



School Newsletter

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

28.01.21

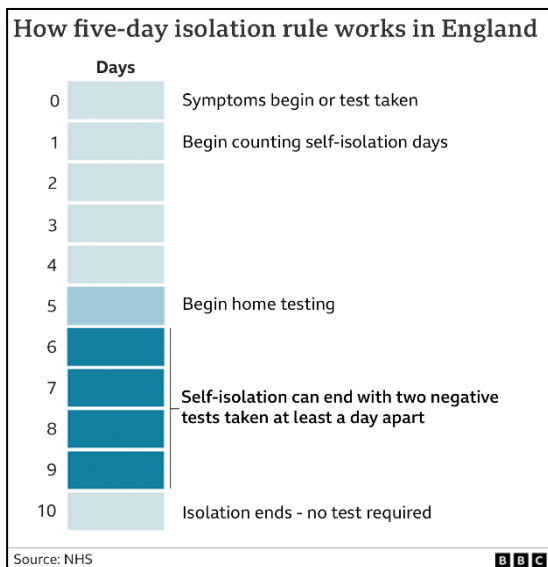
Dear Parents and Carers,

In the nearly four weeks since the return to school on the 4th January, we have had positive tests for 55 out of the 230 children (24%), 14 out of 38 staff (37%) and 7 out of 10 class teachers (70%). Everyone: children, staff, parents and helpers have pulled together to ensure, as much as possible, that the disruption to learning is at a minimum. Hopefully, we will begin to see the numbers tail off over the weeks before the half-term break.

COVID News

We are still above the threshold number of cases in Y4. For that reason, we ask that parents, of children in Y4 to test their children daily with LFD for the next seven days.

Self-isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19



Parking

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.
- 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*.

There's a phrase I have seen on signs outside another school which says simply ...

SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!

Things happening in school THIS week...

Let's Go Sing

Mrs Grandi and her singing group have been having fun, learning new songs and practising hard over the last few weeks and months ready to perform on stage in the not too distant future. During the week they had a session with a singing coach from Let's Go Sing who praised the staff and children on how well they sing, how well they have learned the material and how well they have practised – well done to them all!

Music Performance

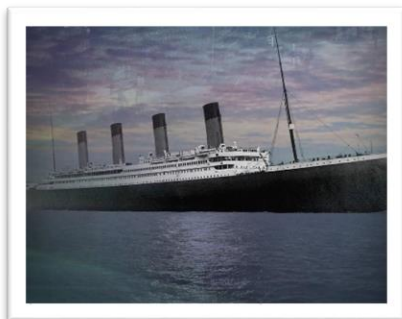
A number of children at St Mary's are learning musical instruments through the Lancashire Music Service. Some of them are having their performances recorded next week by their teacher. The recording will be shown in a couple of weeks in assembly for our young musicians to share their talents for the school to enjoy.

Money Matters

Children in Years 5 and 6 have continued to take part this week in Mr Souter's wonderful *Money Matters* programme. It gives the children a really solid foundation in learning about managing their finances.

Things happening in school NEXT week...

Y2 visit to Liverpool Maritime Museum



As part of the learning our Y2s have been doing about the *Titanic*, the class are visiting Liverpool Maritime Museum next week to take a look at the *Titanic* exhibition. Mrs Nicklin's class have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the doomed luxury liner this half-term and have become very knowledgeable about the story. They have produced some excellent pieces of writing from it. I am sure they will become even more expert after their visit next week.

World Inter-Faith Harmony Week

It was Holocaust Memorial Day on Thursday. One of the lessons to be learned from the horrors of the Holocaust is the importance of the tolerance and respect of each other's faiths and religions and another lesson is to prevent discrimination on the basis of religion. Next week is *World Inter-Faith Harmony Week* and as part of our RE studies we are being visited by Rehana from the Pendle Faith Centre to talk to the children about her faith, Islam.

National Themed Weeks

Miss Hesketh asked me to publicise some upcoming theme weeks, which may be of interest to you and the children. **National Storytelling week** – next week (Jan 29th – 4th Feb) & **Children's Mental Health week** (7th -13th Feb).

Unavoidable School Closures

Over the course of this term, the hours of daylight will lengthen and I think we can sense that happening already. Hopefully, it will begin to warm up a little bit too. However, in the unlikely event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

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 28.01.22

		
Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Joey G	For settling into Nursery class well this week
YR	Lilah	For being a great role model and helping others
Y1	Ella	Ella worked so hard in her Big Write this week to produce a clear story with accurate sentence work.
Y2	Poppy	fantastic effort all week with her work
Y3	Max	For continued excellence in Maths (work and answering questions) and focus in all lessons across the curriculum. .
Y4	All of Year 4	All the children at home and in class have all worked extremely hard this week, they have not let anything stop them from doing their best.
Y5	Owen	For an amazing poem about spring including figurative language.
Y6	Archie B	Great work on percentages including converting them into fractions and decimals.



**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2020/2021**



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 5	96.05
2nd	YEAR 2	95.48
3rd	YEAR 4	95.34
4th	YEAR 3	95.21
5th	YEAR 1	95.09
6th	RECEPTION	94.58
7th	YEAR 6	93.41

Still no class with 100%!

P Smyth 28.01.22
Headteacher