



# School Newsletter

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

17.07.2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Our school vision (this is our aim as a Catholic school):

***From their first day to their last at St Mary's, we support our children on a journey of learning and faith.***

***In learning, we want our children, by the time they leave our school: to be numerate and literate, to have received their full entitlement in all areas of learning and to have the opportunities to succeed in areas of particular interest to them. We want the children to be active and healthy. We want the children: to be challenged, to be exposed to the highest quality teaching, to take risks, to be unafraid of making mistakes and to reach their full potential.***

***On their journey of faith, we want to support our children to develop into well-rounded citizens for the future. We want the children to be thoughtful, loving, caring and considerate members of society. We want the children's attitudes, decision making and relationships to be underpinned and informed by Christian values with Christ at the centre of all we do at school. We want to be a Catholic, Christian community which aims for excellence and which learns, improves and achieves.***

It is good; therefore, at the end of the school year for us to review how well we feel we have done against what we say we aim to do. It is with tremendous pride then, that we say farewell to our current Y6 cohort. We feel, given what we set out to do, it is pretty much 'mission accomplished.' The class are an absolute credit to the school.

One of the things Mr Cahalin asked the children to do for the Leavers' Book presented to the children today was to write some advice to future pupils of St Mary's. They did a fantastic job of this. I wanted share one of these with you; it was written by Olivia, and she gave me permission to reproduce it here:

To the future generations of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, above everything else, enjoy your time at St Marys. You will always remember the fun times you have at St Mary's and these will be happy memories to look back on in the future. Work hard. When you are working try your best, work hard and when it is break time that is the time to play. You need to work hard so you can achieve what you want in life. You might mess around and think it is not going to do anything, but if you mess around now you will be behind in the future. You should be very pleased and happy that you are joining this loving, welcoming and kind school. Take every opportunity that the school offers you and do not let other people decide for you. There are so many different activities that you can take part in, from netball to football, athletics to choir or simply reading all the books from the library. There are many things that you can have a go at; like being part of the School Council and Eco Council. I really enjoyed them both and they were great experiences. When you win you should be proud and do not let anyone take that win away from you but be humble and encourage others. There is always time to speak to the teachers at break to tell them your worries, everyone has them from time to time. One of the things that everyone gets nervous about are tests. Nobody walks into the room thinking I am going to do the best and I am going to beat everyone else; we are all a community and in the same boat! Everyone is so welcoming, listen to your teachers and your buddy because they will always be happy to help. Just remember, you should feel honoured to be part of St Mary's and do not let anyone say different!

I hope my advice helps!

Although the virus rudely interrupted their final year at St Mary's, we are very proud of each and every one of the Y6 children, in what they have achieved in their time here and how they have all turned out. Thank you also to the Y6 group of parents; your children are a credit to you and we thank you for your support over the years. We wish this group all the very best in their new schools.

Thank you and goodbye to the parents and children who will be leaving us this summer – it has been a pleasure working with you.



## **More thank yous**

In spite of the huge disruption caused by the coronavirus, I feel that, in many ways, it has been a very busy and successful year across the school and nursery. Thank you, parents and carers, for your support over the year and particularly during the closure. The way in which you supported your children in their home learning was incredible. Because of this, I feel we are in a good position to get up and running quickly in September.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work with the children since September whether in school or from home – you have done a magnificent job – enjoy **your** well-deserved rest.

Thank you to the Governors of the school for their hard work and support for the school. Thank you to Father Marsden, Kinga Gray-Ggrzeczynska, Mrs O’Neil and the Family Catechesis team for your time, effort and support this year. Thank you to all the volunteers, parents and grandparents and the PTFA for your efforts and for making this school and nursery such a great community of which to be a part.

## **September Opening**

In the last couple of weeks of the holiday, I will write to you with full details of our arrangements for the safe reopening of school. It will involve the staggering of pick up and drop off times. We are planning to reopen Breakfast and After School club and all classes will be back.

## **Goodbyes**

We say goodbye to Mr Jenkins who looked after Year 4 since October during Mrs Banwell’s maternity leave and we thank him for the excellent job he did with that class. We say goodbye to Mrs Holden who has taught the infant classes during the afternoons over the last five years when the teachers had their PPA time and thank her for the wonderful job she has done with the children.

In addition, we say a fond farewell to Mrs Catterall, a member of staff who has enjoyed a long association with St Mary’s – over twenty-five years. She is retiring. In recent times, she has supported learners in class: as a teaching assistant, read stories with the infant classes and has been responsible for running our excellent library. Everyone at school will miss her but we wish her a long and happy retirement.

## **Returns**

We look forward to the return of Mrs Ainscough to Nursery with Mrs Cassidy and to the return of Mrs Banwell in Y4 (four days a week) who will be joined by Mrs Howarth (one day a week).

## **Year 6 Leavers' Mass**

The Y6 Leavers' Mass took place in Church on Tuesday evening; I was really happy that we able to have this special event take place this year when at many points it seemed doubtful. Father Marsden celebrated the Mass for the children with two members of their families each, in highly unusual circumstances. All the adults wore masks and households maintained two-metre gaps between each other.

I would like to thank Father Marsden for celebrating this Mass, for his kind words and advice in the homily. I would also like to thank Kinga and Father in facilitating the change of venue from school grounds to Church at such short notice.

## **Summer holiday biking opportunities – a message from Chorley Schools Sports Partnership**

### ***1. Summer Camps CSSP - Free 'out of school' summer cycle training***

Unfortunately owing to current Covid 19 restrictions and school closure many (especially) Year 6 pupils have missed their Bikeability cycle training.

I am delighted to invite any Year 5, 6 or 7 pupils to our free summer holiday sessions. Level 1 & 2 will be delivered together with Level 1 first in the morning followed immediately by Level 2 which will run over 2 consecutive day after which on the 2nd afternoon Level 3 will be on offer to those wishing to advance.

Your own equipment will be required; we are not able to lend any equipment and cycle must be in working order. This year owing to Covid conditions we are not able to handle equipment.

We are struggling to confirm the exact locations around the county, again owing to Covid restrictions only just being lifted. I need to ask you to follow either of these 2 links for a more up to date invitation:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/go-velo-holiday-sessions-20129268401> web page which has a link to all course for adults and children or <https://www.govelo.co.uk/book-a-course/>

There is no cost for any of this training. All instructors are First Aid qualified and are DBS (CRB) checked.

### ***2. Free Learn 2 Ride out of school cycle training***

I am delighted to invite any non-riders to our free summer holiday sessions. We will be providing all the necessary equipment which will be cleaned by our team and parents will be asked to sanitise with our wipes before your child uses the equipment.

These sessions will be approximately 2 hours and parents must remain with their child to assist learning as our instructors will need to keep as socially distant as possible.

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### **NHS Emotional wellbeing and mental health support for children.**

I have attached a letter from the Transformation and Delivery Team, Chorley and South Ribble CCG / NHS Greater Preston CCG. It contains information regarding a range of mental health services they can access over the summer for their child if needed.

### **Chorley Buddies – a message from Paul McBeth**

*Chorley Buddies is very busy at the moment and we really need some people to volunteer for us!*

*With some of our volunteers coming off furlough and returning to a more 'normal' life, we are looking for more volunteers to cover the gaps left by those doing reduced hours for us.*

*You have a choice between the following:*

- 1. Telephone befriending - a few hours a week from home, talking to people who for a variety of reasons are feeling lonely or isolated*
- 2. Shopping & Meds delivery - a few hours a week doing shopping for those who can't themselves and/or delivering meds.*
- 3. Becoming an Activity Buddy - helping those coming out of shielding or self-isolation into a regular exercise regime. This starts off with telephone befriending but will lead to accompanying the client on walks or other forms of exercise. Again a few hours a week*

*We are particularly in need of telephone befrienders and volunteers willing to shop and deliver meds.*

*Please consider volunteering, your help would be greatly appreciated, the lonely and isolated would benefit and we would be putting the Gospel and our faith into action*

*Chorley Buddies and St Gregory's and St Oswald parishioners are working on the Holiday Hunger Project, to help ease Food Poverty over the summer and have been allocated 19 schools, approx. 200 families, including St Mary's Primary, to 'look after'. That is certainly keeping us busy, with £10K to distribute! We are also managing a project to create Chorley TV – a channel to help the Chorley Community out of the Pandemic. Hopefully going 'live' later this year.*

*Oh and by the way, we set up The Chorley Community Helpline – 0800 368 8452 to help unify the various provisions of the Faith, Voluntary and Charity providers in Chorley.*

**Chorley Buddies - Tel: 01257 542367**

*So, onwards and upwards! Paul J Mcbeth*

## Useful Community Contacts

### Community support

Chorley council Tel 01257 515151

[Covid-19Support@southribble.gov.uk](mailto:Covid-19Support@southribble.gov.uk) Tel 01772 625625

hubofhope.co.uk (postcode gives local support available)

### Domestic abuse

National Domestic Abuse Helpline Tel 0808 2000 247 (staffed 24 hrs a day)

### Young people

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Inspire crisis helpline (drugs and alcohol-young people) Tel 07984357293

### Food banks

Living waters store house/food bank Tel 0344 245 1294 Mon-Fri 9-5pm

Penwortham Community Centre offer pre-packed emergency parcels (Kingsfold Drive Penwortham Preston PR1 9EQ) open Fridays 9.30-12

### Older Adults support

Coronavirus helpline-Age UK Lancashire-Tel 01772 552850 (Anyone over 70 who are struggling due to self-isolating and need support)

[www.thesilverline.org.uk/](http://www.thesilverline.org.uk/) Tel 0800 470 80 90 – free confidential helpline open 24 hrs a day

[www.gransnet.com/](http://www.gransnet.com/) advice for dealing with isolation and loneliness

## FREE DIGITAL EDITION OF CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

A message from *The Week* children's newspaper



'We contacted you recently to let you know that we have temporarily added free access to our new digital edition to your school subscription. *The Week Junior's* digital edition is an easy way for your pupils to access the magazine wherever they are. It's easy to use and publishes at the same time as the print magazine, every Friday.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE HAVE UPDATED THE APP, AND ONCE YOU HAVE DOWNLOADED THE NEW VERSION AND YOUR PUPILS WILL NEED A VOUCHER CODE TO ACCESS THE DIGITAL EDITION OF *The Week Junior*.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS CODE AND INSTRUCTIONS BELOW WITH YOUR PUPILS.

**YOUR VOUCHER CODE IS: TWJ2301ghi** - THIS CODE IS UNIQUE TO YOUR SCHOOL SO PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF IT AND KEEP IT SAFE.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO DO:**

1. Make sure you have the latest version of The Week Junior app on your iOS or Android device

2. If you had already downloaded the app, you will need to visit your app store and download an update
3. If you don't have the app yet, simply search "The Week Junior" in the iOS App Store or Google Play
4. To log into the app for the first time, select the 3 dots in the top right corner, select 'Account', select 'Voucher codes' and enter your voucher code shown above

The digital edition can also be accessed online to view in your browser at [magazine.theweekjunior.co.uk](http://magazine.theweekjunior.co.uk). To log in, select the head icon, select 'Have you got a voucher code?' and enter your code.

If you have any problems with logging in, please contact [learn@theweekjunior.co.uk](mailto:learn@theweekjunior.co.uk). We love to hear what our readers are up to. Please encourage your teachers and pupils to share their news and ideas with us, and tell us what they've enjoyed in *The Week Junior* at [hello@theweekjunior.co.uk](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.co.uk).

Have a lovely summer everyone! Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth

Headteacher