



# School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

26.02.21

**Dear parents/ carers,**

I hope children and parents enjoyed their rest from home learning during the half-term break. And I think we were all relieved earlier this week to learn that we will be welcoming all the children back into school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Risk assessment for school reopening to all pupils**

In terms of the risk assessment for the return on 8<sup>th</sup> March, the safety measures that we will have in place will be broadly the same as those we had in place in the autumn term. I will send out a letter next week to remind parents/ cares what those measure are.

### **Staffing news – Mrs Nicklin**

Mrs Nicklin, our Deputy Headteacher and Year 2 teacher, has been asked by the archdiocese to take on the role of acting headteacher at St Joseph's, Withnell for the summer term. She will take up that post from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. This is a fantastic opportunity for Mrs Nicklin and one from which she will gain a great deal of experience and expertise; she will use this to the advantage of St Mary's pupils on her return in September.

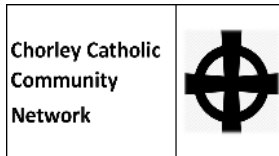
I realise that this news will greatly disappoint the Year 2 children and their parents but we will make sure that we have the best possible teacher in place for the children for their final term in Y2.

### **Food Provision Help and Support for Families – Chorley Borough Council**

I think we are all well aware of the huge pressures this pandemic has placed on many families' finances. Many Chorley families are suffering significant hardship. Bernie Heggarty, from Chorley Borough Council, has written to schools to ask us to signpost where people can access support in being able access food over the coming weeks and months. It gives details of providers in Chorley and contacts to whom referrals can be made. Please see attached.

**Lenten Challenge - *To eradicate Digital Poverty in Chorley by Easter Sunday –***

**A message from Paul MacBeth - Chorley Buddies**



Research by Chorley Borough Council says that there are still approximately 140 children who do not have a device upon which they can complete their schoolwork.

*Will you join us in accepting this Lenten Challenge?*

Chorley Catholic Community Network, Chorley Buddies and the Chorley United Reformed Church, with the support of Chorley Borough Council, are working with the Chorley Repair Café to try to help eradicate Digital Poverty in Chorley.

From Ash Wednesday onwards, we need your surplus laptops or tablets so that we can give them to the children who desperately need them. All personal data will be erased and all Covid safety measures will be in place before the devices are redistributed.

Please bring your surplus tablets and laptops to

- School – we can collect and quarantine at St Mary's school.
- Massa's Café Dessert Bar, 3 Cunliffe St, Chorley PR7 2BA
- Frederick's Ice Cream Parlour, Bolton Road, Chorley PR7 4AL
- Inspire The Youth Zone
- Or email [chorleybuddies@hotmail.com](mailto:chorleybuddies@hotmail.com) to arrange pick up.

**Together We Can Eradicate Digital Poverty By Easter Sunday!**

### **Mental health and wellbeing**

If you have concerns about your child's mental health or wellbeing during this period, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Please contact me or your child's class teacher, or any trusted adult within school.

Here are a couple of websites you may find useful in the meantime:


A comprehensive guide from the Government/ Public Health England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

NSPCC

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/april/supporting-children-young-people-mental-health>

## Stars of the week - w/e 26.02.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Brodie	Trying very hard with phonics and being very helpful.
YR	Ella	Amazing independent sentence writing.
Y1	Hannah	Her participation in class discussion and her independent writing in English this week.
Y2	Oscar	Fabulous mathematics.
Y3	Faith	Going above and beyond with her work on angles in maths this week.
Y4	Luca	His great work linked to Germany. He created a wonderful fact sheet.
Y5	River	Excellent participation this week and an amazing effort rapping in our music topic.
Y6	James	His alternative ending to the <i>Sherlock Holmes</i> story <i>The Speckled Band</i> .

## 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.

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.

Yarrow Teaching School  
Alliance  
Open Event:  
Tuesday 1st December 7pm



This Autumn, with face to face open evenings not possible, the Yarrow Teaching School Alliance invite you to a zoom open event. Have questions about our Initial Teacher Training Course answered, meet the team and see an Alliance school. email [a.hitchen@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:a.hitchen@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk) to RSVP and receive log in details

<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 26.02.21**