



School Newsletter

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

22.12.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is the last newsletter of 2023. We have come to the end of the long, busy autumn term. This afternoon, we celebrated with a whole school Christmas service in the hall prepared for us by Mr Hodge. It featured readings from the Nativities and songs from the different performances of the EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

The children and staff have all worked hard over the last few months and I think that they are all ready for a bit of downtime as I am sure we all are. So, on behalf of everyone at St Mary's, **I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a very happy new year.**

We look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 8th January 2024.**

Site Supervisor

We are looking for a part-time site-supervisor (caretaker) to work 15 hours a week, 0600 - 0900 each day, with some flexibility to work additional hours, if possible. If you are interested or if you know anyone else who is, please let the office know. The job advert, with full details should appear on the LCC website over the next couple of weeks. https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_index.asp

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) Holiday Clubs

Please see attached leaflet giving details of the CSSP holiday clubs over the next couple of weeks.

Christmas Performances

Well done to all the children in the nursery and the infant classes for their wonderful Nativity performances over the last week or two.

The **Nursery** and **Reception** children were fantastic in their acting, singing and in remembering their lines for their Nativity performance of **Twinkly Nativity**. It was a brilliant performance and made parents and school staff, alike, very proud. Well done!



Well done to **Year 1 and Year 2** for their Nativity, *The Christmas Story*. The two classes combined extremely well to tell the story of the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago. They spoke clearly, sang beautifully and acted their parts very well. Many family members commented on how nice it was to see a traditional Nativity with hymns and songs that they had learned when they were young.

As I said at the end of all the performances, these productions serve as one of the ways in which the children learn the story of the first coming of Christ and they help them prepare for Christmas Day which is now only a few days away.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for their hard work in preparing the children so well and for their work on the set design this year. Thank you, parents, for supporting all our performances in great number and for contributing to our collections.

DVD Recordings of the Nursery & Rec/ Y1 & Y2 Nativities

Both performances were recorded and the costs are £12 for the DVD and £10 for digitised version. Ordering details were sent out separately.

KS2 Nativity Performance Monday 18th December at St Mary's Church



On Monday evening, the children from Years 3 to 6 told the Christmas story in their Nativity production in Church through another story, *The Little Match Girl*. It was a beautiful performance with a narration and a selection of hymns, old and new. Thank you to the staff for preparing the children so well and to the children for their wonderful singing, narrating and acting.

Thank you to Father Marsden for hosting us at Church and thank you, parents and families for supporting in great number.



Thank you indeed all, for your great support in turning out to see all of the performances over the last couple of weeks. The children are a credit to you and the school, as always.

One of St Mary's parishioners emailed school to say, *'Just like to say the production of the Little Match Girl and the Nativity story was absolutely superb stuff; the pupils were an absolute credit to St Mary's school - really enjoyed it well done to all the amazing teachers and teaching assistants at St Mary's - you're absolutely top draw!'*

Collections at the end of performances



Many thanks for your **very generous** donations at the end of the recent Christmas performances. You donated nearly **£880 in total** and this has already been banked. **£80** has been used to fund the licences and costumes.

We will pass on cheques of: **£150.00 to Derian House, £150.00 to St Catherine's Hospice, £150.00 to Meningitis Now, £150 to the Ukraine collection at St Mary's Church** and the remaining **£200.00** will go towards the heating at St Mary's Church. Thank you very much for your wonderful generosity.

Christmas Dinner

Thank you to Mrs McKeown, Mrs MaCaulay and Mrs Waddington for preparing our wonderful Christmas dinners last week. The children (and staff!) enjoyed their tasty Christmas feast very much!
Christmas Mass times at St Mary's RC Church, Chorley

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Mass at Christmas at St Mary's Church – taken from parish newsletter

Sun 24th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10.00	Mass – Parishioners
	CHRISTMAS EVE
18.00	Carols
18.30	Night Mass –
Mon 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
10.00	Day Mass



Theatre trips

YN, YR, Y1 and Y2

Last Friday, the nursery and infant classes went to the Lowry Theatre at Salford Quays to watch a production of Michael Rosen's, *We're going on a Bear Hunt*; a story they know very well and love. They had a fabulous time. Many of them were squirted with water, something they seemed quite pleased about! Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who took them along. And, a special thanks to one of our parents, Mr Eames, who helped facilitate the visit.

Y3, 4, 5 and Y6

Sadly, the KS2 visit to the Octagon Theatre was cancelled for a second time, yesterday. The theatre called school early yesterday morning to say that they had multiple absences in the cast and were unable to put on the performance of *Around the World in 80 days*. Therefore, the children stayed in school. However, it did not seem to prevent them from enjoying their party day. Thank you to the staff for organising and to the volunteers who turned up to help out.

Christmas Parties

The children across school enjoyed their Christmas parties, yesterday. Thank you to the PTFA for funding selection boxes for the children to enjoy. A very special thank you to Father Christmas who once again made a special trip to St Mary's to visit our children and hand out some early presents. Although he could not make it to the junior classes, he did leave each class a gift! He worked very hard this morning, visiting all the infant classes: he spoke with the children, he checked his 'naughty and nice list,' he gave them a present each and he brought each class their own book to keep. Thank you Father Christmas – what a great job you did!

Primary School Admissions September 2024 Deadline – MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2024

Please see Mrs Wilson's letter below regarding admissions to school for September 2024. Occasionally, I have to go to appeals meetings for pupils not admitted to school due to missed deadlines or non-completion of supplementary information forms (SIFs). If you are unsure about any part of the process please contact the school office – or if you are aware of anyone who is seeking a place at St Mary's next September and may not see this note, please make them aware of it. Thank you.

Dear Parents & Carers,

*A reminder that if you have a child that is due to start school in September 2024, that the closing date for applications is **Monday 15th January 2024**. Please be aware that if you are applying to our school (or any other faith school) that a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) **must be completed** for each school and the evidence provided where necessary.*

Should you have any questions or require any further help or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mrs Wilson, School Business Manager

Primary School Admissions September 2024: 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/starting-primary-school/> for a September 2024 start.

It is 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 a school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

School places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis. All applications received up to the closing date are given equal priority, but if you miss the deadline, a late application may reduce your chance of getting your preference of school. **The national closing date for primary applications is Monday, 15th January 2024.** Between now and 15th January all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the school's published admissions policy for school year 2024 – 2025 <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions>

****Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF) - available at <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions> ****

Parent Pay Balances

Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to remind you to check balances on Parent Pay and settle any outstanding amounts. Thank you.



Toast Also, a note that toast at break times will start again from Tuesday 9th January.

Changes to contact details

If there are any changes to contact numbers over the break e.g. from new mobile phones, please let the office know in January.

Christmas Fair Raffle Prizes - There are still some Christmas Fair raffle prizes to be claimed:

PRIZE	NUMBER	COLOUR
£50	236 – 240	Mauve
Horseshoe reindeer	466 – 470	Pink
Paul Smith 'Extreme' Aftershave	221 – 225	Mauve
Bottle of Prosecco	101 – 105	Pink

We will keep the prize collection open until Friday, 12th January at which point we will roll them over to the summer fair.

Free School Meals – Are you missing out?

Find out if you are eligible and find out how to apply – follow this link.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

Health and Safety Reminder – sickness and/ or diarrhoea

This is the time of year when there are more bugs and germs around than usual. If your child does become ill with **sickness or diarrhoea**, the guidance for schools from Public Health England gives a minimum recommended absence from school of **48 hours**. This is to limit the spread of the bug around school. Thank you.



Help over Christmas

We are all well aware of the challenges that the public have been facing over recent months with the increased cost of living. Below is some information that you or someone you know may find useful.

A message from LCC library service ...

Libraries are safe/calm spaces if things become difficult at home.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/cost-of-living/warm-and-welcome-places/>

What's on list for LCC libraries: <https://events.lancashire.gov.uk/search/index.asp>

Our libraries are all warm and welcome spaces, where you can find:

- a warm drink
- a space to sit
- free computers and Wi-Fi
- charging points for your phone or laptop
- events and activities
- help from staff to find information

[Find a library](#) to view facilities, what's on and opening times. All our libraries have disabled access.

[Search for events](#) at our libraries where you can get together with others for a chat, play board games or learn something new.

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2023/2024

w/e 22.12.23



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 1	98.15
2 nd	YEAR 6	97.56
3 rd	YEAR 3	96.89
4 th	YEAR 5	96.64
5 th	YEAR 4	96.24
6 th	RECEPTION	95.35
7 th	YEAR 2	95.25

W/E 22/12/2023 – No 100% attendance this week.



Some New Year reminders

Earrings and Jewellery - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If parents wish their children to have their ears pierced then please have them done at the beginning of the six-week break to allow ears to heal. The only form of jewellery children are permitted to wear is watches.

Hair styles

We expect pupils to have sensible hair styles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school and nursery a fashion-free zone!

Hair tied-up to prevent head lice infection, please!

As we all know, head lice do not fly or jump from head of hair to head of hair, they just walk! Therefore, to prevent the spread of head lice in school we ask that hair, longer than shoulder length, be tied back. Many thanks.



Shoes Pupils are expected to wear plain black shoes. Again, we want school to remain a fashion-free zone. Some sports companies make black trainers for children. We ask you not to use these for school. They



are trainers and not shoes and of course, the children will prefer to wear them! However, once one has them, this puts pressure on the other children to ask their parents for them. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.



Labelling Uniforms

The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing, please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing, we will be putting the lost property box in the newly available space in the main entrance.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at St Mary's School & Nursery,

P Smyth 22.12.23



YSA
Yarrow School
Alliance

New Year, new challenge
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email
r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk for more information