



School Newsletter

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

03.12.21

Dear parents/ carers,

'80 trees for 80 years' Tree Planting to commemorate 80 years of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR).



One of our Governors, Kinga Grzeczynska, who many of you will know, asked me earlier in the year if we would like her to offer our school as a site for the planting of a commemorative native oak tree by the Association of Jewish Refugees. It was therefore an honour and a privilege for our school to learn that we had been selected as one of those eighty sites.

The simple, but meaningful, tree planting ceremony took place on Monday this week. Our Y6 class were joined by: the Mayor of Chorley, Councillor Steve Holgate, the Mayoress, Emma Adlam, the Leader of Chorley Borough Council, Councillor Alistair Bradley, Fr. Crowther and Jane Gilbertson from St Joseph's Withnell, Sara Dietz from the AJR along with school governors, Kath Smith, Margaret Rogerson and Kinga Grzeczynska. Kinga and a Y6 pupil, George, planted the tree, while other members of the class read some passages as part of the ceremony. We thank all our guests for their time on what proved to be a very chilly but poignant November morning.



its various forms including anti-Semitism and the need for us all to stand up against it.

70 000 Jewish people including 10 000 children escaped Nazi Europe to seek refuge in the United Kingdom immediately prior to and during the war years. A number came to Lancashire. The planting of the tree serves a few purposes. It serves to remind us of the horror of the Holocaust and the need for us to teach the children about the evils of discrimination in



It serves as a reminder of those children and families who arrived in the UK, in many cases, with nothing but clothes they were wearing, who over the last eighty years have made such a positive contribution to British society.

The planting of the tree also forms part of the *'Plant a tree for the Jubilee'* programme to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth. Our tree was sponsored by Mrs Sue Neale and is in memoriam of Frederika Rosmarin who arrived in the UK in 1938 from Austria.

I would also like to say a special thank you to our new site supervisor, Mark Farnworth, who prepared the site, dug the hole, planted the stake, provided the compost and the expert horticultural advice.



COVID - update

We currently have 12 cases in school. There are currently no cases in nursery, one in reception, none in Y1, two in Y2, one in Y3, none in Y4, two in Year 5 and six cases in Year 6.

Thank you parents/ carers for your support in arranging tests when asked to. This has picked up positive cases that are asymptomatic and therefore has helped contain the spread of the virus in the building. When I spoke with LCC COVID Outbreak Management team this week, I was told that it has been shown in LCC schools that the best way of keeping positive cases down is regular LFD testing.

Therefore, if you are contacted by the office to arrange tests for your children, I would be very grateful if you could get those done. Last week we reached a threshold of cases in Y2 and Y5 and this week we reached a threshold in Y6. **It would be very helpful if parents would continue to test children daily with LFD tests in Y6, in particular, for any asymptomatic cases. Thank you.**

Below is a reminder of the measures we are taking as a result of recent consultation with Lancashire public health.

Testing

1. Routine LFD testing, **twice weekly**, is strongly encouraged across school and families to identify asymptomatic cases. As you know, test kits are widely available for free. Please contact school office if unsure where.
2. We are asking all staff and children in classes where there has been a positive case to take a PCR test.

3. NEW: We are now asking children and staff in classes where the threshold has been reached (i.e. Y2 and Y5) to take **daily** LFD tests, in addition.
4. We are asking all members of households where there has been a positive case to take a PCR test.
5. NEW: We are also asking for **daily** LFD testing of all those in households where there has been a positive case.
6. Children and staff who show symptoms of COVID-19 should not be in school until well. If a negative PCR is obtained then they can return when well. If positive, they can return on the 11th day after symptoms started. Please check with the office if unsure.

Symptoms

The main symptoms are:

a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

As you will understand, in order to minimise the chance of a wider outbreak, we are taking no chances with coughs, at the moment, even though we are aware that in most cases they will most likely be normal winter bugs.

Please do not send your child in with a cough as described above and if they are sent home because of a cough, please arrange for them to have a PCR test. My apologies for the inconvenience I know this causes and please bear with us.

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Ventilation

7. We are maximising ventilation in classrooms and around the building. We have CO2 monitors in each classroom and staff are using these to ensure that there is a good flow of air. We have been using these for about a week; they show that ventilation in classrooms is actually very good. As doors and windows will probably be open during much of the school day, I would like to remind you that children may bring warm jumpers to wear over their uniforms in class.
8. If we can do certain activities outside, we are.

Groups mixing

9. Since September there has been minimal mixing across year groups – just in small phonics groups and Breakfast and After School Club. For now, we have returned to smaller groups in Breakfast Club and After School Club as we did last year e.g. YN & YR, Y1 & Y2, Y&Y4 and Y5&Y6.
10. Our gatherings and assemblies remain online.

Cleaning

11. Regular daily cleaning is taking place including focusing on touch points and shared equipment.

Living Waters Christmas Food Donation – Tins of Meat/ Selection Boxes – Tuesday 14 December

When I took your harvest festival donations to the Living Waters Food Bank in Chorley in October, I asked the volunteers whether they would now have enough food items in stock for Christmas. They told me that they would be in desperate need of tins of meat in the run-up to Christmas.

I called them today to see if this was still the case and they told me that they would really appreciate donations of things like tins of hot dogs and sweet treats like selection boxes. If you would like to donate, you can drop off items in the car park on the morning of Tuesday 14 December and I will load straight into the car and take them up to Living Waters. Thank you very much.

Visit to Lowry Theatre – *The Stick Man*

All being well, the nursery, reception, Y1 and Y2 classes are going to the Lowry Theatre in Salford next Wednesday afternoon to watch a performance of the Stick Man. We have taken advice from the appropriate agencies in making visit as COVID secure as possible. There is a separate letter going out to parents and volunteers about that visit tonight, with more detail on the COVID-safe measures we are taking.

Christmas Performances

The children in the infant classes and nursery have been recording their Christmas performances. The teachers seem pleased with the outcomes – parents will be able to access the videos soon! A separate note is going out to parents to explain how.

Christmas Joy Toy Appeal – Toy Collection next Friday 10th December

Christmas Joy New Toy Appeal – A message from SVP Chorley Buddies



**Christmas Joy
Project**

As part of The Christmas Joy Project, co-ordinated by Chorley Council, the Catholic Community in Chorley, have been invited to donate new toys for distribution to families in Chorley.

If you want to donate new toys, then please just bring them into St Mary's school & nursery unwrapped on **Friday 10th December**.

The toys will be taken to St Laurence's for storage and distribution by Chorley Council to families who might need some help this Christmas.

**And thank you for bringing some Joy into people's lives this
Christmas!**

If you bring the toys in plastic bags, I can load straight into my car on the Friday morning and take them to St Laurence's. Thank you.

Governor Vacancies

If you or anyone you know would be interested in the role of Governor at St Mary's, even if you have expressed an interest before, please contact me at school for an informal chat and I also can put you

in touch with the Chair of Governors, Kath Smith who may be able to answer some of your questions. It is a very strong and very experienced group who are committed in its support of the school and in wanting to drive it forward. Here are the thoughts of a couple of current governors on how they view the role.

Kath Smith, Chair of Governors

Every pupil deserves the best education we can provide to ensure they reach their full potential. I became a governor when my children were pupils, as I believe that parents have a valuable perspective on teaching and learning. Being a governor and part of a committed team that is working to improve the life chances of our children is both exciting and rewarding.

Kinga-Grzeczynska

Being a governor at St Mary's Primary School & Nursery is very rewarding. You are part of a team of Governors who meet regularly to discuss every aspect of governance of the school, the strengths and future development and progress of the academic year in each class and you are able to share in the achievements of the children and staff. It is an undertaking of committing your time and professional knowledge in assisting the Headteacher to produce high results, which enable the school to be judged by external examiners as having excellent standards in education and pupil development and a happy team of excellent teachers.

Below is from the LCC web page on school governance:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/become-a-school-governor/>

Become a school governor

School governors are volunteers who work together with the headteacher, the archdiocese and the local authority to improve education and other outcomes for all pupils.

You could become a school governor if you are aged 18 or over and:

- Want to make a positive difference to the education of local children
- Can get on with other people and work as part of a team
- Have some time to spare to attend meetings and to read necessary papers
- Are ready to learn and open to new ideas
- Are willing to put something into your local community
- You don't need any formal qualifications, you'll get full training and support to make sure you are fully equipped to carry out the role successfully.

What we expect from governors

Effective governors do not need educational expertise but do need to be committed to their school, willing to ask questions and act as a critical friend. They also need to be able to work as an enthusiastic member of the governing body team.

You do not need specialist knowledge or training to become a governor. It is your lay and community experiences that the governing body requires. However you will become knowledgeable by being a governor and this can help you to participate more fully in your local community or even open up opportunities for you personally, for example involvement in a Parents Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA), voluntary work within school or an awareness of new employment opportunities.

Realistically, as a school governor, you will need to attend one full governing body meeting each term. You will also be asked to serve on at least one committee which will probably meet once or occasionally twice a term. So, that is about two or three meetings per term maximum.

You will need to get to know your school well (if you don't already) preferably by visiting when the school is in session and the pupils are in school. However this may not always be possible and some governors keep in touch with school life through after school events such as fundraising or charity events, Parents Teachers and Friends Association meetings, sports days, school parties and holidays.

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) Christmas Sports Camp

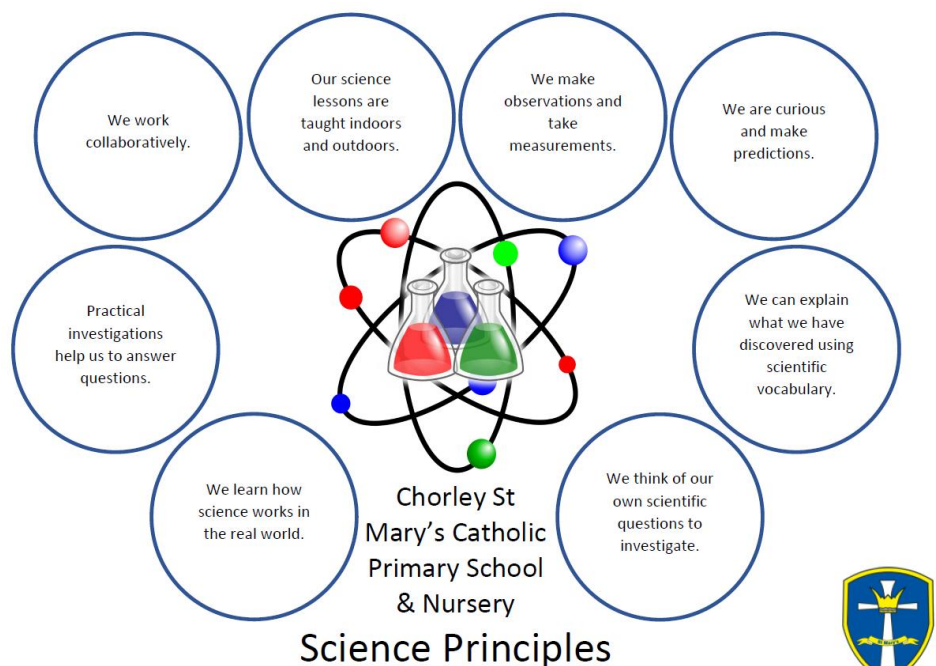
Please see attached a flyer for a Christmas holiday sports camp on the 20th and 21st December.

Chorley Number 1 Food Club – Chorley SVP

Please see the poster attached to this newsletter from the Chorley SVP. The poster says - *Over 2 million tonnes of good food goes to landfill EACH YEAR... Join The Club! Help Divert That Food from Landfill! For £3 per week, you will receive up to £25 of food of your choice. Yes, you read that correctly.*

Message from Mrs Banwell, our science subject leader

The principles for learning science at St Mary's have been updated and Mrs Banwell has asked me to share them with you.



2022 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY

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 2022 is on 15 January 2022.

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

Advert for Chorley Music Centre



Lancashire
Music Hub

Chorley Music Centre

When and where is Chorley Music Centre?

Southlands High School (PR7 2NJ), community entrance.

What's on?

Following a difficult time with restrictions, we are delighted to be able to start rehearsals for our ensembles again from Monday 22nd November 2021.

Timetable:

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 4:00 – 4:30 | Choir |
| 4:30 – 5:00 | String-a-lings |
| 4:30 – 5:00 | African drumming Club |
| 5:30 – 6:00 | Ukulele Ensemble |
| 6:00 – 6:30 | Wind Band |

All ensembles are open to musicians of any ability and rehearsals for all will take place in the drama studio at Southlands.

We are offering a free trial period until Christmas 2021.

For more details, contact Gemma Hannaford (Head of Centre) on 07887 830991

We can't wait to see you there!



Lancashire Cards for Kindness Campaign

The Cards for Kindness Christmas campaign will once again be running across Lancashire, Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and South Cumbria from Wednesday 1 December. Voluntary, community and faith groups across the area are invited to take part.

This campaign aims to tackle loneliness in our care homes by encouraging people to send a festive card to a local home to brighten up someone's day.

Cards for Kindness is now in its fourth year and each Christmas, community groups across the area send in fantastic cards and gifts that they've made to help brighten someone's day.

The theme for this year's campaign is *'What Warms Your Heart This Winter'*

There're plenty of opportunities for people to use their creativity and last year's activities ranged from fantastically designed cards made by adult learning groups to friendship rocks designed by Cub Scouts. There is a serious side too as campaigns like this help to tackle loneliness, which has the same effect on people's health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Opening the cards and discussing the messages also prompts conversations among residents and brings back memories, bringing many health benefits, particularly for people living with dementia.

To find out how Cards for Kindness works, visit: <https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/CardsForKindness>. Cards for Kindness is run by The Lancashire and South Cumbria Health and Care Partnership and Lancashire County Council, in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and South Cumbria councils.

We'd love to see and hear about your Cards for Kindness creations so we can use them on the media and in social media to help promote the scheme.

If you're happy to share photos, please send them to CardsforKindness@lancashire.gov.uk. Please send them by Wednesday 15 December stating you are happy for us to share your image.

Use of your photos

In sending your photo you are confirming that you do not object to the photograph of you being published by Lancashire County Council on its internet and intranet pages, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, or being shared with the media. In doing so you acknowledge that images shared on social media are open to comment by the general public and may be circulated by third parties. If you change your mind about using the images please email to let us know, though please be aware that LCC will have limited ability to remove photographs shared through social media channels. Please view [LCC's Privacy Notice](#) for further information.

Messages from the school office 03.12.21:

Mrs Wilson has asked me to pass on the following:

- ❖ 40th Anniversary Tea Towel - thank you for all your orders, if you missed the deadline, we have ordered a few spares which will be sold on a 'first come, first served' basis. More details of this will follow once they arrive.
- ❖ Christmas Raffle Tickets - thank you to all those who have purchased raffle tickets already, so far £859* has been raised. Tickets are being sent out to those who have already paid. Tickets can be purchased through ParentPay, £1 per strip of tickets and for £5 you get 6 strips of tickets. All you need to do is decide how much you wish to spend, and we will automatically send any bonus tickets out with your order.
- ❖ Breakfast with Santa - again apologies for having to cancel this event and thank you to everyone for your understanding. *£180 from the event has been added to raffle ticket sales.

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. **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.

COVID symptoms – however mild

If your child has:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

they must not come into school, you should get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have coronavirus and stay at home until you get their result, even if the symptoms are mild.

One of the recent changes for this term means that if your child is a 'close contact' of someone, e.g. a parent, who has tested positive for COVID, but has no symptoms themselves the child no longer needs to self-isolate, they may come to school. However, in this instance, we would also ask that your child has a PCR test (but they can still come to school while awaiting result – if no symptoms).

Sickness/ Diarrhoea

If your child is suffering from sickness and/ or diarrhoea, then the minimum absence must be 48 hours. This is to prevent the spread of any infection such as norovirus (winter vomiting bug).

 **Absence**

If your child is absent, please inform the office directly by calling in or by telephone. Please do not pass messages on via siblings or *Class Dojo* or indeed class teachers, thank you.

 **Medical absences**

If your child has an appointment with the doctor or dentist, please inform the office prior to the absence where possible. Thank you.




Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2020/2021 03.12.21



| CURRENT POSITION | CLASS | CURRENT % |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 st | YEAR 4 | 96.95 |
| 2 nd | RECEPTION | 96.45 |
| 3 rd | YEAR 3 | 96.44 |
| 4 th | YEAR 5 | 96.11 |
| 5 th | YEAR 2 | 95.91 |
| 6 th | YEAR 6 | 95.89 |
| 7 th | YEAR 1 | 95.35 |

No classes had 100% attendance this week.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 03.12.21

|  | Class | Name | Star of the Week for ... |
|---|-----------|--|---|
| | YN | Whole class | All of Nursery class for their super listening, concentration and singing in our Nativity performance |
| | YR | Whole class | All of Reception class for beautiful singing and narration in our Nativity performance. |
| | Y1 | George | For his excellent story writing language in his <i>Big Write</i> . |
| | Y2 | Jacob B | Amazing story writing with all the features he had been asked to include. |
| | Y3 | Addison | Trying exceptionally hard with her spellings and <i>learn its</i> . |
| | Y4 | Isabelle F-K | For her wonderful sketching in art this week. She used cross-hatching to create tone to her drawings. |
| | Y5 | Niall | For his outstanding effort during all lessons this week and his dedication to working hard on his handwriting to achieve a pen. |
| Y6 | Charlie B | Great work adding and subtracting fractions this week. | |

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.

Best wishes,

P Smyth 03.12.21