



School Newsletter

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

22.10.21

Dear parents/ carers,

We have come to the end of the first half term of the school year. Once again, your children have done you proud. They have worked exceptionally hard and learned lots of new things over the last few weeks and they have shown exceptional attitude and behaviour. Thank you to you too, thanks for all your support since the start of the school year. Well done to all our children and staff, and I hope they all have a good and well deserved rest.

Parents' Evening

I would like to say a big thank you to all of our teachers and parents for taking part in our parents' evenings this week. I know that the technology didn't always work perfectly but the general feedback that I received was that you were able to have meaningful conversations with the staff about the start your child has made to the new school year.

Collection of Children from School Policy

As part of our ongoing review of policies and procedures, we have updated the way we hand over the children to parents and carers after a day at school. This is because over time a very small number of grey areas have emerged where parents and staff have asked for clarification. This policy spells out very clearly the procedure for home time collections. Our overriding concern, as you would expect, is the safety of the children at this often very part of the school day.

Mrs Wilson is sending out a *GroupCall* with the policy and more information about this.

School choir

Mrs Grandi asked me to thank you for the overwhelming number of children that expressed an interest in joining the choir this year and I would like to thank Mrs Grandi for organising the group. There were forty-eight children that attended the initial meeting - that is not far off half of our junior children. Unfortunately, there were only 35 places available so we tried to be as fair as possible in allocating places. We know that a number of children will be very disappointed but we would encourage them to try again next year.

WOW – the walk to school challenge is back

Living Streets' WOW – the walk to school challenge - is back to help encourage as many children as possible to experience the benefits of walking to school. As you know, WOW is a pupil-led behaviour-change initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day. If they travel sustainably (walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or Park and Stride), at least once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that easy!

Teachers collect information each day on children are travelling to school and Mr Hodge is organising the award of badges for sustainable travel to school – see letter attached.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2021



Mrs Wilson has informed me that we have taken delivery of Poppies and sundry items from the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. These items will be on sale, on our return to school.

We will do it in the same way as last year where families can send in envelopes with their request for items with the monies, rather than have the children going to class to class. We will send a message with this information and the recommended donation amounts to arrive with families on the 1st November - ahead of the children's return on the 2nd November.

SVP Chorley Buddies

A message from Mr McBeth of the SVP Chorley Buddies:

SVP Chorley Buddies is continuing to grow and we need more people to join our fabulous team. We have opportunities in the following:

- 1. Incoming Calls Team - taking enquiries from the public, clients and partners and taking appropriate action. This can be done from home at no cost using our technology. You are in complete control of how long you make yourself available to receive calls and can change it from day to day. Full training would be given, but it is really simple!*
- 2. Shopping & Meds delivery service - Drivers, you can choose which referrals to pick up and can do as much as suits your circumstances. We also need drivers for our Food Clubs.*
- 3. Activity Buddies – perhaps take a client out for a walk, or accompany them to one of our activity classes? We run chair pilates, a walk and talk group, aquafit and craft classes all over Chorley, which are free.*
- 4. Food Clubs - we are planning to open a number of Food Clubs across Chorley starting from November and need volunteers with Food Hygiene qualifications. We also need general volunteers who enjoy meeting and chatting to people. Hours to suit.*

So, with the COVID restrictions greatly lifted, perhaps this is the time to think about volunteering with SVP Chorley Buddies and help us to build Catholic outreach and keep Chorley smiling!

Call us on 01275 542367 or email us on chorleybuddies@svp.or.uk
PJ McBeth, SVP Chorley Buddies

2022 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

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 2022 is on 15 January 2022.

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

Year 6 Pupils

******* URGENT – Closing Date – a week on Sunday!*******

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6, you can now apply for their secondary 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.

******* URGENT – Closing Date – a week on Sunday!*******

The closing date for secondary applications for September 2022 is on Sunday, 31 October 2021

Messages from the school office:

Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to pass on a couple of messages.

A resident has contacted the school office yesterday to complain about parking on Warton Place, which in their opinion has become so dangerous that it has forced them to contact the Police. We must again remind parents and carers to park safely and respectfully of the homeowners, not just on Warton Place, but all roads surrounding school at drop off and pick up times.

Please do not:

- park on pavements - it is forcing pedestrians into the road, including those with prams.

- block residents' driveways - it is preventing them from setting off for work, school or appointments.
- park on the school yellow zigzag lines.

Not only do these incidents annoy our neighbours, but more importantly, put our children at risk from road accidents. Thank you

School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. **Please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance.** This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.

COVID symptoms – however mild

If your child has:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

they must not come into school, you should get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have coronavirus and stay at home until you get their result, even if the symptoms are mild.

One of the recent changes for this term means that if your child is a 'close contact' of someone, e.g. a parent, who has tested positive for COVID, but has no symptoms themselves the child no longer needs to self-isolate, they may come to school. However, in this instance, we would also ask that your child has a PCR test (but they can still come to school while awaiting result – if no symptoms).

Sickness/ Diarrhoea

If your child is suffering from sickness and/ or diarrhoea, then the minimum absence must be 48 hours. This is to prevent the spread of any infection such as norovirus (winter vomiting bug).

Absence

If your child is absent, please inform the office directly by calling in or by telephone. Please do not pass messages on via siblings or *Class Dojo* or indeed class teachers, thank you.

 **Medical absences**

If your child has an appointment with the doctor or dentist, please inform the office prior to the absence where possible. Thank you.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2021/2022 W/E 22.10.21



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 5	98.61
2 nd	YEAR 4	97.66
3 rd	YEAR 3	97.39
4 th	RECEPTION	97.21
5 th	YEAR 6	97.07
6 th	YEAR 2	96.97
7 th	YEAR 1	95.52

No class managed **100%** attendance last week.




Message from the Chorley School Sports Partnership – October half-term holiday club [please see attached leaflet]

Hello, We are running an October holiday club at St Peters C of E primary school during half term. I have attached the leaflet if you could send out and advertise to your parents that would be great.

Thank you, **Micaela** Senior Bikeability Instructor & School Sports Coach

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 22.10.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	James	Good talking about his baby brother
YR	Zendaya	Wonderful work in mathematics
Y1	Nathaniel	For his good understanding shown in our Come and See work this week on Baptism symbols.
Y2	Patch	giving one hundred percent in all areas of school life
Y3	Heidi	Working hard in maths without her partner next to her (as she was absent).
Y4	Harriet Mc	For her hard work and determination for this whole half term, particularly during the last few weeks. She persevered when facing new challenges.
Y5	Dylan	For his excellent effort throughout our statistics work during maths this week.
Y6	Amelie A	Great work in mathematics using long division.

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.

Best wishes,

P Smyth 22.10.21