



School Newsletter





With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

21.05.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Unfortunately and as you will be most likely aware, the numbers of COVID cases seem to be on the increase again in the area. Some local schools have had to close 'bubbles' once again. Just to reassure you, we still have our strict COVID control measures in place here.

On that point, can I just thank parents for adhering to the one-way system at pick-up/ drop-off times, for wearing masks on site and for not gathering in groups at those times. Let us do our very best to keep St Mary's COVID-free, let's all remain vigilant and keep up the good habits that have helped protect the school so far. I have attached the quick guide (pdf) for parents/ carers regarding COVID and absence from school to this newsletter (see image, right).

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
 ...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Child shouldn't attend schoolChild should get a testWhole household self-isolates while waiting for test resultInform school immediately about test results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">when child's test comes back negative provided they have been fever free for the 48 hours before returning to school, and feel well
 ...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Child shouldn't attend schoolChild self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms)Inform school immediately about test resultsWhole household self-isolates for 10 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 10 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">after 10 days, once child feels better, and has been fever-free for at least 48 hoursThey can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.
 ...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Child shouldn't attend schoolHousehold member with symptoms should get a testWhole household self-isolates while waiting for test resultInform school immediately about test results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*
 ...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Child shouldn't attend schoolWhole household self-isolates for 10 days from day when symptoms started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 10 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">when child has completed 10 days of self-isolation even if they test negative during the 10 days

Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste.

COVID Lateral Flow Device tests

A reminder that anyone in Lancashire is eligible to access free, rapid coronavirus tests for themselves and their families to use twice a week.

These can be obtained locally from **Woodlands Conference Centre** (opposite Parklands School), from the **Tesco Extra supermarket** on Foxhole Road, **Lloyds Pharmacy** on Devonshire Road and from The Hub pharmacy on Peel Street.

St Mary's Mail Pupil Newspaper – look out for its very first publication next week!

Mrs Singleton and her team of Y5 newspaper journalists are busy putting together the very first edition of the *St Mary's Mail* school newspaper. They are applying the finishing touches, ready for publication next week.

Walk to School Week

Last week was 'National Walk to School Week.' We are tracking how pupils come to school each day; the proportion of children who 'actively travel' to school (i.e. walk, scoot, cycle, park and stride) has increased from **April at 41% to May at 58%**. Well done everyone!

St Mary's Beavers Cubs and Scouts News

St Mary's Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have asked us to let you know about recommencement of their meetings (outdoor) and if anyone would like further information to contact St. Mary's leader, Tom Whittaker at: thomaswhittaker@chorleyscouts.org.uk

Summer Play scheme at St George's Primary, Chorley

Our friends at St George's primary school have asked us to publicise a privately run holiday club which will be operating on the St George's school site over the summer holiday. See the flyer attached if interested.

The Big Sunday Festival 11 July – date for the diary



Keep this date in your diary. Paul McBeth of the Chorley & District Laity Network has asked us to let you know about the *Big Sunday Festival* taking place at St Gregory's in July.

Pre-pandemic, the group ran a similar summer family festival. It was a lovely day with food, a bouncy castle, the fire brigade and so on. Look out for a writing and or poster competition nearer the date!

A message from Paul McBeth - Chorley Buddies -

Chorley Buddies, with the support of Chorley Council, are developing a *'Get Out of The House'* programme to encourage those who have been self-isolating, shielding or are just lonely, to venture out of the house for exercise and re-socialisation. Many of our Parishioners in the Pastoral Area are in these categories. Please see attached flyers.

Half-term activities

The Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) are delivering a half-term holiday sports camp at St Peter's school in the summer half-term break. It is four weeks off yet but you may be interested. There will be a huge variety of games and sports to keep children fit, active, engaged and most importantly having fun throughout the holiday period. Each day will range from football to rounders, Basketball to athletics, dodgeball to netball and so much more! Please see the attached leaflet for details.

Mental health and wellbeing

If you have concerns about your child's mental health or wellbeing during this period, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Please contact me or your child's class teacher, or any trusted adult within school. Here are a couple of websites you may find useful in the meantime: A comprehensive guide from the Government/ Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting->

[children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak](#)

NSPCC

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/april/supporting-children-young-people-mental-health>

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 1	99.08
2 nd	YEAR 3	99.06
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.77
4 th	RECEPTION	98.66
5 th	YEAR 4	98.34
6 th	YEAR 6	96.80
7 th	YEAR 5	96.44

It is very close between Year 1 and Year 3- two hundredths of a percent! – could Y2 or Reception still catch up? **W/E 21/05/2021** unfortunately, no **100%** this week.

Lancashire School Games - Resources



We have been asked to share this with you: on Monday 12th April the new Lancashire School Games website went live. Resources are available for schools and families to use for activities, competitions, PE etc. Have a look around here; <https://www.lancashireschoolgames.co.uk/> The team have also released a video (aimed at Primary) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-mb6uaIGgg>

Stars of the Week - 21.05.21

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Sam W	Super independent writing using his phonic knowledge
	YR	Ariana	For super work on measuring – excellent concentration!
	Y1	Lucy A	For her excellent innovated story about <i>Supercucumber</i>
	Y2	Poppy P	Really trying hard to improve her handwriting
	Y3	Feba	Great progress with her <i>Big Maths Learn Its</i> .
	Y4	Phoebe	For her wonderful non-fiction writing about the Lake District.
	Y5	George	Excellent attitude to learning and being a very helpful, considerate presence in class.
	Y6	Joe J and Grace B	Great way of presenting their research in History

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.

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.



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 21.05.21**