



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

20.11.20

Dear parents/ carers,

As I visit classes (keeping a safe distance!) through the days and weeks, the two things that really stand out to me are the hard work and enjoyment going on across the board. This is despite the challenges that COVID presents us. There is little better, in my mind, when working in a school, than to see a child bursting with pride at their achievement after determined hard work and then the pride that their teacher takes in that pupil's achievements. I saw plenty of that this week.

Open Evening for Prospective Parents

For obvious reasons, the open evening for prospective parents did not take place this year. However, we still wanted to give prospective parents a glimpse into our school, to give them a sense of what we are all about and what we aim to provide for the children here.

So, we have put together a video. You can find it on the school website under the 'admissions' tab. If you, or if you know anyone with children who, are looking for or considering place at St Mary's in September next year, please watch the video. You can find it at this link.

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions>

Those of you looking for a place at nursery or know someone who is, keep an eye out for a nursery video that we are putting together very shortly.

School COVID Risk Assessment

Please see school website for the most up-to-date COVID risk assessment for school.

SYNOD 2020

As you know Archbishop Malcolm declared that our Archdiocese should hold a Synod in 2020 to enable us to become the Church that God is calling us to be. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the timetable for this had to be changed. This is the new timetable:

- By the end of November, we have been asked to look at the summary list of proposals and let our Synod Members know which you feel are the most important.
- In March 2021, the proposals to be voted on will be published.

- Between March and June 2021, Synod members will arrange local reflection and discernment to help inform their vote.
- The Synod will take place on 16th, 17th and 18th June 2021
- The Pastoral Plan will be published on 1st Sunday of Advent (28th November) 2021

More information can be found at synod2020.co.uk

We are writing to you today to invite you to read the summary proposals and decide which 5 you feel are important and you are drawn to and which 2 affirmations you are particularly drawn to.

The proposals can be found by following this link:

https://synod2020.co.uk/assets/themes/synod/assets/resources/synodSunday/2020_fullSummary.pdf

See letter and leaflet attached to newsletter for more details.

Value of the week - *Diversity*

Well done to the following children who demonstrated an understanding, in their behaviour and attitudes of the value diversity this week in school.

YR	Arlo
Y1	Joseph
Y2	Mattia
Y3	Jack
Y4	Scarlett
Y5	Iris
Y6	Louis

Own clothes Day on Friday December 4th in support of Christmas Joy New Toy Appeal

We are having an own-clothes day on **Friday 4th December** in support of a Chorley-wide new toy appeal. If you feel you are able to support this cause, then please see below for details. Please note children are not required to bring in toys in order to wear own clothes; we do not want to place any of our families under undue pressure. As with the harvest gifts, please could you leave donations in the allotted spot in the car park and I will take to St Laurence's Church where they are being gathered, disinfected and quarantined for the appropriate time period.

As part of The Christmas Joy Project, co-ordinated by Chorley Borough Council, most of the Catholic Primary schools in Chorley, along with Holy Cross High School, St Gregory's, St Bede's and St Chad's, and St Joseph's Withnell parishes, have committed to collecting new toys for distribution to families in Chorley.

If you want to donate new toys, then please

- *wrap them in Christmas wrapping paper and*
- *label them as M/F or N (for Neutral) and*
- *the appropriate age range and*
- *bring them into school.*

Chorley Buddies, a part of the SVP National Network, will collect the toys from school and arrange for their distribution to families who might need some help this Christmas.

And thank you for bringing some Joy into people's lives this Christmas!

National Nursery Rhyme Week - A note from Miss Hesketh, English subject leader

It was National Nursery Rhyme Week this week – the nursery and reception classes celebrated by looking at nursery rhymes this week in class.

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-nursery-rhyme-week-2020/>



[World Nursery Rhyme Week 2020 - National Awareness Days Calendar 2020 & 2021 - Awareness Days - International Awareness Events Calendar - 2020 & 2021](https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-nursery-rhyme-week-2020/)

Launched in 2013, World Nursery Rhyme Week promotes the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education. Open to early years educators and parents around the world, all resources are provided free of charge.

Mental health and wellbeing letter

Mrs Hargreaves asked me to share an NHS letter that she received from her child's school with you. It gives details of services provided both locally and nationally which you may find useful at this time.

Please see attached.

A note from Kinga Grzeczynska, Administrator St Mary's RC Church, Chorley

CHORLEY FOODBANK urgently needs donations for Christmas food parcels. Please take your donations **directly** to Living Waters on Bolton St on Tues or Fri 09.30 – 2.00pm. It will be very much appreciated. Also, you may want to donate a toy for Christmas, to Chorley Buddies at St Gregory's. Please take such gifts **directly** to St Gregory's. Thank you. Because of the need to sanitize toys, **the deadline for collection of toys has now been brought forward to Monday 7th December. All toys need to be in St Gregory's by that date.**

MESSAGE FROM CHORLEY BUDDIES, along with St Gregory's Parish, will have between £5k and £11K to distribute to families who may need help over Christmas. The plan at the moment is that it will be allocated to all the Catholic Schools and their families who have been identified as perhaps needing help. This is subject to confirmation after some more planning, but if it does work out that way, Chorley Buddies will be offering a £25 Morrison's e-voucher to each family. Chorley Buddies, along with The SVP Conferences in Chorley, will also pledge that no-one who is lonely over Christmas will be without at least one phone call over that period. If you need help, please contact Chorley buddies for the voucher scheme.

There are two ways to refer

- Email the details to chorleybuddies@hotmail.com (If you are referring someone else, you MUST have their permission to share their contact details)
- Call Chorley Buddies on 01257 542367

If you would like to help by phoning someone who may be lonely, please email or phone as above to volunteer



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



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	99.06
2 nd	YEAR 2	99.03
3 rd	YEAR 1	99.02
4 th	RECEPTION	98.37
5 th	YEAR 4	98.21
6 th	YEAR 6	96.96
7 th	YEAR 5	96.21

W/E 20/11/2020

Unfortunately, no classes achieved **100%** attendance award this week but some were very close!

A 'thank you' message from CAFOD

Thanks to your generous donations recently, we raised **£391** for the CAFOD harvest collection. I received this email earlier in the week.

Dear Mr Smyth

Thank you for your recent donation to CAFOD for Harvest. We have produced a little video with a personal message to you all at St Mary's.

<https://wetransfer.com/downloads/ce57027d93c80dde32c18c3bea9f35a820201116093349/6a8a35a97ed154aaf97625532cc58fad20201116093349/487c76>


We are unable to visit schools in person at the moment, but we do have a range of 'virtual' sessions which we would be happy to do at St Mary's. Just let me know if you would like any of these.

Thank you again for your support of, and interest in, CAFOD.

Best wishes

Justine Silcock, Education Volunteer Coordinator– CAFOD Liverpool jsilcock@cafod.org.uk

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 20.11.20

			
Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...	
YN	Lilah	For super name writing!	
YR	Freddie	For writing an amazing independent shopping list after the tiger had visited him for tea. Super use of phonics.	
Y1	Lucy	For always being so cheerful in class as well as always working hard.	
Y2	William	For great listening, writing and overall trying very hard!	
Y3	Eva	A super week of great work in all subjects.	
Y4	Sebastian	For writing a wonderful fairy tale using fronted adverbials.	
Y5	Sam	For excellent engagement during our science lessons linked to space.	
Y6	George	A great hybrid text	

Car Parking

I have received a couple of complaints from neighbours regarding parking at pick up and drop off times. This week there was one from a resident on Hornchurch Drive and one from Warton Place. I know most parents show great consideration most of the time but I would request that parents do not park across driveways in particular – please see copies of emails below.

To whom it may concern.

I wanted to bring to your attention an issue with inconsiderate parking this afternoon outside my house. I returned home from shopping in the rain with my 4-month old baby to find a car parked across my driveway preventing me access. Due to the street being full already with other parents picking their children up I had to park across the road blocking fellow neighbours' driveways whilst I took my baby in to change her dirty nappy...

Good morning.

I am a resident on Warton Place next to your school.

Whilst fully understanding of the need for parents to drop off their children, could I request that you send out a polite reminder to parents requesting that they are considerate in terms of where they park their vehicle.

Recently (I noticed it last week and this morning) a lady with what looks like a pre-schooler and a young school child has taken to parking directly across our driveway totally blocking access. Today this meant that when returning from an early appointment I was unable to access my driveway for several minutes. Given that other cars were also parked all over the street with people also wanting to drive out/turn in the cul de sac etc this was not helpful.

I drop my own daughter off regularly at another school so quite understand the challenge of finding a parking space, but not parking across a driveway is a pretty basic rule of the road for most drivers I would have thought?

Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Remote Learning or Blended Learning

You will have no doubt heard about year groups in different schools being required to self-isolate for two weeks due to positive test results in those cohorts - you may even have experienced this yourselves in your own families with siblings or relations at other schools.

You will want to know what we plan to do if, and when, this happens at St Mary's. Our plans are these:

- ✓ In the event of a year group having to self-isolate, our teachers have prepared two days' worth of learning for children to be doing. This will allow the class teacher to prepare work for the remaining twelve or so days. Our plan is to keep the teaching and learning going as near as is possible to what it would be like if the children were in school.
- ✓ You will all have received the half-termly curriculum newsletter.
- ✓ Weekly plans will be sent home at the start of each week of the isolation period. A plan of each day's learning will also be sent home.
- ✓ Video introductions to lessons will be given, where required.
- ✓ There will be a daily Zoom check in with the class teacher and opportunities for communication between school and home.
- ✓ Our principal platforms for the delivery of teaching and learning will be Tapestry for the Nursery and Reception classes, and SeeSaw for Y1 – Y6.
- ✓ Teachers will also be providing work for children who are self-isolating even though they have no symptoms e.g., a family member has symptoms and is awaiting a test result.

2021 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 2020 is **15 January 2021**.

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

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.

A message from the Yarrow Teaching School - Alliance Open Event – Autumn Term 2020

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. **Our next Zoom open event is on Tuesday 1st December.**



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 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 20.11.2020