



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

05.03.21

Dear parents/ carers,

Well done to you all for managing remote learning! I know how hard it has been for you. You've done a great job. And now it's time to hand back the reins. I would like to thank the children for sticking with it too; they have done themselves proud. And, of course, thank you to our staff who have worked so hard to keep the education going and for keeping the children who were in school engaged and safe. I think I can safely say that each and every one of us: children, parents and staff are glad, that we are back in on Monday.

Risk assessment for school reopening to all pupils

In terms of the risk assessment for the return on 8th March, the safety measures that we will have in place are broadly the same as those we had in place in the autumn term. I have attached some **frequently asked questions FAQs** by way of an update of the changes and a reminder. I would be grateful if you would take the time to read over this weekend so that we can make as safe a start as possible, on Monday.

Message from Kath Smith – Chair of Governors

Dear pupils, families and staff,

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to congratulate you all on your unity and resilience during the past few months with the upheaval of COVID-19. We are proud of all our staff and families, and above all, our pupils.

Learning during lockdown could not have happened without the huge efforts of everyone. While home-schooling was an exciting prospect in March 2020, when it began with daily 9am P.E. sessions, Class Dojo and online learning, getting back to school is now the priority and our collective goal is to get back on track.

A big thank you to Mr Smyth and the team for ensuring that everyone continues to feel part of the St Mary's Family.

Please be assured that everyone will receive a warm welcome and that safety and wellbeing will continue to be the primary focus.

Stay safe and take care. Kath Smith, Chair of Governors

Reading Book Return by Monday 08.03.21

Miss Hesketh has asked me to ask parents and children to return any reading books by Monday 8 March please.

World Book Day 04.03.21

Miss Hesketh asked me to thank you and all the children for your efforts on World Book Day yesterday. It was an opportunity to celebrate the vital importance of reading, how it enriches our lives, educates, entertains and informs us. She received a huge amount of positive feedback and examples of the things that the children got up to. Well done and thank you.

Good Shepherd Talent Show 2021

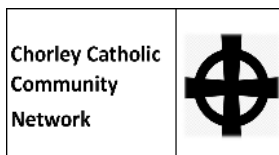
There was no Good Shepherd Talent Show in 2020; we did not want that to be the case for 2021. Mr Hodge has come up with a novel way we can do it using technology this year. He has sent a letter out via the teachers and Class Dojo, which will explain in more detail. Hopefully, the children can get involved, have a bit of fun and raise some money for the Nugent Care - Good Shepherd Appeal.

Food Provision Help and Support for Families – Chorley Borough Council

I think we are all well aware of the huge pressures this pandemic has placed on many families' finances. Many Chorley families are suffering significant hardship. Bernie Heggarty, from Chorley Borough Council, has written to schools to ask us to signpost where people can access support in being able access food over the coming weeks and months. It gives details of providers in Chorley and contacts to whom referrals can be made. Please see attached.

Lenten Challenge - *To eradicate Digital Poverty in Chorley by Easter Sunday –*

A message from Paul MacBeth - Chorley Buddies



Research by Chorley Borough Council says that there are still approximately 140 children who do not have a device upon which they can complete their schoolwork.

Will you join us in accepting this Lenten Challenge?

Chorley Catholic Community Network, Chorley Buddies and the Chorley United Reformed Church, with the support of Chorley Borough Council, are working with the Chorley Repair Café to try to help eradicate Digital Poverty in Chorley.

From Ash Wednesday onwards, we need your surplus laptops or tablets so that we can give them to the children who desperately need them. All personal data will be erased and all Covid safety measures will be in place before the devices are redistributed.

Please bring your surplus tablets and laptops to

- School – we can collect and quarantine at St Mary’s school.
- Massa’s Café Dessert Bar, 3 Cunliffe St, Chorley PR7 2BA
- Frederick’s Ice Cream Parlour, Bolton Road, Chorley PR7 4AL
- Inspire The Youth Zone
- Or email chorleybuddies@hotmail.com to arrange pick up.

Together We Can Eradicate Digital Poverty By Easter Sunday!

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 05.03.21

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Layla Mae	Having a wonderful, first week back!
	YR	Alexia	Fantastic reading all week – super segmenting and recognition of red words!
	Y1	Neave	her positive approach to learning in school and her wonderful smile!
	Y2	Mattia	Amazing contributions in class.
	Y3	Six stars!	George – For good maths explanations to questions over Zoom. Brooke – For confident discussion in the ‘Pupil Pop In’. Owen – For amazing ‘coding work’ in ICT. Jacob – For consistently trying his best throughout lockdown. Isabelle – For consistently working hard in the class bubble. Evan – For mature answers in the ‘Pupil Pop In’.
	Y4	Megan	During remote learning Megan has continued to work hard, I am particularly pleased with her wonderful non-chronological report she wrote this week on Germany.
	Y5	George	For excellent participation, all week and a good effort responding to our PSHE and Art activity linked to <i>The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse</i> .
	Y6	Peter	Great work planning his detective story and characters.

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.



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 05.03.21**