



# School Newsletter

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

24.01.25

**Dear parents and carers,**

I know this is late but Happy New Year and welcome back to school for the new term. My apologies for the lack of newsletters over the last couple of weeks.

I hope you all had a happy and restful Christmas and an enjoyable break. The children returned refreshed, looking very smart and ready to go. They settled down quickly to hard work this week and are a credit to you all. On behalf of all the staff, thank you very much for all the Christmas Cards from the children and families and for all the gifts received.

## **Unavoidable School Closures**

Over the course of this term, the hours of daylight will lengthen. I hope that 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.

## **Parents' Evenings**

A bit of advance notice for you: the spring term parents' evenings have been planned for the evenings of Monday 10<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Details on how to book will be released this evening and booking will open tomorrow.

## **Y3 and Y4 Sports Hall Athletics**

Mr Hodge and I took a team of twenty-two Y3 and Y4 athletes to the CSSP Sports Hall Athletics competition at Holy Cross last night after school. They were an absolute credit to the school and to their families. Their behaviour was exceptional. They showed enthusiasm, determination and a great team ethic. Mr Hodge and I were very proud of them. Well done to all the athletes on their performances and congratulations on your sixth place finish and a big thank you to Mr Hodge and Mrs Hargreaves for organising our squad of athletes.

## **Health and Safety**

Just before Christmas, we introduced a new way of communicating with parents and carers if their child received a bump to their head or had a minor accident in school. Instead of sending home a paper letter, we are now sending home a Groupcall form with this information. This is to help us ensure that you have been made aware of the injury – and that we can be sure you know. We recognise that sometimes letters can become lost or left crumpled up at the bottom of school bags!

We ask you to sign the form to confirm you have been notified of an incident. Please can you try and respond to the forms within 24 hours. Your answers will be noted on your child's accident record. A few of you have already received such letters and we thank you for your responses. Thank you!

## **Online Safety Newsletter**

Please see the January edition of the online safety newsletter attached separately.

## **Online Safety parent and carer session**

Please also find below the link to access the parent/carers session scheduled for **Wednesday 29th January 2025 – 9.30am – 10.15am.**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MjdmMjIwZTQtMjkyZC00MGJhLWI0OWQtZmMzMDIhY2Q3MzFi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22dcdb1ea5-3b10-49a2-bf8f-5fd59edcd762%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225772fa8f-9814-4199-aef2-9195804f833e%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjdmMjIwZTQtMjkyZC00MGJhLWI0OWQtZmMzMDIhY2Q3MzFi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22dcdb1ea5-3b10-49a2-bf8f-5fd59edcd762%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%225772fa8f-9814-4199-aef2-9195804f833e%22%7d)

Attendees do not need to register, they simply click on the link at the above time to access the session. Cameras and voice/audio will be switched off for all attendees. Attendees can ask questions by typing in the Q&A box, but this will be explained during the session.

The event will be streamed using Teams. Attendees can watch the live event in:

- Teams app—desktop (Windows or Mac) or mobile. (The Teams app is free to download if attendees would like to do that beforehand).
- If they don't have Teams they can access it via one of the following browsers - Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Firefox.

Don't worry if you are unable to attend on the day, this session will be recorded and will be subsequently shared so if somebody can't make the live session then they can watch it back at a time that is convenient to them.

## **First Holy Communion Badge Competition**

Children preparing to make their First Holy Communion this summer are invited to design a badge to commemorate the special day.

The badge will be round and roughly the size of a £2 coin, and participants can only use up to 5 colours, including black and white. To get the template and enter the competition, use the form and template attached to this email and email your entry to [badges@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:badges@rcaol.org.uk)  
All entries need to be in by 27 January.

### Tax-free childcare

One of our governors shared some information with me last year to pass on to parents and carers - here is a reminder, in case your circumstances have changed.:

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year). For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2 to use to pay your provider.

You can get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours free childcare if you're eligible for both. You can use Tax-Free Childcare for: childminders, nurseries and nannies and after school clubs and play schemes.

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>



## Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2024/2025 w/e 24.01.25



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 6	98.56
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 3	97.55
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 4	97.41
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 2	97.30
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	97.26
6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	97.09
7 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	97.03

No 100% attendance this week but Y6 were very close this week

Our overall school attendance currently stands at 97.5%, which puts the school in the **top 3%** of schools in Lancashire; this is fantastic. Well done everybody. Mr Cahalin and Y6 are keen to maintain the top spot in our own school league table. I know that the other classes are determined to catch them however, and knock them off their perch.

## Star of the Week 24.01.25

Class	Name	Star of the week for... Value of the week for showing value of respect Dojo Champion
Nursery	s Myles	Super work learning his numbers in maths
	v Toby	Always doing what he is asked and respecting adults and children
R	Dojo Hallie	
	s Oscar	For making a fantastic effort in all areas of learning
	v Tillie	For respecting and helping others
Y1	Dojo Oscar	
	s Joshua N	For his diamond ring design in his innovated story.
	v Maddy	For respecting our classroom rules and all the people in our class.
Y2	Dojo Olivia	
	s Billey	Being a responsible class helper
	v Angela	
Y3	Dojo Cleo and Jesse	
	s George F	Much improved <i>learn its</i> score
	v Alice B	Always has respect for others.
Y4	s Arlo	For his wonderful story inspired by 'The Balaclava Boys'.
	v Rebecca B	For showing respect to everyone.
Y5	s Noah	A lovely attitude to his learning – especially tricky multiplication and division methods.
	v Kristian	Thinking about others' feelings
Y6	s Ellie	Introduction to her version of <i>Macbeth</i> using figurative language
	v Hendrix	For respecting the rules in school when he notices someone at the door.

### PTFA future dates

**PTFA Meeting** - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Februry - time to be confirmed

**PTFA Meeting** - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - time to be confirmed

**Ladies Party Night** - Friday 27th June - St Mary's Parish Centre

Best wishes, Patrick Smyth 24.01.25