



School Newsletter

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

27.01.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're flying through 2020; in fact, we are halfway through the first half-term. The children are continuing to work hard and are making good progress. A number of children from different classes have been to see me to show me the work that they are rightly proud of last week. Charlotte in Year 4 showed me her advert for a new 'spy gadget' as part of her English work, another group of reception children came to show me their equally impressive writing. Mrs Gildea (parent) has been working with children across the school on creating the fantastic *Gratitude Tree* which is adorning the entrance to the hall. I was also pleased to receive a report from Mrs Nicklin and Miss Hesketh about the excellent behaviour and attitudes of the Y5 class during their dance work with Miss Moss from Holy Cross.

Year 5 Police Visit – Online Safety



Just as well Y5 were so well behaved, as we also welcomed two PCSOs from Chorley Police, who came to speak to the children about keeping safe online. They asked the children to reflect on the fact that it is just as daft for the children to expect that they should play on certain age-rated games as it is to walk into a pub and order a drink! The PCSOs left the class with a project to do over the coming weeks.

Safety warning

A member of staff reported to me that a local high school had issued a warning to parents following an incident involving one of their pupils recently. To find out a little more about this, I spoke to the police and it appears that a twelve-year-old girl had got off the bus in Euxton coming home from school and felt she was being followed by a black car with two young white males in. Her mother reported this to the police. Although the police did not send out an alert, I wanted to make you aware of this in case you've heard or read anything about it. I will speak to the Y6s on Tuesday to remind them to be aware of their safety, in a common-sense way, if walking home from school or anywhere alone, not to talk to strangers and to report anything if they see anything suspicious. I am sure that this what most parents tell their children.

CSSP Sports Hall Athletics

Mr Hodge took a very strong Y3/4 Sports Hall Athletics Team to Holy Cross School last Thursday after school. They competed in a mixture of indoor field and track events. These included vertical high jump, standing triple jump, standing long jump, javelin, chest ball push and a range of relay events on the track. Mr Hodge reported that the team of boys and girls performed very well and did themselves proud. Well done Y3/4 and thanks to Mr Hodge for taking them.



Intensive Swimming Lessons at Chorley Baths

Chorley Baths have asked us to publicise a swimming course over the upcoming half-term:

INTENSIVE SWIMMING LESSONS

We have aimed to make the lessons more specific to stages and more intensive!

17th - 21st February 2020

08:00 - Small Pool Stage 1

08:30 – Small Pool Stage 2

09:00 - Main Pool Stage 3

09:30 – Main Pool Stage 4

Maximum of 6 children per lesson!

Only £22.50 for the entire week!

National Storytelling Week

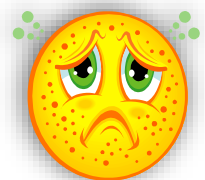


Our English subject leader, Miss Hesketh, has asked me to let you know that it's **National Storytelling Week (26 Jan – 2 Feb)**. This is a nationwide extravaganza of storytelling! And what better way to celebrate than to spend the week reading and sharing stories? Whether the story is from a written book, audiobook or even from memory, Storytelling Week is dedicated to celebrating all kinds of storytelling.

Teachers read to the children most days in school; sometimes it's a great way to the end the day for the children (and their teacher!) to become momentarily lost in the imaginary world of the story that's being read.

Health and Safety Reminder – sickness and/ or diarrhoea

This is the time of year when there are more bugs and germs around than usual. If your child does become ill with **sickness or diarrhoea**, the guidance for schools from Public Health England gives a minimum recommended absence from school of **48 hours**. This is to limit the spread of the bug around school. Thank you.





Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2019/2020



W/E 24/01/2020

CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	97.70
2 nd	YEAR 4	96.66
3 rd	YEAR 1	96.12
4 th	YEAR 2	95.79
5 th	RECEPTION	95.55
6 th	YEAR 6	95.26
7 th	YEAR 5	95.20

Star of the Week 24.01.20

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Lilah	Settling into Nursery so well and being so cheerful.
	YR	Penny	Fantastic independent writing!
	Y1	Hendrix	An excellent effort with writing.
	Y2	Charlie	Trying his hardest and always being motivated.
	Y3	Jaden	Much improved detail in his writing.
	Y4	Archie R	For his positive attitude towards persuasive writing
	Y5	Jacob	Excellent contributions during our non-fiction unit of work on space.
	Y6	Thomas	His maths golf activity!

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.

Notable Dates – To follow



Are you interested in training to become a primary school teacher? Have you considered school-based training?

Our school is part of the **Yarrow Teaching School Alliance** and is one of a growing number of schools that is leading the way for more school-led, school-based teacher training. As an alliance, we are committed to selecting the very best talent and developing that talent to produce outstanding teachers – teachers who will improve outcomes for our children in our local schools. For further details please contact the Director of Teaching Schools, Bernard Golding, b.golding@st-georgs.lancs.sch.uk In addition, visit the website www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk to find out more about what is on offer while for more general information on becoming a teacher, visit <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching> Twitter @YarrowTSA

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