



School Newsletter

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

29.04.22

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the start of the summer term. I hope you all enjoyed a happy and holy Easter. The children returned to school on Monday refreshed and ready to go. It is a busy term ahead with a lot happening, not least some whole school learning based on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

St Mary's Museum of the decades of reign of Queen Elizabeth II

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to the children and families for lending us exhibits for the museum of the decades of the Queen's reign. Thank you especially to Mrs Grandi for organising the event and to her and Mrs Houghton for arranging the exhibits so beautifully.

There were some fascinating artefacts: football shirts and programmes, schoolbooks, vinyl records, Nokia phones from the 2000s, one of those ceramic brewery drays/ shire horses from the 70s, *Look-In* magazines, My Little Ponies and many, many more amazing objects, besides.

Children and adults alike enjoyed visiting the displays. It gave us all a sense the chronology and change over time; many of our younger children thought that the vinyl records were books! It also reminded us just how long our Queen has been doing her job,

St Mary's Little Church has started up again!

Just a reminder - after a long absence due to COVID Little Church started back again last week and it got off to a good start. It is on again every Sunday from now on.

What is Little Church?

"Little Church" is the "Liturgy of the Word for Children". Our Parish welcomes families and the full participation of young children in the celebration of the Mass. Since 1987, children at St Mary's have enjoyed their own Liturgy of the Word through 'Little Church' at the 10.00am Sunday Mass. There are two groups: 3-6 and 7-10 year olds.

We try to ensure that Children's Liturgy is an enjoyable experience for the children which helps develop their relationship with God. We discuss the Gospel of the day at a level the children can understand and enjoy. We enrich this with discussion, prayers, songs, and readings. We also try to

raise awareness of God's love, the humanity of Jesus, the Seasons of the Church, the understanding of symbols in the Mass and the context of the Bible.

The children gather in Church for the beginning of the Mass with their families and after a blessing from Father they go out to the activity rooms with the leaders and helpers.

We return to lead the offertory procession and join our families for the rest of Holy Mass.

'Let's Go Sing' at Ewood Park, home of Blackburn Rovers

After weeks and months of choir practice Mrs Grandi took the St Mary's singing club to Ewood Park to join over 4 000 primary children from schools across Lancashire. There were a huge number of proud family members and school staff in the stands too. The singing was beautiful and Mrs Grandi believes that the children saved their best work to last for the actual performance. The teachers (Mrs Grandi included) also had the opportunity to perform for the audience.

It was a late night due to the huge amount of traffic in the surrounding streets but this did not dim the enjoyment of all those involved. Well done to the children on their hard work and thank you to Mrs Grandi and Mrs Bradley for preparing them so well. Thank you also to Mrs Oldham, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Swarbrick for taking the children along and looking after them on their visit.

Check out the clip of Mrs Grandi being interviewed by BBC Radio Lancashire at about 1:10 mins 05 secs.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0bzpn9>

St Mary's school & nursery loves reading!

St Mary's school and nursery believe passionately in the importance of reading and in promoting a love of reading in the children. Miss Hesketh, our English leader in school, has been working hard to develop that love of reading still further with our children and staff.

Volunteer readers wanted!

One of the things, Miss Hesketh would like is for people in our community to come in and read to the children. We have learned over time that the children love to hear different people read to them - not just their teachers and teaching assistants. It could be a regular thing or a one-off.

Miss Hesketh - 'We want to feed that love of reading at St Mary's. We want children to hear other members of our community read to them - they are inspired when they hear others do this. Could you spare a small amount of time to become a reading volunteer at St Mary's? It could be reading to the whole class or reading to smaller groups with the teacher there. If you are someone who is passionate about helping children to develop a lifelong love of reading, then please contact Miss Hesketh for further details via the school office.'

Books for birthdays. Rather than sweets.

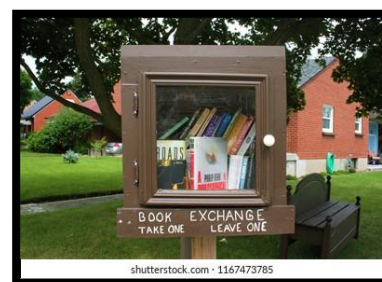
Celebrating children's birthdays in class with children's books, rather than bags of sweets, is something we would like to give a go in September. We thought that rather than buying sweets for the whole class to celebrate a child's birthday, children could donate a book on their birthday to the class library. Over time, this would really expand the book collection in each class with titles and authors we know the children really enjoy.

During the year, we have *Ebb & Flo* bookshop deliver gift-wrapped books to each class. You would not believe the excitement that causes even in the older classes! So it's something we know the children will enjoy.

In September, the class teacher could provide a list of suitable books for the parents and we could cross off titles from the list as the year progresses. We realise that this may be an expense too far for some, or that some would simply rather not do this so there is absolutely no obligation and it is, of course, completely voluntary. If you have any thoughts either for or against this idea, please let us know via the school office.

Book swap boxes – double glazed windows wanted!

We also want to create book swap boxes on the school grounds. You might have seen these around and about. Mr Cahalin has offered to build us a couple, so he has asked me to ask you, if you or if you of know of anyone, are replacing double glazed windows and have any spare old windows frames that are being thrown away. If you do, Mr Cahalin may be able to use them to build some 'book swap' boxes. If you can help, please let the school office know. Thank you.



Car Parking – Pick up and Drop off

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. Signs are now in place there.
- 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*.

SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!

St Mary's School has been at Hornchurch Drive for forty years – share your memories! – A message from Mr Hodge

To the wider school community on our 40th Anniversary of the school site,

- *Did you attend St. Mary's School in the past?*

- *Do you know someone who did?*
- *Was it at our current site or next to the church at Mount Pleasant?*

If you did, no matter how long ago it was, please do share those memories with us...

In order to collate the memories and mark this special occasion, we have set up an e-mail address where you can send photographs, typed memories, achievements etc, etc, about your time at St. Mary's. Mr Hodge will then collate everything and share these memories as part of our celebration in the Summer Term.

The address is memories@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk

You may know an older parishioners for whom sending an e-mail doesn't suit them? Could you ask them to write something down and you submit the details on their behalf? Do they have any old photographs? Any old certificates? Anything and everything is welcomed.

We look forward to looking at your memories and sharing them with you in due course.

DEADLINE – Friday 13th May 2022

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

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 29.04.22

|  | Class | Name | Star of the Week for ... |
|---|-------|----------|--|
| | YN | Rory D | joining in and following instructions |
| | YR | Ruby | super writing in phonics |
| | Y1 | CiCi | CiCi has settled into the Y1 routine seamlessly – it is lovely to have her back in school! |
| | Y2 | Sam | excellent working in reading and comprehension |
| | Y3 | Harrison | super work on his maths this week looking at fractions and decimals. |
| | Y4 | Betsy | her wonderful score and effort on her reading comprehension |
| | Y5 | Millie | great participation in our first week linked to the <i>Platinum Jubilee</i> . |
| | Y6 | Isla | hard work and great improvement in her mathematics. |

Sports News

Invasion games festival – A big thank you to Mr Hodge for taking Y5 and Y6 children to the CSSP Invasion games festival this week. They had a tremendous time. Mr Hodge said that their behaviour and attitude was excellent as always.

Mr McVittie is leaving!

Mr McVittie has left his post as coach for the CSSP. He has worked at St Mary's teaching PE to our juniors for the last 5 or 6 and has become a highly valued member of our team. He has worked so hard and so well with our children and inspired many to have a love for sport and PE. Thank you Mr McVittie and we wish you all the best in your new career.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2021/2022 29.04.22



| CURRENT POSITION | CLASS | CURRENT % |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 st | YEAR 3 | 95.95 |
| 2 nd | YEAR 2 | 95.76 |
| 3 rd | YEAR 5 | 95.69 |
| 4 th | YEAR 1 | 95.63 |
| 5 th | YEAR 4 | 95.61 |
| 6 th | RECEPTION | 94.61 |
| 7 th | YEAR 6 | 93.26 |

No 100% attendance this week.

Yarrow Schools Teaching Alliance

YSA
Yarrow School
Alliance

New Year, new challenge
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email
r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk for more information

Happy Easter!

P Smyth, Headteacher 29.04.22