



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

05.02.21

Dear parents/ carers,

We have almost completed the first half of spring term and I am sure everyone of us is looking forward to a break from remote learning, whether in school or at home. I cannot speak highly enough of how well everyone has done so far, under these extraordinary circumstances: children, parents and staff.

February half-term break

School will close as usual over February half-term (Mon 15 Feb to Fri 19 Feb) and will not remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

Parents' Evening

Parents' evenings will take place next week online. Your child's teacher will give you an update on your child's progress in their learning and you can update your child's teacher on how well they are managing in the current circumstances. You should have received a separate communication from Mrs Wilson about this. If you have not received this information, please contact the school office.

Message from Mrs Nicklin and Mrs Grandi

Well done to the children in Year 1/2 who have been taking part in PE with Joe Wicks on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning with their teachers since we went into lockdown. Mrs Grandi and Mrs Nicklin are very proud of you all and are also proud of the inspirational parents who have been joining in too! You are all health and fitness superstars! 🍷★👉

Well done Year 5!

Madame Russell, our French teacher, emailed me today to say how pleased she is with our Y5 class. Every single member of class was able to take part in the French lessons this week. I think that the lessons this week had something to do with crêpes. Well done Madame Russell and Y5!

Health and safety – nut –free school

From time to time I send out a couple of health and safety reminders out about food. Just a little reminder to say that as far as possible we aim to keep school nut-free. This is because we have a small number of children who have an allergy to nuts. Therefore, please do not send in nut snacks

with your children or nutty spreads in sandwiches – many thanks. Also, if you are sending grapes in lunch boxes or as snacks please ensure that they are halved or quartered first. Whole grapes are a choking hazard for young children – many thanks!

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>

Stars of the week - w/e 05.02.21

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Charlie A	For super sharing with his friends
	YR	Myka	Amazing segmenting and blending when writing independently.
	Y1	Joseph	His amazing effort and achievement this week –always going the extra mile.
	Y2	Freya	Beautiful, high quality poetry writing, using all the skills we have been focusing on.
	Y3	Brody & Eva	Showing an amazing commitment to remote learning this week.
	Y4	Jensen	His wonderful effort and achievement this week, particularly in English.
	Y5	William	Excellent participation and thoughtful responses on the subject of deforestation in both English and guided reading.
	Y6	Aaron	Great work in mathematics, adding and subtracting fractions.

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 05.02.21**