



School Newsletter

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

21.01.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'll begin by saying thanks to all the staff and children, once again. As with everywhere else, these are extraordinary times for schools and very challenging indeed. There are still quite a large number of positive cases among children and staff and there has been a lot of chopping and changing to fill gaps over the last few weeks.

That said, if you were to walk through school and see how well staff and children are adapting, how they are all pulling together, I am sure you would be very impressed with the quality of teaching and learning going on. It is some achievement.

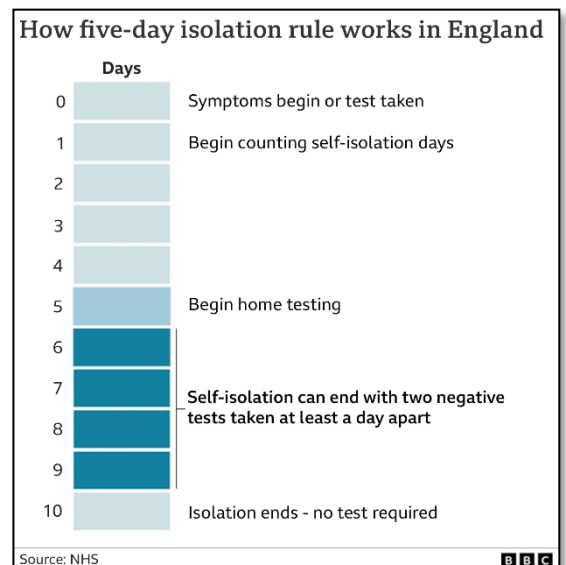
COVID News

We are still above the threshold number of cases in Y3, Y4 and Y6. For that reason, we ask that parents, of children in those classes, test their children daily with LFD for the next seven days.

Changes to the self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, from Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period **after 5 full days** if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both **day 5 and day 6** and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school/ nursery immediately on day 6.

The table on the right from the BBC/NHS is a useful point of reference.



Annual Holocaust Memorial Service at Astley Park on 22nd January at 11am.

Our parish lead catechist and school governor, Mrs Grzeczynska, is also Director of the Annual Holocaust Memorial Service in Chorley. She has asked me to publicise that it is the Annual Holocaust Memorial Service at Astley Park tomorrow, **Saturday 22nd January at 11am.**

Following on from the tree planting ceremony in November here at St Mary's with the Association of Jewish Refugees, she thought that maybe some of our older children would like to go and see for themselves how we remember the Holocaust and the millions who suffered terribly and were killed.

Parking

I have been contacted by a neighbour who has emailed on behalf of a number of residents on Warton Place. They are very concerned about the parking of a minority of parents/ carers at drop-off and pick up times. He says that driveways are regularly blocked and that cars are using them to turn around on causing damage to them. Furthermore, cars are parking in the hammerhead next to the entrance on Warton Place. This space is designed to help cars turn around and not to be parked in. This creates a serious risk to pedestrians especially our younger, smaller children whom drivers may not be able to see over their bonnets or through rear-view mirrors.

- Please can I ask all parents to park, considerately.
- Please bear in mind especially, the safety of child pedestrians
- Please do not park across driveways.
- Please do not park in the hammerhead.
- If possible, set off a little earlier, park a little further away and walk the rest of the way. The children get rewarded for a *Park and Stride*.

I have attached a leaflet produced by LCC on parking near schools.

There's a phrase I have seen on signs outside another school which says simply ...

SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!

Unavoidable School Closures

Over the course of this term, the hours of daylight will lengthen and I think we can sense that happening already. Hopefully, it will begin to warm up a little bit too. However, in the unlikely event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

National Themed Weeks

Miss Hesketh asked me to publicise some upcoming theme weeks, which may be of interest to you and the children. **National Storytelling week** (Jan 29th – 4th Feb) & **Children's Mental Health week** (7th -13th Feb).

**Your help needed! Sport England Active Lives Survey -
Please take a minute to do this if you can!**



As was mentioned in the newsletter last week, Mr Hodge has asked as many children as possible from **Yrs 1, 3 and 5** to take part in the Sport England Active Lives survey and as many parents as possible in Year 1. The school will earn sports vouchers for the amount of entries it contributes. We had feedback today to say we met the target, so well done everyone and thank you for your efforts! The email said:

'You have absolutely smashed your targets for the KS2 Active Lives responses, and the data will support funding decisions for all the Schools in the Chorley district, so many thanks indeed.'

*'You have had a great response so you will receive the School Sports equipment voucher plus the healthy School Report - **if you are able to engage with a few more KS1 pupils that would be great.** But please don't worry if you are unable as you have had an amazing response*

- ✓ • 30 pupil responses - ideally across Year 1 and 3
- ✓ • 5 pupil responses across Year 5
- ✓ • 1 parent response from Year 1 - (It would be great if as many **Year 1 parents** to complete as possible. **For each parent that completes the survey we will also receive an additional £10 of vouchers**)
- ✓ • 1 teacher response (essential for Healthy schools rating scheme) – Mr Hodge has done this

This term the school years selected are Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5

Year 1 - <https://ipsos.uk/XBZKDT>

Year 3 - <https://ipsos.uk/UQZKFG>

Year 5 - <https://ipsos.uk/XKZKLL>

Parent Year 1 - <https://ipsos.uk/JBZKXR>

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.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 21.01.22

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Sophie F	For settling in so well into Nursery
	YR	Ruby C	For extra effort in phonics
	Y1	Alexia	For her beautiful handwriting and trying hard in all that she does.
	Y2	Emily	Fabulous effort with her joined writing
	Y3	Winter	For consistently producing neatly presented work in English and spelling lessons.
	Y4	Feba	For amazing progress at swimming. Every week, she continues to try her best and is doing a wonderful job!
	Y5	Annabelle	For working hard on her story linked to <i>The Great Kapok Tree</i> .
	Y6	Izzy	For hard work in maths working with decimals



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



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 4	96.26
2 nd	YEAR 5	96.07
3 rd	YEAR 2	95.69
4 th	RECEPTION	95.51
5 th	YEAR 1	95.48
6 th	YEAR 3	95.01
7 th	YEAR 6	93.54

Still no class with 100% - it would be remarkable of there were!

W/E 21/01/2022

P Smyth 21.01.22
Headteacher