



School Newsletter

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

20.12.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is the last newsletter of 2022. We have come to the end of the long, busy autumn term. This afternoon, we celebrated with a whole school Christmas service in the hall prepared for us by Mr Hodge. It featured readings from the Nativity and songs from the different performances of the EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

The children and staff have all worked hard over the last few months and I think that they are all ready for a bit of down time as I am sure we all are. So, on behalf of everyone at St Mary's, **I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a very happy new year.**

We look forward to seeing you all again on **Thursday 5th January 2023.**

KS2 Nativity Performance Monday 19th December at St Mary's Church



Last night, it was the turn of children from Years 3 to 6 to tell the Christmas story in a Nativity performance for their families. There was a little nervousness beforehand about how the performance might turn out because, due to the recent frozen spell, they only had one chance to practise in Church itself, and that was yesterday afternoon!

There was no need to worry, however, because the children sang, read and acted beautifully. And, as Fr Marsden commented afterwards, you could hear each word they were singing - which spoke of the quality. Well done to all the children for the great job they did and well done to the staff for preparing them so well. Thank you to the volunteers who accompanied the children to and from Church yesterday afternoon – much appreciated. Thank you to Father Marsden for hosting us at Church and thank you, parents and families for supporting in great number.

Thank you all for your great support in turning out to see all of the performances over the last couple of weeks. The children are a credit to you and the school, as always.

Lost Property

After last night's performance at Church, a number of items were left behind e.g a black hat, grey gloves and black gloves. And a small ring was found outside the front of Church. Please contact the school office if you think any of these belong to you.

Collections at the end of performances



Many thanks for your **very generous** donations at the end of the recent Christmas performances. You donated nearly **£800 in total** and this has already been banked. We will pass on cheques of: **£150.00 to Derian House, £150.00 to St Catherine's Hospice, £150.00 to Meningitis Now, £150 to the Ukraine collection at St Mary's Church** and the remaining **£200.00** will go towards the heating at St Mary's Church. Thank you.

Christmas Mass times at St Mary's RC Church, Chorley



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve: 5.00pm
Christmas Day: 10.00am
New Year Eve: 5.00pm
New Year Day: 10.00am

Father Marsden reminded us last night that there is no need for tickets for any Christmas Mass at St Mary's. People can just turn up; there is plenty of room and all are welcome.

Primary School Admissions September 2023 Deadline - **SUNDAY 15th JANUARY 2023**

Please see Mrs Wilson's letter below regarding admissions to school for September 2023. Occasionally, I have to go to appeals meetings for pupils not admitted to school due to missed deadlines or non-completion of supplementary information forms (SIFs). If you are unsure about any part of the process please contact the school office – or if you are aware of anyone who is seeking a place at St Mary's next September and may not see this note please make them aware of it. Thank you.

Dear Parents & Carers,

*A reminder that if you have a child that is due to start school in September 2023, that the closing date for applications is **Sunday 15th January 2023**. Please be aware that if you are applying to our school (or any other faith school) that a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) **must be completed** for each school and the evidence provided where necessary.*

Should you have any questions or require any further help or information, please do not

hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards, Mrs Wilson, School Business Manager

Applying for School Places September 2023 LCC information

PRIMARY

Nursery/ pre-school children – due to start Reception class in primary school in September 2023
The statutory closing date is **15 January 2023– just over THREE weeks away.**

The application can be made using this direct link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-primary-school/>

School places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis. All applications received up to the closing date are given equal priority, but if you miss the deadline, a late application may reduce your chance of getting your preference of school.

The arrangements for the admission of pupils to primary schools in September 2023 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable.

15 January 2023 - National closing date for primary applications (statutory).

During this period all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the published admissions policy. Where there are more applications than places available, decisions are made as to which children should be offered the available places. LCC will liaise and exchange information with all other admission authorities including neighbouring local authorities. The allocation and offer of a primary school place is finalised.

17 April 2023 - Offers issued to parents*

(The national offer date is 16 April, if this date falls on a weekend or a bank holiday, offers are sent the next working day.)

28 April 2023 - Deadline for requesting:

- an appeal
- a place on the reserve (waiting) list(s)
- Week commencing 1 May 2023 - Distribute appeal forms to parents

By 7 July 2023

Should you need any help, support or guidance, the Pupil Access Office Contacts are listed below
Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley
01772-532109

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.

****Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF).**** You can access this from the following link: <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions>

Parent Pay Balances

Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to remind you to check balances on Parent Pay and settle any outstanding amounts. Thank you.



Toast

Also, a note that toast at break times will start again from Monday 9 January.

Changes to contact details

If there are any changes to contact numbers over the break e.g. from new mobile phones, please let the office know in January.

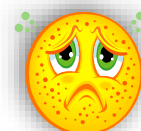
Free School Meals – Are you missing out?

Find out if you are eligible and find out how to apply – follow this link.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

Health and Safety Reminder – sickness and/ or diarrhoea

This is the time of year when there are more bugs and germs around than usual. If your child does become ill with **sickness or diarrhoea**, the guidance for schools from Public Health England gives a minimum recommended absence from school of **48 hours**. This is to limit the spread of the bug around school. Thank you.



Strep A/ Scarlet Fever

What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
- On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

If a child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please advise parents to contact their GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If a child has scarlet fever, advise they stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Parents/ Carers should trust their own judgement and if their child seems seriously unwell call 999 or go to A&E if:

- a child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when a child breathes
- a child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- a child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

How to help prevent Strep A? To prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises children, young people and staff to implement good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

Help over Christmas

We are all well aware of the challenges that the public have been facing over recent months with the increased cost of living. Below is some information that you or someone you know may find useful.

A message from LCC library service ...

Libraries are safe/calm spaces if things become difficult at home.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/cost-of-living/warm-and-welcome-places/>

What's on list for LCC libraries: <https://events.lancashire.gov.uk/search/index.asp>

Our libraries are all warm and welcome spaces, where you can find:

- a warm drink
- a space to sit
- free computers and Wi-Fi
- charging points for your phone or laptop
- events and activities
- help from staff to find information

[Find a library](#) to view facilities, what's on and opening times. All our libraries have disabled access.

[Search for events](#) at our libraries where you can get together with others for a chat, play board games or learn something new.

Chorley Library Opening Times

Monday	9am - 7pm
Tuesday	9am - 5pm
Wednesday	9am - 5pm
Thursday	9am - 5pm
Friday	9am - 5pm
Saturday	9am - 5pm
Sunday	Closed

Lancashire Warm Spaces



Christmas Period Help and Support 2022

See document attached listing organisations, with contact details, which can provide help and support over the Christmas period.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at St Mary's School & Nursery,
P Smyth 20.12.22