



School Newsletter

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

25.03.22

Dear parents and carers,

Children across the school and nursery have been able to play on the grassy areas around school this week, which I know they have enjoyed and the return of everyone to the hall for lunchtime at school seems to have gone very well too.

COVID update

We have had a small number of positive cases in school over recent days. I know that with the changes to restrictions and rules around COVID, it is quite difficult to keep up-to-date what the current guidance is regarding school. Here is a reminder below:

Q. Should children self-isolate if they test positive for COVID-19? A. Yes (see guidance below).

Guidance

COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts. Updated 22 March 2022

Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.

Q. Will school still provide work for children self-isolating? A. Yes (see guidance below).

Schools COVID-19 operational guidance February 2022

Remote education

Where appropriate, ... [schools] ... should support those who are self-isolating because they have tested positive to work or learn from home if they are well enough to do so.

Message from the school office



Please could you settle any outstanding balances by 31.03.22 (that's next Thursday). Many thanks.

Updated FAQ Page on website <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/parents/faqs>

We are often asked by parents about procedures for things that they may not deal with very often, such as reporting absences, bringing medicines to school or requesting holidays

We have put together a page on the school website to answer your more frequently asked questions and we would appreciate you taking a few minutes to read the FAQ page below.

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/parents/faqs>

Hopefully, we have been able to answer most questions, but if there are any others you think may be useful to include on the page, please email admin@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk

Chorley School Uniform Swap event

We received this message from Tom Halstead, Community Engagement Officer at Chorley Council:

Chorley School Uniform Swap event is back!

St Peters Church Hall, Harpers Lane, Chorley.
Saturday 26th March
11am until 2pm

Please feel free to bring along any preloved uniform that still has plenty of life in it and swap it for larger items. Swapping isn't essential!

You can drop off old, pick up new or just come for a brew. It's all free and helps the environment by reducing the amount of new uniform produced

We have lots of skirts, shorts, trousers, dresses, shirts, t shirts and some branded items (mainly for primary schools)

In partnership between St Peters Church Chorley, Inspire Youth Zone and supported by Chorley Council

Checkout this video of the young IYZ volunteers sorting through the current stock available here: https://m.facebook.com/437056353326866/videos/841799676637973?_rdr

Please share with anyone that you think may be interested 😊

Kind Regards,

Tom Halstead
Community Engagement Officer

Resources to talk to children about Ukraine

More resources can be found on the following link. They have been produced by the **First News** group, a children's newspaper that we subscribe to.

What is happening in Ukraine and why?

'The news is pretty scary right now and we imagine the children in your life will have a lot of questions around the rapidly changing news coming out of Ukraine. If you are struggling to discuss the situation in Ukraine with your children, **First News** is here to help navigate those difficult discussions with our free Ukraine Explainer and daily news updates.'

See First News link on the school website:

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/news/2022-03-14-ukraine>

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership CSSP Easter Holidays Multi Sports Camp 11-14 April.

Please see attached a leaflet advertising the CSSP's Easter holiday sports camp. Unfortunately, our own Easter holiday and that of the other Chorley Catholic schools is slightly 'out of sync' with the other schools so will only be available for one week for our children: 11- 14 April at St. James' CofE Primary School & Clayton Green Leisure Centre (see attached).

Walking to school

Thank you to all of you for taking part in 'active travel' to school. It is great to see the bike racks outside my office being used so frequently over recent weeks.



The children are very motivated by this in class, when they tell their teacher each day how they have travelled to school and when they are rewarded with active travel badges. Thank you to Mr Hodge for encouraging the children and staff in this. A couple of weeks ago, Mr Hodge received an email which said:

*****CONGRATULATIONS!*****

Your school is in the TOP 10 Lancashire schools of WOW engagement, with a massive amount of active travel. **Strider – our mascot** would like to visit your school to meet the pupils who are making these positive travel choices, contributing to improve the local air quality and reducing congestion around the school gates. We will give you news about when this visit will take place.

Mr Hodge asked me to remind children that in order to qualify for this month's badge for walking at least one day a week to school, next week is the last week of the month, so make sure they get one day of walking next week!-

Special well done

I would like to give a special mention to Jake in Y1 and his grandma. On Wednesday morning, they both walked for 40 minutes to school in the sunshine. And grandma walked for 40 minutes back again! Great effort!

Electricity North West works on Warton Place from Friday 1st April



We have been informed by Electricity North West that they are carrying out planned works on Warton Place next week. This will involve the excavation of the footpath on the right-hand side of the road if you were to face Warton Place with your back to the school. This will take place on Friday 1 April. The electricity works begin on Tuesday 5 April and the site should be clear by the following Tuesday, 12 April.

This could add even further to the congestion in the mornings and afternoons at drop-off and pick-up times, so I would be even more grateful if you could park just a little further away and walk some of the way in. Many thanks.

Car Parking – Pick up and Drop off

Can I ask all parents/ carers, when dropping off and picking up:

- Please bear in mind especially, the safety of child pedestrians
- Please do not park across driveways.
- Please do not park in the hammerhead on Warton Place. Signs are now in place there.
- If possible, set off a little earlier, park a little further away and walk the rest of the way. The children get rewarded for a *Park and Stride*.

SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!

Sports News

Netball

The St Mary's netball team were in action again, for the third week running, in the CSSP netball league. Last week, I said it was a mixed set of results. However, in reality, it is much more positive than that, as Miss Hesketh reminded me! Over the last two weeks the record is: W7 L1 D2. This is an excellent set of results; we will have to wait and see if that is enough to take us through into the finals - fingers crossed.



The netball squad has twenty members. They have trained really well over recent months. Miss Hesketh and Mrs Blackwell believe that training and practice is really paying off. Miss Hesketh is extremely proud that each squad member has represented the St Mary's team over the last three weeks. She praised the team's excellent sporting behaviour, their wonderful manners and the fair play throughout. She said that the group are an absolute pleasure to be around.

Well done team and thanks to Miss Hesketh and Mrs Blackwell for taking them and for all their work on training the team this year.

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) Cross Country Championships

The annual CSSP cross-country event is taking place at Astley Park tomorrow. We have four teams representing the school in the races: Y3/4 girls, Y3/4 boys, Y5/6 girls and Y5/6 boys. The majority of local schools take part so it is going to be an exciting event full of noise and colour.



A number of children will also be taking part in the fun run, which brings the championships to a close. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Blackwell who has been training the runners during lunchtimes over recent months and of course to the athletes themselves, many of whom have shown a great deal of commitment. We wish our athletes the very best of luck.

St Mary's School has been at Hornchurch Drive for forty years – share your memories! – A message from Mr Hodge

To the wider school community on our 40th Anniversary of the school site,

- *Did you attend St. Mary's School in the past?*
- *Do you know someone who did?*
- *Was it at our current site or next to the church at Mount Pleasant?*

If you did, no matter how long ago it was, please do share those memories with us...

In order to collate the memories and mark this special occasion, we have set up an e-mail address where you can send photographs, typed memories, achievements etc, etc, about your time at St. Mary's. Mr Hodge will then collate everything and share these memories as part of our celebration in the Summer Term.

The address is memories@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk

You may know an older parishioners for whom sending an e-mail doesn't suit them? Could you ask them to write something down and you submit the details on their behalf? Do they have any old photographs? Any old certificates? Anything and everything is welcomed.

We look forward to looking at your memories and sharing them with you in due course.

DEADLINE – Friday 13th May 2022

***Accompaniment - Side By Side* – Archdiocese of Liverpool events**



Our school and parish members are invited to take part in an archdiocesan initiative: *Accompaniment - Side By Side*. These events take place on Tuesday & Wednesday, 26th and 27th April online. The organisers invite us to:

Join us for this interactive event, exploring the vision of a Church that walks together and accompanies people in life and faith. We'll consider how deepening our existing practice of accompaniment will help our Catholic community be recognised as relevant and impactful, and how it will offer us all hope for growth.

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 25.03.22

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Harper	being very independent and finding her name card to help her write her name on her work.
	YR	George	sensible learning choices and trying hard .
	Y1	Thomas I	being an expert in all things Beatrix Potter in our class <i>Mastermind</i> quiz.
	Y2	Arthur	positive attitude to school life
	Y3	Hendrix	excellent work this week on length and perimeter.
	Y4	Teddy	his wonderful writing this week in English!
	Y5	Filip	excellent contributions during our PSHE work on Healthy Living.
	Y6	Melodie	A fantastic detective story using ambitious vocabulary and grammatical features.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2021/2022 25.03.22



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 5	96.26
2 nd	YEAR 3	95.73
3 rd	YEAR 4	95.71
4 th	YEAR 2	95.68
5 th	YEAR 1	95.53
6 th	RECEPTION	95.05
7 th	YEAR 6	93.34

No classes with 100% attendance this week.

