



School Newsletter

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

26.11.21

Dear parents/ carers,

COVID

We are now up to 13 cases in school. Thank you parents/ carers for your support in arranging tests when asked to. This has picked up positive cases that are asymptomatic and therefore has helped contain the spread of the virus in the building. There are currently four cases in Year 2, two in Year 3, one in Year 4, five in Year 5 and one in Year 6.

If you are contacted by the office to arrange tests for your children, I would be very grateful if you could get those done. As I wrote earlier in the week, we have reached a threshold of cases in Y2 and Y5. And it would be very helpful if parents would continue to test children daily with LFD tests in these particular classes, to check, in particular, for any asymptomatic cases.

Once again, I know we are asking a great deal of you but by taking these steps, hopefully, we can keep virus transmission low and prevent disruption to learning as much as possible.

Below is a reminder of the measures we are taking as a result of recent consultation with Lancashire public health.

Testing

1. Routine LFD testing, **twice weekly**, is strongly encouraged across school and families to identify asymptomatic cases. As you know, test kits are widely available for free. Please contact school office if unsure where.
2. We are asking all staff and children in classes where there has been a positive case to take a PCR test.
3. NEW: We are now asking children and staff in classes where the threshold has been reached (i.e. Y2 and Y5) to take **daily** LFD tests, in addition.
4. We are asking all members of households where there has been a positive case to take a PCR test.
5. NEW: We are also asking for **daily** LFD testing of all those in households where there has been a positive case.
6. Children and staff who show symptoms of COVID-19 should not be in school until well. If a negative PCR is obtained then they can return when well. If positive, they can return on the 11th day after symptoms started. Please check with the office if unsure.

Symptoms

The main symptoms are:

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)

As you will understand, in order to minimise the chance of a wider outbreak, we are taking no chances with coughs, at the moment, even though we are aware that in most cases they will most likely be normal winter bugs.

Please do not send your child in with a cough as described above and if they are sent home because of a cough, please arrange for them to have a PCR test. My apologies for the inconvenience I know this causes and please bear with us.

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

Ventilation

7. We are maximising ventilation in classrooms and around the building. We have CO2 monitors in each classroom and staff are using these to ensure that there is a good flow of air. We have been using these for about a week; they show that ventilation in classrooms is actually very good. As doors and windows will probably be open during much of the school day, I would like to remind you that children may bring warm jumpers to wear over their uniforms in class.
8. If we can do certain activities outside, we are. E.g. Mrs Grandi was carrying out 1:1 phonics assessments outdoors with Y2 children today.

Groups mixing

9. Since September there has been minimal mixing across year groups – just in small phonics groups and Breakfast and After School Club. For now, we have returned to smaller groups in Breakfast Club and After School Club as we did last year e.g. YN & YR, Y1 & Y2, Y&Y4 and Y5&Y6.
10. Our gatherings and assemblies remain online.

Cleaning

11. Regular daily cleaning is taking place including focusing on touch points and shared equipment.

Christmas Joy Toy Appeal – A message from SVP Chorley Buddies

Christmas Joy New Toy Appeal



As part of The Christmas Joy Project, co-ordinated by Chorley Council, the Catholic Community in Chorley, have been invited to donate new toys for distribution to families in Chorley.

If you want to donate new toys, then please just bring them into school unwrapped on **Friday 10th December**.

SVP Chorley Buddies will collect the toys from school, take them to St Laurence's for storage and distribution by Chorley Council to families who might need some help this Christmas.

And thank you for bringing some Joy into people's lives this Christmas!

If you bring the toys in plastic bags, I can load straight into my car on the Friday morning and take them to St Laurence's. Thank you.

Astley Toggers Fundraising Event

I have been asked to publicise this local fundraising event.

Astley Toggers

Fund Raising Event in partnership with



Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity *Making a difference for every child, every day*

Sunday 28th November 2021

10:00am – 4:00pm at Tesco, Buckshaw, PR7 7EL

Raffle, Tombola, Crafts, Cakes and Games



Any monies raised will be donated to Ward 86 Paediatric Haematology/Oncology at The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Charity <http://www.rmcharity.org.uk/> Registered charity 1049274.

Governor Vacancies

If you or anyone you know would be interested in the role of Governor at St Mary's, even if you have expressed an interest before, please contact me at school for an informal chat and I also can put you

in touch with the Chair of Governors, Kath Smith who may be able to answer some of your questions. It is a very strong and very experienced group who are committed in its support of the school and in wanting to drive it forward.

One of our most experienced governors, Margaret Rogerson, says about the role, *'As a governor I find the role rewarding, challenging and enjoyable in the knowledge that I am helping children to have a happy and fulfilling education at St Mary's as my children did.'*

Below is from the LCC web page on school governance. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/become-a-school-governor/>

Become a school governor

School governors are volunteers who work together with the headteacher, the archdiocese and the local authority to improve education and other outcomes for all pupils.

You could become a school governor if you are aged 18 or over and:

- Want to make a positive difference to the education of local children
- Can get on with other people and work as part of a team
- Have some time to spare to attend meetings and to read necessary papers
- Are ready to learn and open to new ideas
- Are willing to put something into your local community
- You don't need any formal qualifications, you'll get full training and support to make sure you are fully equipped to carry out the role successfully.

What we expect from governors

Effective governors do not need educational expertise but do need to be committed to their school, willing to ask questions and act as a critical friend. They also need to be able to work as an enthusiastic member of the governing body team.

You do not need specialist knowledge or training to become a governor. It is your lay and community experiences that the governing body requires. However you will become knowledgeable by being a governor and this can help you to participate more fully in your local community or even open up opportunities for you personally, for example involvement in a Parents Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA), voluntary work within school or an awareness of new employment opportunities.

Realistically, as a school governor, you will need to attend one full governing body meeting each term. You will also be asked to serve on at least one committee which will probably meet once or occasionally twice a term. So, that is about two or three meetings per term maximum.

You will need to get to know your school well (if you don't already) preferably by visiting when the school is in session and the pupils are in school. However this may not always be possible and some governors keep in touch with school life through after school events such as fundraising or charity events, Parents Teachers and Friends Association meetings, sports days, school parties and holidays.

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) Christmas Sports Camp

Please see attached a flyer for a Christmas holiday sports camp on the 20th and 21st December.

Message from Madame Russell – our French teacher

Bonjour tout le monde, New fresh French Certificate coming next Tuesday!
The former model was almost 5 years old so it is now retired! Happy colours to match our CSSP logo. The children will enjoy them! Merci et bon week-end,



Nasal Flu Vaccinations

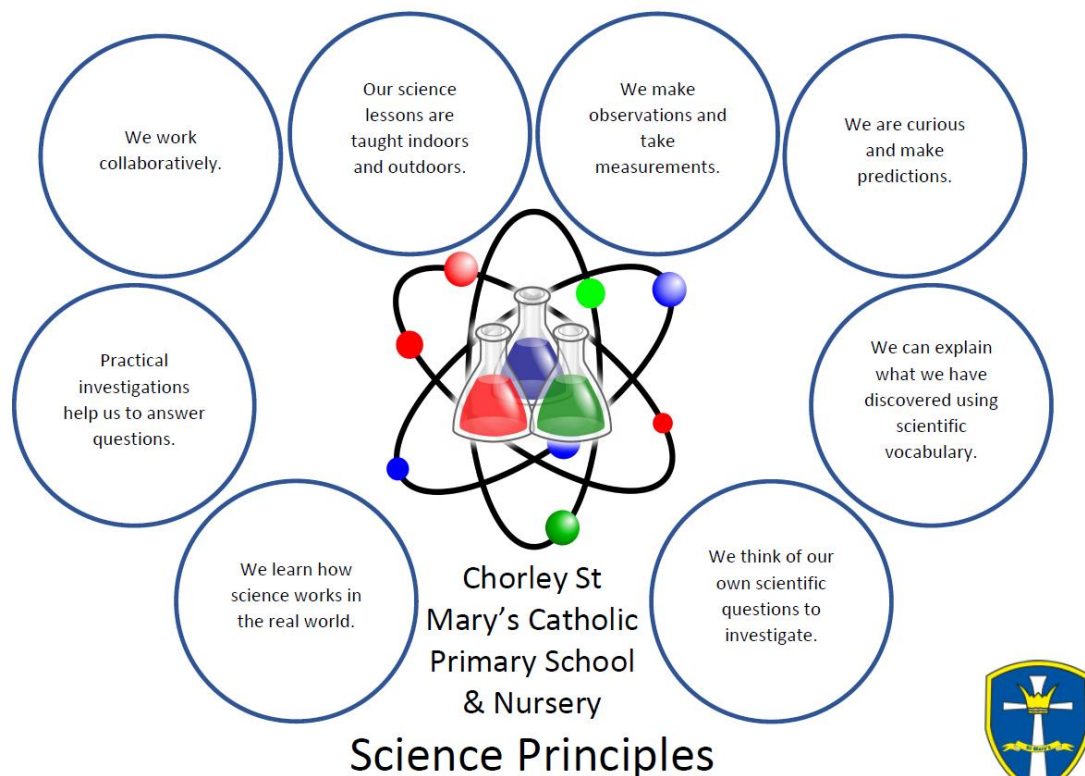
This year's programme of nasal flu vaccinations took place on Tuesday morning in school for children in Rec - Year 6 whose parents have opted for them to receive it. There will be a catch-up session next Friday for those who missed it.

Chorley Number 1 Food Club – Chorley SVP

Please see the poster attached to this newsletter from the Chorley SVP. The poster says - *Over 2 million tonnes of good food goes to landfill EACH YEAR... Join The Club! Help Divert That Food from Landfill! For £3 per week, you will receive up to £25 of food of your choice. Yes, you read that correctly.*

Message from Mrs Banwell, our science subject leader

The principles for learning science at St Mary's have been updated and Mrs Banwell has asked me to share them with you (see below).



2022 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY

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).****

Advert for Chorley Music Centre



Lancashire
Music Hub

Chorley Music Centre

When and where is Chorley Music Centre?

Southlands High School (PR7 2NJ), community entrance.

What's on?

Following a difficult time with restrictions, we are delighted to be able to start rehearsals for our ensembles again from Monday 22nd November 2021.

Timetable:

4:00 – 4:30	Choir
4:30 – 5:00	String-a-lings
4:30 – 5:00	African drumming Club
5:30 – 6:00	Ukulele Ensemble
6:00 – 6:30	Wind Band

All ensembles are open to musicians of any ability and rehearsals for all will take place in the drama studio at Southlands.

We are offering a free trial period until Christmas 2021.

For more details, contact Gemma Hannaford (Head of Centre) on 07887 830991

We can't wait to see you there!



Lancashire Cards for Kindness Campaign

The Cards for Kindness Christmas campaign will once again be running across Lancashire, Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and South Cumbria from Wednesday 1 December. Voluntary, community and faith groups across the area are invited to take part.

This campaign aims to tackle loneliness in our care homes by encouraging people to send a festive card to a local home to brighten up someone's day.

Cards for Kindness is now in its fourth year and each Christmas, community groups across the area send in fantastic cards and gifts that they've made to help brighten someone's day.

The theme for this year's campaign is *'What Warms Your Heart This Winter'*

There're plenty of opportunities for people to use their creativity and last year's activities ranged from fantastically designed cards made by adult learning groups to friendship rocks designed by Cub Scouts. There is a serious side too as campaigns like this help to tackle loneliness, which has the same effect on people's health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Opening the cards and discussing the messages also prompts conversations among residents and brings back memories, bringing many health benefits, particularly for people living with dementia.

To find out how Cards for Kindness works, visit: <https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/CardsForKindness>. Cards for Kindness is run by The Lancashire and South Cumbria Health and Care Partnership and Lancashire County Council, in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and South Cumbria councils.

We'd love to see and hear about your Cards for Kindness creations so we can use them on the media and in social media to help promote the scheme.

If you're happy to share photos, please send them to CardsforKindness@lancashire.gov.uk. Please send them by Wednesday 15 December stating you are happy for us to share your image.

Use of your photos

In sending your photo you are confirming that you do not object to the photograph of you being published by Lancashire County Council on its internet and intranet pages, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or being shared with the media. In doing so you acknowledge that images shared on social media are open to comment by the general public and may be circulated by third parties. If you change your mind about using the images please email to let us know, though please be aware that LCC will have limited ability to remove photographs shared through social media channels. Please view [LCC's Privacy Notice](#) for further information.

Messages from the school office 26.11.21:

Mrs Wilson has asked me to pass on the following:

- ❖ Christmas Raffle Tickets - thank you to all those who have purchased raffle tickets already, so far, over £450 has been raised. Tickets can be purchased through ParentPay, £1 per strip of tickets and for £5 you get 6 strips of tickets. All you need to do is decide how much you wish to spend, and we will automatically send any bonus tickets out with your order.
- ❖ Breakfast with Santa - a reminder regarding time slots and arrangements will be sent out, week commencing 29th November to all those who have booked slots. As mentioned last week, we are unable to accept any more bookings.

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.

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.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2020/2021

26.11.21



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 6	97.54
2 nd	YEAR 4	96.91
3 rd	YEAR 3	96.72
4 th	YEAR 2	96.68
5 th	YEAR 5	96.57
6 th	RECEPTION	96.30
7 th	YEAR 1	95.28

No classes had 100% attendance this week.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 26.11.21

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Evie	For super concentration with her phonics work and trying really hard.
YR	Hattie	For her amazing phonics work
Y1	Tommy	For his brilliant attitude to learning this week
Y2	Joseph Mc	Wonderful writing for Advent
Y3	Alice	A huge improvement with her Learn Its score in maths this week.
Y4	Declan	For his knowledge and enthusiasm during our history topic on The Tudors.
Y5	Nicolas	For his enthusiasm during our topic on Earth and Space.
Y6	Lucas	A great new chapter for The Wizard of Oz in the style of L Frank Baum

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 26.11.21