



# School Newsletter

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

31.01.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Pupil Questionnaire

Back in November 2019, we asked parents to take part in a parental questionnaire. Now it's the pupils' turn. We are asking you if you could spare 5-10 minutes over the next week to assist your child(ren) in completing the online pupil attitude questionnaire. You will find it on the school website [www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk) under the Pupils tab. The deadline for completion is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. These surveys really do help us, as we try and improve the school for the children, parents, staff, parish and community. Scroll down to the questionnaire and complete on line.

It can also be accessed by this link <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/pupilzone> . Many thanks.

## British Council 'Connecting Classrooms' Programme



At St. Mary's we believe that with the ever changing nature of our world as we know it, socially, economically and environmentally, it's vital that young citizens know their place in the world.

We intend to promote children's interest and understanding about diverse places, people and environments as they develop into active global citizens.

Teaching pupils about global issues is imperative and therefore Mrs Nicklin has recently enabled Chorley St Mary's School to form a link with **Kwa Njema Primary School in Nairobi, Kenya** as part of the British Council *Connecting Classrooms* Programme. This programme is taking place in partnership with two other local Chorley Primary Schools.



As part of the project, our Eco-council, alongside some St Mary's International School Ambassadors, will be leading activities across the whole school based on

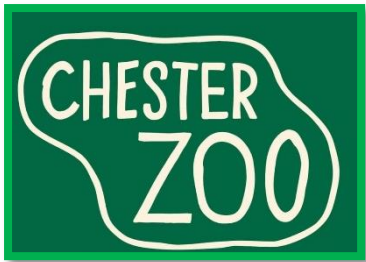
understand issues of worldwide importance allowing pupils to gain a sense of social responsibility and develop skills to succeed in a global economy.

Their first project will be linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goal 13 – *Climate Change*. The whole school have also taken part in letter writing and artwork based on what their lives are like here for the children in Nairobi to learn more about us.

Later this year, in June, Mrs Nicklin (alongside some other Chorley Deputy Heads) will be representing St Mary's and visiting **Kwa Njema Primary School** in Nairobi for a week to work in their school. Whilst she is there, she intends to blog about what life is like there for the children, provide lessons for both children and teachers and even try to Skype call our children back at St Mary's!

Following on from this, for a week in **November 2020**, it is hoped that the Kenyan teachers will come to visit and teach here at St Mary's and the other Chorley Schools. It is hoped that this partnership will enrich education, promote global citizenship and build international trust and understanding in both schools and societies therefore creating a safer and more connected world for our children's future.

#### Trip to Chester Zoo – 27<sup>th</sup> February



Mrs Nicklin has arranged for all the children of Chorley St Marys from Reception to Year 6, to visit Chester Zoo on Thursday 27th February - a visit which will inspire lifelong connections with nature and will help our society move towards a more sustainable future. The children will be immersed in active scientific and geographical learning opportunities such as: conservation, the location of animals, their survival and habitats.

"With one million species fighting extinction worldwide, every one of us needs to act for wildlife. We absolutely know it's not too late to solve this crisis. We can help prevent extinction right now in our gardens and in the way we live our lives. Young people can inspire us; they can drive change in our society."



Chester Zoo have provided us with **free tickets** and the PTFA have agreed to fund the cost of the coaches. Thank you PTFA! Mrs Wilson will be sending a letter out next week with more details about the trip.



#### SYNOD 2020 NEWS

**Mr Hodge has asked me to publicise the next SYNOD 2020 meetings. See poster at the end of this newsletter.**

## EYFS request for help!

Our Nursery and Reception staff have issued a request for help. Does anybody have any spare planks of wood (strips of decking is ideal), soil or compost, gravel or astro turf that they wouldn't mind donating to help the staff enrich the outdoor learning environment for the little ones.

## Bag2School



We are holding a **Bag2School** collection on school on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**. Do you have any unwanted, grown – out - of clothes you wish to donate to the collection? You can leave them on the school car park (the very top car-parking space by the bins) Bags to School will collect them and make a donation to school.

*Bags 2 Schools is a free fundraising scheme, established in 1999, for anyone wanting to raise funds using a resource EVERYONE has got in their wardrobe – unwanted clothes. We work in partnership with Schools, Businesses, Community Groups, Local Councils and Charities to help them raise funds from your donations. We operate throughout the UK; collecting and selling your unwanted textiles to importers and wholesalers in many countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia. All to benefit the Circular Economy.*

## 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!

**17<sup>th</sup> - 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!**

## 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.



## Parking

I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not park on the staff carpark**, the **yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. Thank you.



## School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. For the safety of the children **please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance**. This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.



## Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2019/2020 W/E 31/01/2020



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 3	97.77
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 4	96.83
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 1	96.03
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 2	96.01
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	95.38
6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	95.28
7 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	95.22



Well done to **Y2 and Y4** classes who both recorded **100% attendance** this week!

## Star of the Week 31.01.20

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Ariana	For being more confident and making new friends
YR	Charlie W	Amazing independent writing – super use of phonics
Y1	Ellie H	Reading with fluency and understanding.
Y2	Teddy	Some excellent independent writing this week.
Y3	Ethan	Such a huge improvement in his <i>Big Maths – Learn It</i> scores.
Y4	Archie	Applying himself extremely well in maths and approaching new concepts in a positive manner.
Y5	Zachary	Excellent research on planets for his explanation text.
Y6	Phoebe	Her retelling of Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i>

## 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](mailto:b.golding@st-georgs.lancs.sch.uk) In addition, visit the website [www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk](http://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

**31.01.20**





# Theme 4

## Building Community, Nurturing Belonging

- How do we ensure our parishes are **inclusive**?
  - How do we hand on our **faith**?
- How can we support **the home, school, parish partnership**?
  - How do we reach out to those who feel **excluded**, on the margins, weak, or vulnerable?
  - How do our parishes **grow in love** for God and neighbour?
    - **How could parishes work together?**

***Come and Have Your Say! –  
You Will Be Listened To!***

Themes	St Chad's Social Club	St Mary's Social Club	Sacred Heart Primary
<b>Building Community, Nurturing Belonging</b>	Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February Main Room 7.30pm	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February Upstairs Rooms 7.30pm	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm