



School Newsletter

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

24.09.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP and Speaker of the House of Commons, visit to St Mary's school today



It was a pleasure and a privilege to welcome Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP to school today.

He came with Emma from his constituency office. He had a tour of the school speaking with all the children; he met the school council and finally watched a presentation with the Y5 and Y6 classes, spending time answering some of their questions at the end. He has invited us to take a class down to visit him in the House of Commons when conditions allow; which got the

children very excited.

We learned that he is called 'Right honourable...' because he is a member of the Queen's Privy Council. So thank you, Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP for Chorley and Speaker of the House of Commons and Emma for coming to spend time with us today – it was a fantastic experience for us all.

FSC Friday 2021

Today was FSC Friday. FSC stands for Forestry Stewardship Council. The FSC label assures that wood, paper, and other forest products have been responsibly sourced from well-managed forests and recycled materials. William B in Y2 showed me that his reading book had the FSC quality mark on it as did Mrs Nicklin's tissue box.



The children spent much of the day outdoors, in the woods, doing art and design work, making pine comb bird feeders, collecting natural materials, building dens and many more things besides.

Each class shared what they had been doing with the rest of the school in the end of the day assembly.



Year 5 stick art work based on picture on the right.

Early Years Curriculum Meeting – Tuesday 21 September

Thank you Mrs Ainscough, Mrs Cassidy, Mrs Swarbrick and Mrs Bowler for meeting with EYFS parents this week. And thank you parents for attending in such good number, I hope parents found the meeting informative and helpful in understanding what is taught in school and how parents can support learning at home. The presentation aimed to explain the curriculum taught in the nursery and reception classes and some of the changes brought in by the Government this term.

PE Steering Group Meeting Thursday 23 September

Mr Hodge and the Y6 Sports Captains met with parents and children on Thursday evening to celebrate the many sporting successes and achievements over the last 12 months, including a highly enjoyable health week last term. Mr Hodge also took the opportunity to consult with the children and parents about their ideas for using our PE and Sports Premium money for the next 12 months. Thanks to Mr Hodge, the parents, children and sports captains for their contributions in a very productive meeting.

Sports News

Football: St Mary's v All Saints and St Mary's v Withnell Fold

Mr Hodge took the St Mary's football team to the brand new Westway Sports Centre in Chorley to take part in their very first fixtures in over 18 months. It was a very successful start to the season with a 5-0 win and a 4-0 win respectively. Not only was Mr Hodge impressed with the sporting ability on show but also the manner in which the team encouraged and supported one another. A great start. Well done team!

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Go Green



This Family Fast Day this year is next Friday 1 October, CAFOD want to support people around the world who are dedicating their lives to protecting God's creation –people who are on the front line of the climate crisis. On Monday 27 September, pupils will take home an envelope to collect any spare loose change for the collection. If they are able to, they can bring the money in on Friday 1 October. How do CAFOD plan to use the money: £8 gives a family, five fruit tree saplings to grow fruit to eat and sell. £33 supplies a family with clean fresh water. £54 builds a greenhouse for a family to grow vegetables all year around and £335 buys solar street lamps for refugee camps.

Holy Cross Open Day arrangements 2021



Due to COVID safety measures, Holy Cross Catholic High School are not holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents. Instead, parents have been invited to book short time slots to visit the school. Y6 parents have been given details by Holy Cross.

Mr Gaughan visit to St Mary's Wednesday 29.09.21 at 5.30pm

In addition to the above, Mr Gaughan, Headteacher will be visiting **St Mary's next week** to speak to Y6 parents only, about all that Holy Cross has to offer on **Wednesday 29th September at 5.30pm**. We will hold the meeting in the school hall, space the chairs out and keep the room as well ventilated as possible. He will give a twenty-minute presentation followed by a short Q&A session.

Prospective Parents Meeting – Wednesday 6th October 6.00pm



There will be a meeting on for parents interested in a place for their child in St Mary's reception class for September 2022. It will take place on **Wednesday 6 October at 6.00pm**.

As we still need to be highly cautious about reducing risk of COVID transmission, we will not be giving a tour of the school this year. Instead, I will give a short presentation and parents/ carers will be able to ask any questions that they may have. We will hold the meeting in the school hall, space the chairs out and keep the room as well ventilated as possible.

There is an opportunity to watch our school open day video, which will give a further insight into school life at St Mary's. It is available on our school website:

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/news/2020-11-19-admissions-information-video>

PTFA –Annual General Meeting -30 September 2021 St Mary's Parish Centre

The PTFA is a body that meets to organise social and fundraising events for the school. The funds that the PTFA raises go towards enhancing the experiences of the children at school. It has paid for visitors such as authors, it has also subsidised trips e.g. to the theatre and sometimes it pays for equipment in school. However, an even more important role it performs is in bringing the school

community together in different events. COVID has severely curtailed the work of the PTFA over the last couple of years, unfortunately.

Q. Who are the PTFA members? A. We all are!

As soon as your child starts St Mary's school or nursery, you automatically become a member, along with all the staff.

The PTFA committee met last night and set a date for the annual general meeting - **Thursday 30th September** at St Mary's Parish Centre to which **you are all invited**. A Groupcall invitation will be sent out in the next week or so, in order for us to determine the numbers in advance for the room we need at the club.

The PTFA committee are in the process of planning a number of events bearing in mind what is possible during these pandemic times.

They are planning a Spooky Dress-Up day - children come to school in spooky clothes on Friday 22nd October in return for a £1 donation. They felt it would be unwise to have the normal 'Spooky/Monster Ball' at the present time.

The committee have decided against holding a Christmas Fair this year, again on the grounds that they think it is unwise given the circumstances. Instead, they intend to hold a large Christmas raffle. Donations will be sought from local businesses and a cash prize offered potentially. They would also like to have two 'Christmas Jumper/non uniform days' for a £1 donation.

We will give further details of all these after the annual general meeting.

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

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 2022 is on 31 October 2021

Volunteers

A number of people have made enquiries about helping out in school. We would like to welcome volunteers back into school. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the school office in the first instance.



We really value the help that you can give however small. In order to be as COVID safe as possible, we would ask volunteers to be fully vaccinated against COVID and be willing to test twice-weekly. We would also need to do a short induction meeting with you.

Break time snacks

Children (and staff) do get a bit peckish around about break time and we are happy for them to have a snack. Our policy is for this snack to be toast or a piece of fruit on Monday to Thursday and a snack of their choice on a Friday. The school provides toast, which works out at 20p a day on a pre-ordered basis. Alternatively, children may bring in a snack from home. We do ask that all pupils adhere to this rule. **Chocolate bars, sweets and crisps are not allowed on Monday to Thursday.**

Messages from the school office:

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



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.



Some beginning of school year and nursery 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!



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, then the lost property box is available on **Tuesdays** after school by the front entrance. Please enquire at the school office if you would like to look in.



Health and Safety notices

Nut allergies



We have a number of children in school who have an allergy to nuts and may experience a severe allergic reaction. We therefore make every effort to be as **nut-free** as possible in school. Therefore, we ask that you do not to send food products into school which may contain nuts. Thank you for your understanding.

Grapes in lunch boxes

If your child brings grapes to school either as a snack or as part of their packed lunch, it is very important that they are halved first. This is because whole grapes present a significant risk of choking hazard to children.



Parking



By way of a reminder at the start of the school year, I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not park on the staff carpark, the yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. 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.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2021/2022 W/E 24/09/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 5	99.06
2nd	YEAR 4	99.04
3rd	YEAR 1	98.92
4th	RECEPTION	98.09
5th	YEAR 2	97.62
6th	YEAR 6	97.58
7th	YEAR 3	96.22

No class had **100%** attendance this week.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 24.09.2020

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Evie W	A fantastic week of work – well done!
YR	Sam W	Always listening carefully and doing the right thing.
Y1	Mickey	Excellent effort and improved reading.
Y2	Archie	Fabulous mathematics.
Y3	Michael	Working hard all week and for his impeccable manners!
Y4	Phoebe C	For writing a wonderful magazine article titled ' <i>Is Nessie real?</i> '
Y5	Sebastian	For his impromptu drama work linked to The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and for his excellent effort on maths challenges.
Y6	Mati K	Great descriptive writing.



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 CofE 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

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 24.09.21