills Toolkit can be accessed here: <https://theskillstoolkit.campaign.gov.uk/>

Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities (SEND) Resources

Finally, I have also attached the latest SEND newsletter from Lancashire SEND team.

Have a good weekend. Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth

Headteacher