



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

23.04.21

Dear parents/ carers,

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at school this week especially with the great weather we have had. However, it's a fairly light newsletter this week. There are just a couple of things to share with you.

First Holy Communion and First Confession

Early next week, we will be writing to parents of children in Year 4 informing them of the school's and parish's plans for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and First Confession this year. Once again, we will have to work within the parameters of COVID safety measures. The parish catechists, Kinga Gray-Grzeczynska and Mrs O'Neill have been working with the Year 4s over the last couple of weeks and months to help them in their sacramental preparation.

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 five 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.

CAFOD National Assembly 22.04.21

We took part in a national assembly a day early on Wednesday 21.04.21. The national assembly was to mark Earth Day yesterday. Children learned more about the climate emergency we are experiencing and about the fact that world leaders will be meeting in the UK in November for COP 26 – where the eyes of the world will be upon us!

The climate is in crisis and it affects us all. But it is the poorest communities who are suffering the most. We joined schools across England and Wales for @CAFODSchools national assembly to find out how we can tackle climate change.

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/School-assemblies>



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	99.23
2 nd	YEAR 3	99.20
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.87
4 th	RECEPTION	98.69
5 th	YEAR 4	98.30
6 th	YEAR 6	97.12
7 th	YEAR 5	96.70

W/E 23/04/2021


Unfortunately, no class achieved **100%** attendance 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.lancshireschoolgames.co.uk/> The team have also released a video (aimed at Primary) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-mb6ualGgg>

Stars of the week - w/e 23.04.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Penelope	Super listening and singing of nursery rhymes.
YR	Thomas I	Using commas in lists when writing facts about eggs.
Y1	William W	His enthusiasm in role-play with this week's English work.
Y2	Felix	Making a super start at St Mary's
Y3	George	Doing the right thing when someone did not have a partner/ group to work with.
Y4	Scarlett	Her wonderful piece of writing in role as 'Mowzer.' She thought carefully about her vocabulary.
Y5	Anna	Her excellent work on her handwriting.
Y6	Stan and Ethan	Stan has been 'on fire' in his mathematics and has shown great perseverance. Ethan has done some great work forming algebraic expressions.

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.

Yarrow Teaching School
Alliance
Open Event:
Tuesday 1st December 7pm



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 23.04.21**