



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

02.10.20

Dear parents/ carers,

Harvest Assembly



Next Wednesday, we will be celebrating a harvest assembly in school, on Zoom, as we have been doing with all of our assemblies recently. This will be in place of our annual Harvest Mass. While we give thanks for the food we have each day, we know that many people in our community will be struggling to put food on their tables and some of the elderly will be worried about going out to fetch their shopping during the current pandemic.

Therefore, we would still like to ask our families for donations of food if that is possible.

We would be very grateful for donations of tinned and packet foods rather than fresh fruit and vegetables (avoiding possibility of perishables going to waste). It is probably best if donations are left in plastic bags this year, rather than boxed up as we cannot ask families to deliver to neighbours. The bags can be left in the space marked out on the staff car park on Wednesday morning. I will take them up to Living Waters food bank. Many thanks.

A Message from Paul McBeth of Chorley Buddies – A request for volunteer drivers

Hi,

Chorley Buddies has been busy over the last few months, with our Phone Buddy, Shopping Buddy and Activity Buddy services. In conjunction with St Gregory's Parish, we have distributed approx. £5,000 to approx. 100 families and 250 children in Chorley to help feed them through the summer. In conjunction with Living Waters Storehouse (the Foodbank) we have also helped to delivery many emergency food parcels to needy families who cannot get to the Storehouse themselves.

We have also offered to support the Food Club in Clayton Brook, helping to deliver food parcels to those who cannot get in to collect them themselves. Yesterday, I delivered one of these parcels to a family who had no food in the house and had three children to feed. It's shocking to know that, in this day and age, there is still this level of food poverty in Chorley. Of course, COVID hasn't helped, with many families now suffering from lose of wages etc.

To make sure that we can sustain the service to the Food Club in Clayton, we need a couple of volunteer drivers who would be willing to stand in for the main driver when he is unable to do the deliveries.

You would be required to turn up at the Village Hall, Clayton le Woods, PR58HL, at 1pm on a Monday, pick up the parcels (perhaps 4 or 5) and deliver them to the addresses given. You would not be expected to take the shopping into anyone's house, and can leave the parcel at the door of the house, ring the bell and withdraw a safe distance and let the client take the food parcels into their home.

Please help us to help others.

Paul J McBeth chorleypastoralareasyod2020@hotmail.com

Good luck Mr Hodge and family

Mr Hodge and family members are embarking on a mammoth 26-mile walk this weekend in a virtual London Marathon to help raise funds for the **Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases (MPS Society)**. We wish them all the very best of luck and we ask Y3s to look after Mr Hodge on Monday; he might be a bit sore and achy. Mrs McGeown has volunteered to have a bucket of warm water on hand for him to soak his feet.

Virtual Open Evening

I was originally planning to do a Zoom Open Evening next Thursday but having investigated this approach further, I have found it is not practical especially in terms managing its security e.g. in sharing meeting id and passwords. So instead, I will put together a presentation, which should be available on the website by the end of next week.

Parents' Evening - Tuesday 20th October

Just to confirm, we are going ahead with our autumn term parents' evening. **It will now not take place not by Zoom or the phone; it will actually take place via our online parents' evening booking system** that we have used for the last few years. It is a video conference piece of software, a bit like Zoom or MS Teams.

Just to let you know, the sessions are timed for a maximum of five minutes (there is a timer visible in the screen). At the end of the five minutes, the session times out to allow the next parent to begin their meeting. Mrs Wilson is sending out details today of how to book and how to use the software; there are video tutorials available. The booking system will become live from Monday next week.

We have found, in the past, that these early parents' meetings are an opportunity to find out how well children are settling into their new year groups. You might already know that through other channels of communication. Therefore, please do not feel an obligation to book a meeting although of course, you are more than welcome to. Some parents/ carers prefer to wait for a more in-depth consultation in the spring term. The spring term parents' evening will take place over two evenings and will last up to 10 minutes to allow for a more in-depth conversation.

Coats and Jumpers

For St Mary's, measures such as: children remaining in bubbles, children and staff staying off school if they or household members have COVID symptoms, regular hand washing, good cleaning regime,

social distancing, staff with face masks are all helping to keep us as safe as possible from COVID. Another very important measure is **good ventilation and fresh air.**

Last week in the newsletter, I mentioned the **importance of children bringing their jumpers** into school to keep warm in class, as we need to keep windows and doors open for good ventilation, in our attempts to keep COVID-19 at bay. As the weather gets colder, children might also be advised to wear vests if you think that appropriate. We will have the heating on but we will need to keep doors and windows open – so it will unfortunately be draughty and chilly!



We also need to make sure children have good **waterproof coats** with them. We want children outside at break times and lunch times and we want them outside as much as possible when doing PE - even if it is raining! Obviously, if the rain is torrential, we will have to stay indoors. Mrs Wilson is investing in some plastic ponchos from Amazon for about £1 each if that is something parents would be interested in.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2020/2021 w/e 02.10.20



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 1	99.18
2 nd	YEAR 3	98.95
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.37
4 th	RECEPTION	97.90
5 th	YEAR 5	97.73
6 th	YEAR 4	96.73
7 th	YEAR 6	95.06

Mrs Hargreaves has got our attendance league going again and you can see that Year 1 are doing very well indeed. **They even managed 100% this week. Congratulations Year 1**

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the first ten children in Year 5 who received their First Holy Communion last weekend at Church. Although, it was not the same as the whole class celebrating together, Father Marsden, the Family Catechesis team and the children's families made sure that the occasion remained a very special one for the children involved.

Ten more children from the current Year 5 class will be receiving their First Holy Communion on the Saturday and Sunday Masses at St Mary's this weekend. We wish them all the very best on their special occasion. Kinga has asked me to remind the families that everyone over the age of 11 must wear a mask in church. Also, they need to follow the *Track and Trace* instruction by providing their names and contact numbers. It would be a good idea if each family had this already prepared when they come to church and hand the paper in to the steward to save time. And a reminder that there are no toilet facilities available at Church at present.

Sacramental Preparation Classes 2020/ 2021

Whilst the sacramental programme for last year's Y4s has not quite finished yet, Kinga Gray-Grzeczynska has already started the sacramental programme for the new Y4s. For obvious reasons, this could not take place at Church in the same way it has in previous years. So, Kinga came in on Wednesday afternoon this week to deliver the introductory session and will revisit every fortnight to help prepare them to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist during the course of this academic year. We are very grateful to her for agreeing to give up her time to do this.

Remote Learning or Blended Learning

You will have no doubt heard about year groups in different schools being required to self-isolate for two weeks due to positive test results in those cohorts - you may even have experienced this yourselves in your own families with siblings or relations at other schools.

You will want to know what we plan to do if, and when, this happens at St Mary's. Our plans are these:

- ✓ In the event of a year group having to self-isolate, our teachers have prepared two days' worth of learning for children to be doing. This will allow the class teacher to prepare work for the remaining twelve or so days. Our plan is to keep the teaching and learning going as near as is possible to what it would be like if the children were in school.
- ✓ You will all have received the half-termly curriculum newsletter.
- ✓ Weekly plans will be sent home at the start of each week of the isolation period. A plan of each day's learning will also be sent home.
- ✓ Video introductions to lessons will be given, where required.
- ✓ There will be a daily Zoom check in with the class teacher and opportunities for communication between school and home.
- ✓ Our principal platforms for the delivery of teaching and learning will be Tapestry for the Nursery and Reception classes, and SeeSaw for Y1 – Y6.
- ✓ Teachers will also be providing work for children who are self-isolating even though they have no symptoms e.g. a family member has symptoms and is awaiting a test result.

channels of communication. There is no obligation for you to book a meeting. Some parents/ carers prefer to wait for a more in-depth consultation in the spring term. The spring term parents' evening will take place over two evenings and last up to 10 minutes .

2021 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

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 2020 is 15 January 2021.

****Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF).****

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary 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 secondary applications for September 2020 is 31 October 2020.

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

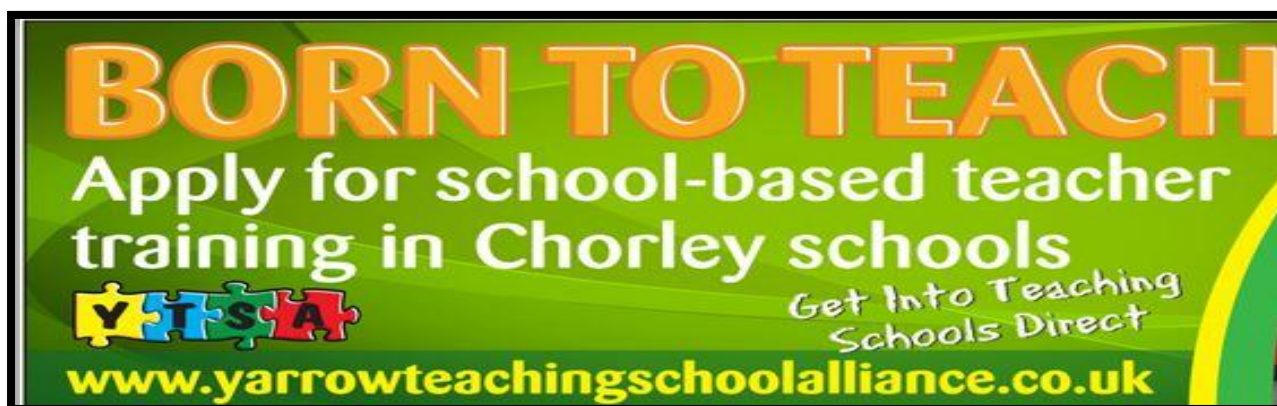
Free milk If you receive benefits, your child could also get free milk. Contact us to find out what arrangements we make for school milk.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 02.10.20

			
Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...	
YN	Charlie H	For having a fantastic week in nursery!	
YR	Alexia	For an amazing painting of a tractor – so much care taken and she included lots of detail	
Y1	Jacob W	For excellent sentence work in English and accurate addition in Maths.	
Y2	Jonathan	For possibly being the next David Attenborough going off the standard of his Science work at home and school about habitats and the Arctic.	
Y3	Harriet W	A great start to Year 3.	
Y4	Norah	For writing a wonderful magazine article based on the Loch Ness Monster	
Y5	Macey	For her enthusiasm to learn, particularly in reading and maths.	
Y6	Joe T	Great Be-Attitudes in our Come and See Work	

A message from the Yarrow Teaching School - Alliance Open Event – Autumn Term 2020

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. **Our Zoom open event is on Tuesday 10th November – flyer with newsletter.**



<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 02.10.20