



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

23.10.20

Dear parents/ carers,

The children and staff have successfully completed a full half-term in school and it has definitely been good to be back. It is not school in quite the way the children are used to, but they have adapted amazingly well and settled down to hard work, making both you and their teachers very proud. It is also very evident that the children are happy to be back in school.

They will be tired now and deserve a good rest so that they are ready and eager to go again for the run up to Christmas.

Parents' Evening - Tuesday 20th October

I would like to say a big thank you to all of our teachers and parents for taking part in our parents' evening 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. I think that this is quite an achievement given the circumstances. Thank you to Mrs Wilson for sourcing the software and training us!

COVID

Within our school community, over the last half-term, we have had a small number of absences of children and staff due to either confirmed cases of COVID or self-isolation due to people having symptoms themselves or members of their households having them. The largest amount of absence was with our nursery class. And, it was great to welcome them back on Tuesday after their period of self-isolation.

PLEASE NOTE DURING THIS HOLIDAY PERIOD ...

The Executive Director of Education and Children's Service, Edwina Grant OBE, has contacted schools to say ... *there is a strong likelihood that numbers of staff or pupils may test positive within the first 48 hours of the holiday. So, we still need to collate infection information, and close contacts would need to be advised of risk.*

*Therefore... I would be grateful if you would promote to families our **School Health Support Team** call line on **01772 531555** so that they can report directly to us the **date /name/ school of confirmed cases**. If preferred, they can also email details to the Covid19 Education inbox using the link below: **COVID19Educationquestions@lancashire.gov.uk**.*

It is very important that if your child has symptoms and tests positive for COVID on either this coming Saturday or Sunday (and probably Monday too) that you contact the number above or use the email address. They will contact me and I will be able to alert close contacts. Thank you.

Pumpkin news!

One of our parents emailed this beautiful story to me this morning ...

Usually [Dad] walks the girls to and from school but on days when a car is necessary he parks on Stanstead, a little away from the drop off/pick up commotion. This week as they were getting back into the car, a resident on Stanstead gave Emma and Rebecca a pumpkin each that he had grown in his garden! Not just your usual pumpkin, but a greeny-grey variety! The girls were, as you can imagine, so excited! We don't know the gentleman's name but during lockdown, on their daily walks past his house, [Dad] and the girls did pass the time of day and comment on his beautiful garden.

Tomorrow Emma and Rebecca are posting thank you cards that they have made from pressed flowers and written themselves.



A message from Mrs Nicklin ...

On Wednesday Mrs Nicklin led our whole school assembly and set our children a project to take part in over half term. Please see the information below:

As I am sure you are aware and have probably seen recently on the news, David Attenborough and Prince William have recently set up the Earthshot prize.

The Earthshot prize is a prestigious environmental prize designed to incentivise change and repair our planet over the next 10 years. It is focused on the following areas: building a waste free world, protecting and restoring nature, reviving oceans, cleaning the air and fixing the climate.

Here at St Mary's we have decided that we would like to take part in this project and have asked all of our pupils from Nursery to Year 6 to complete a piece of homework over the half term period based on ways we can reduce our impact and help to heal our planet.

Some simple ideas of what children could produce for their homework are below:

- make a list of promises that you are going to do to help nature
- Design a poster with ways to look after our planet
- Make something useful out of things that they would usually throw away
- Design a tool to help us recycle better or catch waste in the ocean
- Investigate eco vegan and cruelty free cosmetic and cleaning products
- Making a list of what we can reduce using to reduce our impact
- Research better eco substitutes

We would love children to be as creative and innovative as possible when completing this task so these are just a few of the ideas you may want to undertake. Please can work be uploaded to seesaw.

Have fun, keep busy and enjoy!

Thanks,
Mrs Nicklin

Restart a heart

Children in YR, Y1, Y2 and Y6 took part in some online learning this week about CPR with the North West Ambulance Service/ Lancashire Adult Learning 'Restart a Heart' project. They are each going to receive their 'Little Medics' certificate via Class Dojo.

Message from Kinga on behalf of the Family Catechesis Team at St Mary's

Kinga asked me to thank the parents of the Y5 children who recently completed their Sacramental Programme. She thanked them for their support and appreciation of the Catechesis team. She was also very grateful for the lovely presents the team received – especially the biscuits! Kinga once again praised the children for the wonderful way in which they too, participated in the preparation for their Sacraments. It was a great team effort- well done everyone!

Message from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service – Please see posters attached to end of newsletter.

I hope you don't mind me contacting you, but as half term, mischief night, Halloween and bonfire night are upon us, I was hoping you may be able to share some of the messages Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service are currently promoting around staying safe during this unusual time.

Many thanks in advance for your support,

Rachel Ditchfield Community Fire Safety Team Leader Chorley Community Fire Station West Way Euxton

Science Principles

Mrs Banwell has consulted with the children and staff to formulate our principles for the teaching and learning of science –see attached.

Message from the school office ...

- Poppy Appeal information went out yesterday with full details of how to order items.
- Reminder to parents that any absences or notifications of medical appointments to come via the office please.

Value of the Week – Mercy

Mercy is defined as *empathy or love that manifests itself in action that is practical and thoughtful, warm and open, respectful and enabling*. Well done to the following children who were spotted demonstrating **the value of mercy** last week -

Class	Pupil
YR	Myka
Y1	Jacob
Y2	William G
Y3	Evan
Y4	Megan
Y5	George
Y6	Daisy and Lydia



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 1	99.06
2 nd	YEAR 3	98.97
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.71
4 th	RECEPTION	98.09
5 th	YEAR 4	97.84
6 th	YEAR 5	96.70
7 th	YEAR 6	96.40

W/E 23/10/2020

No **100%** attendance awards this week, I'm afraid!

Remote Learning or Blended Learning

You will have no doubt heard about year groups in different schools being required to self-isolate for two weeks due to positive test results in those cohorts - you may even have experienced this yourselves in your own families with siblings or relations at other schools.

You will want to know what we plan to do if, and when, this happens at St Mary's. Our plans are these:

- ✓ In the event of a year group having to self-isolate, our teachers have prepared two days' worth of learning for children to be doing. This will allow the class teacher to prepare work for the remaining twelve or so days. Our plan is to keep the teaching and learning going as near as possible to what it would be like if the children were in school.
- ✓ You will all have received the half-termly curriculum newsletter.
- ✓ Weekly plans will be sent home at the start of each week of the isolation period. A plan of each day's learning will also be sent home.
- ✓ Video introductions to lessons will be given, where required.
- ✓ There will be a daily Zoom check in with the class teacher and opportunities for communication between school and home.
- ✓ Our principal platforms for the delivery of teaching and learning will be Tapestry for the Nursery and Reception classes, and SeeSaw for Y1 – Y6.
- ✓ Teachers will also be providing work for children who are self-isolating even though they have no symptoms e.g. a family member has symptoms and is awaiting a test result.

2021 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY – **SECONDARY DEADLINE APPROACHING FAST!**

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 2020 is 15 January 2021.

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

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.

The closing date for secondary applications for September 2020 is 31 October 2020.

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

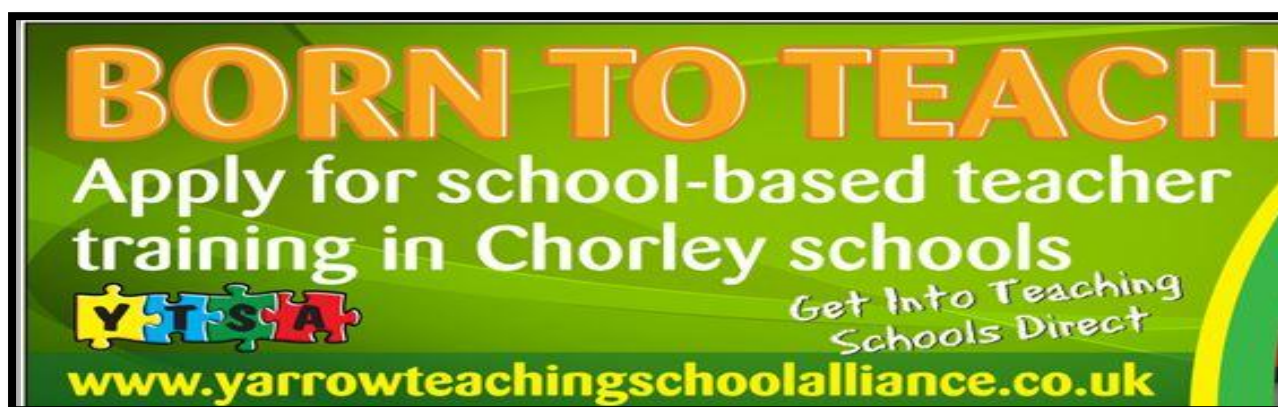
Free milk If you receive benefits, your child could also get free milk. Contact us to find out what arrangements we make for school milk.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 23.10.20

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Poppy	being kind to her friends and super sharing
YR	Arthur	an amazing week of super listening, following instructions and trying his best
Y1	Kristian	working really hard in Maths this week.
Y2	Addison	amazing progress in her work! Keep up the fantastic effort!
Y3	Feba	working hard in class.
Y4	Ethan	always showing lovely manners and setting a good example to others.
Y5	Chloe	always giving 100% in everything she does
Y6	Amelia	a super biography about Pablo Fanque

A message from the Yarrow Teaching School - Alliance Open Event – Autumn Term 2020

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. **Our Zoom open event is on Tuesday 10th November – flyer with newsletter.**



BORN TO TEACH
Apply for school-based teacher training in Chorley schools
www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk
Get Into Teaching Schools Direct

<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 23.10.20

Firework Safety



Lancashire Fire
and Rescue Service



Only purchase fireworks from a reputable retailer and ensure they carry the CE mark which is a safety standard that all fireworks should meet.

Store fireworks in a closed box away from heat sources and children until you are ready to use them.



Fireworks can be scary for pets, the elderly, veterans, young children and babies. Make sure they are kept indoors and you don't set fireworks off after 11 pm.



Follow the instructions on each firework, reading them in torchlight or daylight and never by a naked flame.

Only light one firework at once and ensure they're on a stable surface pointed away from people.

Do not keep them in your pocket and **never** throw them.



Drop used fireworks
into a bucket of water

Never return to a lit firework.

Ensure fireworks are extinguished properly by placing in a bucket of cold water.

If you're concerned a bonfire may be getting out of hand call 999 and if clothing catches fire remember:
STOP, DROP AND ROLL.



www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk

making Lancashire safer



Bonfire Safety



Lancashire Fire
and Rescue Service



Always have a responsible adult present when having a bonfire, and stay with it until it is extinguished.

Keep people at least 3 metres away from the bonfire.

Never leave children unattended with a bonfire.



Set the fire well away from property (including outbuildings and sheds), over hanging trees, cables and combustible materials.

Check the bonfire for any animals too before lighting.

Bonfire smoke can be a nuisance so be considerate of any neighbours.



Don't use petrol, paraffin or white spirit to light a bonfire they can be very volatile once ignited.

Use a taper to light and keep at arms length.

Don't burn household waste on bonfires.



Douse your bonfire to ensure no smouldering embers are left

When the bonfire is over, douse the embers with water and check the surrounding area for signs of small fires which may have been started from flying embers. Ensure it is fully extinguished before leaving.

If you're concerned a bonfire may be getting out of hand call 999 and if clothing catches fire remember:
STOP, DROP AND ROLL.



LET'S
DO IT
FOR
LANCASHIRE



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