



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

30.04.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Two school closure days next week

We are well into the summer term now and the children have settled well into the normal school routines. Just to note next week is going to be a little bit bitty. We are **closed on Monday 3 May** for the bank holiday and we are **closed again on Thursday 6 May** for teacher INSET as the school and nursery are being used as a polling station for local elections.

Walk to School initiative

We are taking part in an initiative with a charity called 'Living Streets' to encourage children, parents and carers to walk to school. The ambition of the charity is:

WE HAVE A BIG AMBITION: EVERY CHILD THAT CAN, WALKS TO SCHOOL - A generation ago, 70% of us walked to school – now it's less than half. We want to reverse this decline. We want children to be energised and empowered, and to make walking to school their natural choice. And we know just how to do it.

Week beginning 17 May is the charity's annual Walk to School Week. You can find more about this on their website:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school>

The Big Ask



All children up and down England have been asked to share their thoughts and opinions in a nationwide survey. Let us try and ensure that every child at St Mary's has their voice heard!



Hi, my name is Rachel de Souza and I'm the Children's Commissioner for England. My job is to speak up for children in England, stand up for their rights, and make sure that the people in power listen to what children need and want.

It's time to give something big back to young people like you after COVID — and we need your help to do it.

This is the largest ever survey of children and young people in England. We'll use what you tell us to show the government what you think, and what children need to live happier lives.

This survey will only take you 5-10 minutes.



Teachers will share this information again on Class Dojo and we will do an assembly about this together next Wednesday morning. The survey will close on 19th May. If your child cannot access the internet to do the survey at home, let us know and we will give them the opportunity to do it here in school. Use this link to access the survey: https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/?utm_source=dynamics&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tba-school-initial&msdyntrid=SKij_gRp_LDoRwGx4bdgOumQVnfWOOexY373-JHbX4k

Holy Cross High School Competition Winner – St Mary's pupil

Congratulations to Macey in Year 5. She designed a beautiful Easter garden to enter into an Easter competition at Holy Cross. Macey won a chocolate Easter egg and a smart certificate for efforts. Well done Macey!

Half-term activities

The Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) are delivering a half-term holiday sports camp at St Peter's school in the summer half-term break. It is four weeks off yet but you may be interested. There will be a huge variety of games and sports to keep children fit, active, engaged and most importantly having fun throughout the holiday period. Each day will range from football to rounders, Basketball to athletics, dodgeball to netball and so much more! Please see the attached leaflet for details.

Messages from the school office

Mrs Hargreaves has asked me to remind parents/ carers to settle their Parentpay accounts by the end of April.

Payment items outstanding include

- Summer Term Toast
- Uniform
- Lunches
- Extended Day

- Nursery Fees

Many thanks.

School Newspaper

Mrs Singleton, our Reception teacher and school SENDCO, is working with some children in Year 5 to produce St Mary's very own school newspaper. Mrs Singleton says that they are a very motivated bunch. Keep an eye out! They have asked me to put this letter in this week's newsletter:

Dear all Parents and Guardians,

We would like to inform you of the upcoming school newspaper which is called **St. Mary's Mail**. This is going to be written by the St Mary's press gang (some year 5 students). This newspaper will include the following:

- Global news written by Matthew S and Harry
- Upcoming events in our school written by Akeyo, Chloe, Melodie , and Isla
- Sports page written by Adam, Lucas, Archie and Dylan
- Nature and eco schools page written by Sienna and Amelie
- Mental health page Written by Jessica and Iris
- Debate page written by Eleanor and Charlotte E
- Competitions and quizzes/games.

Our newspaper will be very informative and will notify your children about events. The newspaper will help people learn more about what St Marys Catholic Primary School is and what they aim to achieve.

It is written by the children, for the children!

We hope you and your child enjoys reading this newspaper,

Yours sincerely,

The Editorial team

Adam, Lucas, Charlotte and Eleanor.



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>

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	99.22
2 nd	YEAR 1	99.08
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.86
4 th	RECEPTION	98.68
5 th	YEAR 4	98.35
6 th	YEAR 6	96.99
7 th	YEAR 5	96.68


W/E 30/04/2021 No **100%** this week!

Lancashire School Games - Resources



We have been asked to share this with you: on Monday 12th April the new Lancashire School Games website went live. Resources are available for schools and families to use for activities, competitions, PE etc. Have a look around here; <https://www.lancshireschoolgames.co.uk/> The team have also released a video (aimed at Primary) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-mb6ualGgg>

Stars of the week - w/e 30.04.21



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Keeley	An excellent week in Nursery; working enthusiastically in everything she does.
YR	Luke S	Showing great resilience with his reading and not giving up when he found challenges.
Y1	Noah	For his improved independence and determination to succeed this week.
Y2	Max	Fabulous alliteration work in English
Y3	Declan	For taking more care, effort and attention with the presentation of his work.
Y4	Annabelle	For her participation in maths lessons this week. Annabelle has enthusiastically joined in sharing her answers and ideas.
Y5	Charley B	For her enthusiasm in our work on Oliver Twist.
Y6	Harriet & Jake	For great flashback stories using descriptive and figurative language.

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 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 30.04.21**