



# School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

04.12.20

**Dear parents/ carers,**

The children have enjoyed another busy and productive week in school. I have seen lots of amazing work going on across nursery and school. They seem to be enjoying it so much that I am not sure that they will want a break in a couple of weeks' time – the staff might though!

## **Parental Questionnaire**

Thank you for taking the time to look at the parent questionnaire. Over the next few weeks, we will collate the results and provide you with some feedback.

## **Chorley Schools Sports Partnership**

We are lucky in our area to be served by such an excellent sporting organisation as the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) – similar organisations across the country look to the CSSP as a model of good practice. I have been asked to draw your attention to their website where some of the coaches have uploaded some 60-second challenges designed by the Youth Sports Trust for the children (and their parents!). If you get the chance, take a look!

<https://www.chorleyssp.co.uk/schools>

## **Value of the week - *Compassion***

Well done to the following children who demonstrated an understanding, in their behaviour and attitudes of the value of **compassion** this week in school.

YR	Finley
Y1	Archie
Y2	Alice G
Y3	Krystian
Y4	Niamh
Y5	River
Y6	All of Year 6

## **Messages from Mrs Hargreaves**

- Please see the Chorley FC Soccer School letter regarding holiday football camp.

- To all parents of children in YN/Y3/Y4/Y5/Y6 who have ordered a Christmas Lunch, please can you credit your Parentpay accounts by £2.30 before Friday, 11th December. Thank you.

### **Christmas Jumper Day Fundraiser for party food**

This year, for obvious reasons, we are not asking parents to send in party food items from home into school. Instead, the staff will purchase party food items from the supermarket. In order to raise some funds for this, we are doing a Christmas Jumper Day for children and staff next Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December and would welcome a **voluntary** contribution of 50p to £1 to help staff get some bits and pieces. We will leave a bucket out by the office for donations. Thank you.

As with the New Toy appeal children do not need to bring in money in order to wear their Christmas jumpers; we do not want our families to be put under any pressure during this difficult time.

By the way, I have heard a rumour that although, for COVID reasons, Fr Christmas will not be visiting St Mary's in person this year, he may be putting together a special message for our infant classes for party day!

### **The Gruffalo - online viewing of a live performance – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

We are very grateful to one of our parents in Reception who has very kindly gifted the Reception class, a ticket to an online viewing of a live performance of **The Gruffalo**. It looks so good that we have bought tickets for Nursery, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 to watch as well in their own rooms. The viewing will take place next Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December in the morning.

### **Christmas Joy New Toy Appeal**



Thank you mums, dads, boys and girls for your very generous donations of toys to the Chorley **Christmas Joy New Toy Appeal**. We had over ten sacks of toys, which I am sure Father Christmas will appreciate when he does his work in Chorley over Christmas.

A message from the appeal co-ordinator, Paul McBeth to all the local schools.

*'What a response! Give yourselves a massive pat on the back from Chorley Buddies. What a generous lot you and your families are!'*

*Again, Thank you so much - Paul J McBeth -Chorley Buddies*

*As part of The Christmas Joy Project, co-ordinated by Chorley Borough Council, most of the Catholic Primary schools in Chorley, along with Holy Cross High School, St Gregory's, St Bede's and St Chad's, and St Joseph's Withnell parishes, have committed to collecting new toys for distribution to families in Chorley.*

Chorley Buddies, a part of the SVP National Network, arrange for the distribution of toys to families who might need some help this Christmas. And thank you for bringing some Joy into people's lives this Christmas!



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



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 3	99.08
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 1	99.07
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 2	98.99
4 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	98.40
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	97.96
6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	96.70
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	96.57

W/E 04/12/2020

Well done **Year 3** on their **100%** attendance award this week!

**STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 04.12.20**

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Reuben	For always following Nursery rules
	YR	Jake	For increased confidence with new people
	Y1	Evie	Super story writing in her <i>Big Write</i>
	Y2	Winter-Rose	wonderful writing and effort with her joined-up handwriting.
	Y3	Betsy	Really working hard on her reading and answering of questions (in a group and in class).
	Y4	Filip	Writing a wonderful explanation text, explaining why dragons are extinct.
	Y5	Akeyo	For excellent work throughout our art unit on space.
	Y6	Sam T	For his hard work in English writing a new chapter for the Wizard of Oz

## 2021 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 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).\*\***

### School COVID Risk Assessment

Please see school website for the most up-to-date COVID risk assessment for school.

## 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.

**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 next Zoom open event is on Tuesday 1st December.**

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](mailto: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 04.12.20**