



# School Newsletter

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

25.09.20

**Dear parents/ carers,**

Usually in a September newsletter, I would be telling you about all the different things that have been happening in school. By this stage last year, we had all spent time looking at the huge Arctic map, the junior classes had celebrated the start of year school Mass, we had all celebrated Harvest Mass together, we had welcomed visitors and some classes had even been on visits. It has been a lot quieter this year. But, the children are doing you proud and the teachers are really pleased with the effort and progress being made.

## **COVID measures in school update**

Lancashire County Council have updated their advice to schools this week and so from next week, adults in school are required to wear face masks in areas outside of the classroom e.g. corridors, communal areas and so on. The children seem to take this sort of thing in their stride but for those for whom it might cause worry, we will explain what we are doing and why. Teachers and teaching assistants will not be wearing face masks in classrooms but may choose to wear visors.

Some schools are advising parents and carers at drop off/ pick up times to wear face masks. We are not asking you to do that just yet unless the advice changes. We feel that the one-way system, staggered drop off/ pick up times and the fact that parents/ carers are not gathering minimises the social contact going on. However, please feel free to wear masks at those times if you wish to, because it will not do any harm and can only do good.

## **Jumpers**

As we progress through autumn and then into winter, we are still going to need to keep classrooms well ventilated. Doors and windows will be left open. It will be chillier in the classrooms. We've noticed some children coming to school without their jumpers and therefore wanting to wear their coats in class. It is really important that the children bring their jumpers to school – it's unlikely that they are going to get too warm in class at the moment!

## **European Day of Languages**

Even though I mentioned that it was quieter than usual in school, Madame Russell, our French teacher in the juniors, found time to celebrate the **European Day of Languages** (26.09.20) on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons this week.

<https://edl.ecml.at/>

## [European Day of Languages > Home](#)

Throughout Europe, 800 million Europeans are represented in the Council of Europe's 47 member states and all are encouraged to discover more languages at any age, as part of or alongside their studies. This stems from the Council of Europe's conviction that linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our ...

edl.ecml.at

Madame Russell reported,

*'We started with the date in Spanish, the afternoon prayer and register in French. We had a tour of our different native speakers in our classes with greetings in their own languages and shared knowledge of the different nationalities. We explored the map of the European Union, discussed some facts, and learned about the Eurozone, coins and bank notes.*

*Y3 studied the greetings of the world and said the colours of the matching flags in French. We even sounded animals in different languages.*

*Y4 played a memory game of greetings and flags and looked at the 'All Aboard' song in 5 languages, looking for similar words in the lyrics.*

*Y5 also practised their knowledge of world food in a quiz.*

*Y6 learned about the creation and purpose of the EU as well as enjoying many of the activities above.*

*It is also the **EU week of Sports**, 23rd to 30th September, hosted in Frankfurt, with live streaming also in English to launch the event.*

<https://sportdeutschland.tv/sonstiges/opening-european-week-sport>

*Merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, danke schön!*

### **Madame Russell**

*Modern Foreign Language Specialist - French  
Chorley School Sport Partnership CIC*

Madame Russell has provided some activities for you to try at home if you wish to mark European Day of Languages – see them attached to newsletter.

### **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. We are in the process of finalising our plans for that form of remote or blended learning. Our plans to date 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 is 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.

### **Sacramental Meeting**

Mrs Kinga Gray-Grzeczynska led a meeting with the parents of children in Y4 who will be preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and of the Eucharist during the course of this school year. In spite of this period of great uncertainty, the Catechesis sessions will go ahead albeit without the parents present and they will take place at school. Thank you to Kinga and to all the parents for attending.

### **Open Evening Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

There will be a virtual Open Evening for prospective parents on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. It will take place over Zoom and details will be confirmed next week.

### **Parents Evening Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

We are planning to do an autumn term parents' evening. We intend to do it via Zoom or via the phone. As we did this time last year, we are giving parents the option to book a 5-minute appointment with their child's teacher. Unfortunately, we cannot arrange for parents/ carers to look at the children's books.

We have found in the past that these early meetings are really just an opportunity to find out how well children are settling into their new year groups and you might already know that through other channels of communication. There is no obligation for you to book a meeting. Some parents/ carers prefer to wait for a more in-depth consultation in the spring term. The spring term parents' evening will take place over two evenings and last up to 10 minutes .

## 2021 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 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.

### Sacramental Programme 2019/2020

The first ten children from the current Year 5 class will be receiving their First Holy Communion on the Saturday and Sunday Masses at St Mary's this weekend. We wish them all the very best on this very special occasion. Kinga has asked me to remind the families that everyone over the age of 11 must wear a mask in church. Also, they need to follow the Track and Trace instruction by providing their names and contact numbers. It would be a good idea if each family had this already prepared when they come to church and hand the paper in to the steward to save time.

## 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

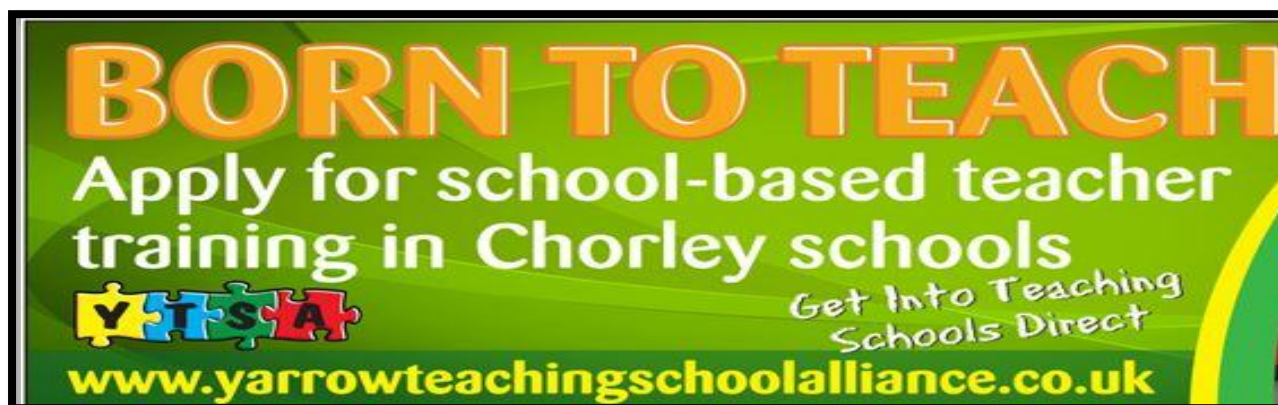
**Free milk** If you receive benefits, your child could also get free milk. Contact us to find out what arrangements we make for school milk.

**STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 25.09.2020**

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Hattie	Having a super week in Nursery
YR	Gabriella	For being an attentive listener and always doing the right thing
Y1	Sam R	For his enthusiastic reading and phonics work.
Y2	Heidi	For fantastic, intelligent contributions in class
Y3	Brody	For persevering with his maths perimeter shape work.
Y4	Leon	For his great work and knowledge during our science lessons on electricity
Y5	Charlotte	For her excellent contribution to discussions and her efforts in short writing tasks linked to our English unit of work on the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.
Y6	Ethan	A great balanced argument text.

**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 on Tuesday 10th November A flyer is attached with the newsletter. .



<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 25.09.20