



# School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

23.10.20

**Dear parents/ carers,**

I hope you and the children had a restful half-term break. The children have got straight back into work this week. Teachers have been very pleased with the effort and work going on. It was great to see the nursery class outside enjoying marshmallows around a (pretend!) campfire to celebrate bonfire night earlier in the week and children across the school working hard and learning enthusiastically in their new topics.

## **Learning about other faiths**

As part of our building bridges partnership with the Interfaith centre in Burnley, we have several faith visitors to come and visit us throughout the year. This helps support our Come and See, PSHE and Personal Development (including global learning) provision for our children. Today, we were visited by Sikhism expert, Kash. She spoke to the children about Sikhism and shared aspects of her faith and culture.

## **Synod 2020 – message from Mr Hodge**

The Synod is at a stage of choosing the most pertinent 'Proposals and Affirmations.' People can either complete the questionnaire electronically <https://forms.gle/hoDT27vz7kap4fRu9>.

OR collect a paper copy from church OR use the document attached to this newsletter.

## **Synod 2020 – Paper Voting Document**

You spoke, we listened, we fed back, they made proposals...

**NOW it's time to vote!**



## Phonics Screening Check

Next week the children in Year 2 will be undertaking a phonics screening check to see how well they have progressed in their phonics. This group would have taken part in a check in June this year if it had not been for the lockdown. Good luck Y2!

## COVID control measures

Firstly, I want to thank parents for adhering so well to the control measures we have put in place to keep the school community safe since the beginning of the COVID outbreak and especially since the return to school in September.

There have been a small number of cases of COVID within our school community, either children, staff or family members. There have been a number of absences due to self-isolation. But, because of the efforts of all members of the community, we have managed to keep the disruption to children's education to a minimum. I thank all members of our community for that: children, parents/ carers and staff.

However, now is not the time to become complacent nor to let our guard drop. We all know that the incidence of COVID is dangerously high in Lancashire and across the Northwest. This has meant that this week we have entered a second national lockdown. Therefore, I think now is a good time to remind ourselves of some of the main measures we are taking around school and the procedures we are following. It is worth remembering that we have a number of very vulnerable members within our school community who could become very ill if infected with COVID - both children and adults. We all share a responsibility to keep each other safe.

**Therefore, I would urge parents and carers to read the FAQs at the end of this newsletter very carefully. Please pay special attention to the parts highlighted in yellow.**

## Message from the school office ...

- Thank you for your excellent support of the Poppy appeal
- Reminder to parents that any absences or notifications of medical appointments to come via the office please.

## Value of the Week – Gentleness

Well done to the following children who were spotted demonstrating **the value of Gentleness** last week -

Class	Pupil
YR	Buddy
Y1	Thea
Y2	Michael
Y3	Charlotte
Y4	Harry W
Y5	Isla
Y6	Florence



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



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 1	99.15
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 3	99.07
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 2	98.83
4 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	98.23
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	97.97
6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	96.80
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	96.60

W/E 06/11/2020

Well done to Y3 on their **100%** attendance award this week!

**STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 06.11.20**

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Caitlin	For being a super role model to others and becoming more confident this week
	YR	Violet	For amazing phonics work all week and trying so hard
	Y1	Lydia	For her excellent independence and attitude to work
	Y2	Ellie	A big improvement in presentation.
	Y3	Sebastian	Settling in with his new glasses to school life so well.
	Y4	Dylan	Working hard on his handwriting and presentation.
	Y5	Sophie	For a great start back and excellent enthusiasm shown towards our new topic on Earth and Space.
	Y6	Grace B	A great non-chronological report about circuses

**Remote Learning or Blended Learning**

You will have no doubt heard about year groups in different schools being required to self-isolate for two weeks due to positive test results in those cohorts - you may even have experienced this yourselves in your own families with siblings or relations at other schools.

You will want to know what we plan to do if, and when, this happens at St Mary's. Our plans are these:

- ✓ In the event of a year group having to self-isolate, our teachers have prepared two days' worth of learning for children to be doing. This will allow the class teacher to prepare work for the remaining twelve or so days. Our plan is to keep the teaching and learning going as near as possible to what it would be like if the children were in school.
- ✓ You will all have received the half-termly curriculum newsletter.
- ✓ Weekly plans will be sent home at the start of each week of the isolation period. A plan of each day's learning will also be sent home.
- ✓ Video introductions to lessons will be given, where required.
- ✓ There will be a daily Zoom check in with the class teacher and opportunities for communication between school and home.
- ✓ Our principal platforms for the delivery of teaching and learning will be Tapestry for the Nursery and Reception classes, and SeeSaw for Y1 – Y6.
- ✓ Teachers will also be providing work for children who are self-isolating even though they have no symptoms e.g. a family member has symptoms and is awaiting a test result.

## 2021 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY – **SECONDARY DEADLINE APPROACHING FAST!**

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).\*\***

## 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.

## IMPORTANT PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

### Frequently Asked Questions about school's COVID-secure measures

#### 1. How do we keep your child safe?

We are following the guidelines set out by the Department for Education. We have put measures in place to keep our community as safe as possible. Please note we cannot make school a risk-free environment and cannot guarantee that school will be virus-free but we will do our very best to do so.

#### 2. What are the main safety measures?

- ✓ **Anyone with symptoms of COVID must stay at home** until a negative test is obtained or until period of self-isolation has come to an end.
- ✓ **Keeping children in consistent groups** which actively avoid mixing with other groups. This group will typically be their year group. However, your child might also be part of another small, consistent group with children from other year groups for example in phonics groups and in Breakfast/ After School clubs.
- ✓ **Keeping safe social distances.** Children will be reminded to keep a safe distance from one another where practically possible within their groups and different groups will not be allowed to mix e.g. different year groups are allocated different break and lunch times and different zones to play in.
- ✓ **Frequent handwashing.** Children will be required to wash their hands regularly during the course of the school day.
- ✓ **Good respiratory hygiene.** Children will be asked to use a tissue if coughing and sneezing and to dispose of tissue in a lidded bin - 'Catch it. Bin it. Kill it'
- ✓ **Enhanced cleaning of the school** by cleaning staff and of frequently touched surfaces by all staff throughout the day.
- ✓ **Always keeping occupied spaces well ventilated – you will notice we have been keeping doors and windows open since the September restart - but this is now a new requirement by the DfE**
- ✓ **Engaging with NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England** and acting upon their advice in confirmed COVID-19 cases within our community.

#### 3. What will my child wear (uniform) and what should they bring to school?

Full school uniform must be worn each day. Children **must bring a coat** in case of rain or cold weather. School bags should not be brought to school, however children should bring either book bag or reading folder into school. Children can of course bring their water bottle and packed lunch to school. This will remain in the cloakroom area to be taken home each night.

As classrooms will be chillier with doors or windows open, I strongly recommend that children wear vests under their shirts and jumpers. As the colder weather approaches, I will give further updates on this.

#### **4. What about PE Kits?**

Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on those days and not their school uniform and remain in those kits for the rest of the day. Where it is possible, PE will take place outdoors, so children should also wear tracksuit/ jogger bottoms, a warm top and trainers (rather than the black pumps).

#### **5. What about food and drink?**

School meals are taken in the hall in infants at staggered intervals and in the juniors they are taken in the classrooms. Children who have packed lunches should bring them to school in their lunch box, which will remain in the cloakroom until lunchtime. Children may bring a healthy snack. There is also the offer of toast as a morning snack. Children can bring water bottles but they must be taken home and washed at the end of each day.

#### **6. Can I call into the school office to drop something off?**

We are restricting visitors to school except for those to support education or health or those where essential maintenance are required.

If you need to bring in a forgotten lunchbox for example or if you need to take your child to a medical appointment. Please call or email us first.

#### **7. Can I meet my child's teacher in school?**

**No. We do not have any face-to-face meetings.** Please do not try and meet/ speak with the class teacher at the classroom door to pass on messages, **we need to keep entrances clear and avoid gatherings there.** If you need to contact the class teacher please do so via the school telephone or *Class Dojo*.

#### **8. Breakfast and After School Club**

The Breakfast and After School Club are arranged into four groups of children by combining children from adjacent year groups e.g. YN/ YR, Y1/Y2, Y3/Y4 and Y5/Y6. These groups are allocated different areas within the Hall/ Quad/ Playground and will be kept 2m apart where possible. We will also encourage children within these adjacent year groups to keep a safe distance from each other. Parents drop-off and collect from the front entrance.

#### **9. Other settings**

It would help us in minimising risk of transmission of the virus if parents were able to limit the number of settings they are able to attend.

#### **10. What are the pick-up and drop-off arrangements (other than Breakfast/ After School Club)?**

## Drop off/ Pick Up Times

Year	Drop-off time	Pick-up time
N	0845	1505
R	0855	1515
1	0845	1505
2	0855	1515
3	0845	1505
4	0855	1515
5	0845	1505
6	0855	1515

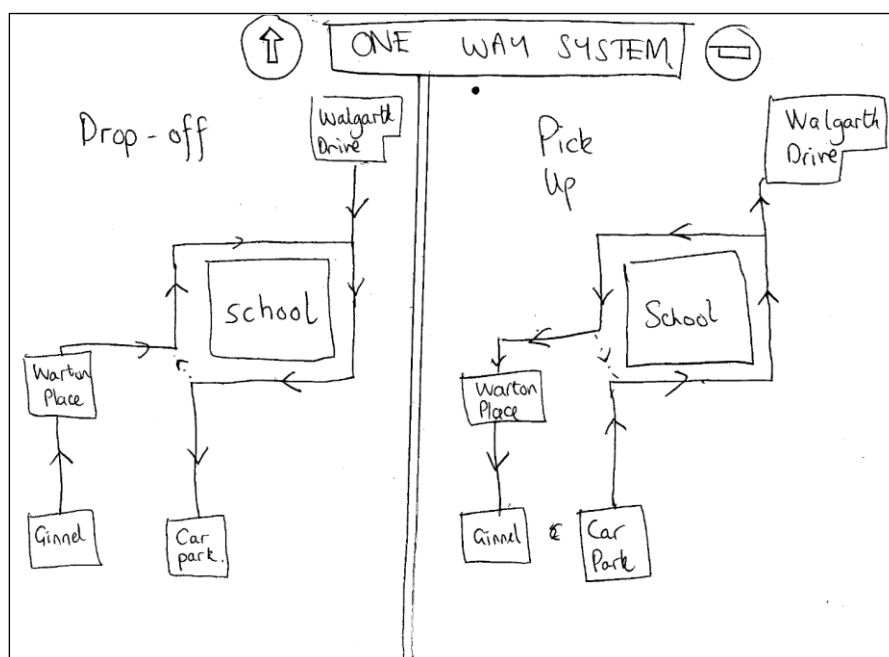
You will note that we have allocated neighbouring year groups one of two drop-off/ pick-up times. We have done this to avoid congestion at points around the school site. **Please adhere to these times i.e. do not arrive either too early or too late.** We want to keep the site as clear as possible for as much of the time as possible.

To keep numbers of people on site to a minimum we are allowing **one adult per family** to drop-off and pick-up children. **It is important that this measure is adhered to.**

If you are dropping-off/ picking up children from two or more year groups, please drop off at the earlier time and pick up at the latest time to avoid waiting around on site.

**We ask parents not to gather in groups at pick up and drop off time.** For your own safety and the safety of the school community, despite the temptation please do not gather to meet socially at pick-up and drop-off times. Please keep a minimum of 2 metre distance at all times between members of different households.

### One-way system





### Drop-off.

Parents/ carers/ children to *enter* either through the *Warton Place* or *Walgarth Drive* entrances and then all make their way *clockwise* around the school to access classrooms. Then parents/ carers should *depart* via the *Hornchurch Drive* school car park footpath entrance *only*.

### Pick-Up

Parents/ Carers to *enter* via the *Hornchurch Drive* school car park footpath entrance *only*, make their way *anti-clockwise* around the school to collect their children and then *depart* either via the *Walgarth Drive* or the *Warton Place* entrances.

#### **11. What about use of public transport?**

The Government has asked us to encourage parents and children not to use public transport where possible. If they do, please note it is compulsory for children aged 11 or above to wear face masks.

#### **12. What if my child or a member of our household is ‘clinically vulnerable’ or ‘clinically extremely vulnerable?’**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/>

Please let the school office know if your child is clinically vulnerable e.g. has diabetes or asthma and we will risk assess those pupils. If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable please share with us the advice you receive from your GP or consultant and we will risk assess accordingly. Please also advise us if a member of your household is in a higher risk category which might require your child to be absent from school.

#### **12 .What happens if my child or someone in my household develops COVID 19 symptoms away from school?**

*The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.*

**Parents/carers must notify school *immediately* if either their child or someone in the child’s household is displaying symptoms of Covid-19** and follow the PHE “Stay at Home” guidance and arrange to have a test. The guidance sets out that the person with symptoms must self-isolate for at least 14 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (Covid-19).

**VERY IMPORTANT** A child **must not attend school** if a member of his/her household is displaying symptoms of COVID until that household member has received a negative test.

If a member of the child’s household has symptoms, the child is required to self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days from the day the household member became ill. If the child subsequently becomes ill with COVID symptoms, they too should be tested. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit.

### 13 .What happens if my child develops COVID symptoms in school?

If a pupil displays symptoms, they will not be permitted to remain in school. The pupil will be taken to the KS2 outdoor Quiet Area (which is sealed off) and where there is PPE. The supervising adult will put on PPE as appropriate, if they cannot keep a 2m distance or if they do not feel comfortable without.

You will be contacted to collect your child, who will be taken to entrance via outside of school to meet you. **As stated above, the child and all the members of the child's household must self-isolate. A test must be arranged for the child and any other household member with symptoms.**

We have to be quite 'black and white' about this. We know that at this time of year children will get non-COVID related coughs and temperatures as a matter of course, but as you will appreciate, we cannot take any chances in this current and very dangerous phase of the pandemic. I apologies for any inconvenience that this might cause but I know you will understand.

### 14 What happens following a negative test result?

We asks parents and staff to inform us immediately of the results of a test. If the test gives a negative result, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/what-your-test-result-means/>. Children do not need to self- isolate and can return to school as soon as possible if the test is negative, as long as:

- Everyone they live with who has symptoms tests negative
- everyone in support bubble (see guidance for definition) who has symptoms tests negative
- they were not told to self-isolate for 14 days by NHS Test and Trace – if you were, see what to do if you've been told you've been in contact with someone who has coronavirus
- they feel well – if they feel unwell, they must stay at home until they're feeling better
- If they have diarrhoea or you're being sick, stay at home until 48 hours after they've stopped.

### 20 What happens if there is a positive test result?

Parents/ carers must:

- i. provide details of anyone they or their child have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- ii. self-isolate if they or their child have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)
- iii. if they or their child tests positive, should follow *the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection'* and must continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms and the child return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the

infection has gone. The 10-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

- iv. The confirmed case must also self-isolate for 10 days after the test day if they are asymptomatic.

**The INFECTIOUS PERIOD IS FROM 48 hours BEFORE ONSET OF SYMPTOMS (or the date of test if they don't have symptoms) UNTIL 10 DAYS AFTER SYMPTOMS STARTED**

**21. What will school do if there is a positive test for COVID-19 for someone who has attended school?**

- a) School will follow the advice in the PHE NW COVID-19 Resource Pack for Schools.
  - b) School will notify the local authority
  - c) School must send home those people who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for 14 days since they were last in close contact with that person when they were infectious.
- **In school, close/direct contact is considered to be:**
    - being coughed on, or
    - having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre, or
    - having unprotected skin-to-skin physical contact, or
    - travel in a small vehicle with the case, or
    - any contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact
    - extended close contact (between 1 and 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with a case
- d) School will not share the names or details of people with coronavirus (COVID-19) unless essential to protect others.
  - e) Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless the child who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms.

**22. What happens if there are multiple confirmed cases and possible outbreaks?**

- a) We will act as we would in point 21. We will inform the local authority promptly who will investigate and advise us on appropriate action.
- b) In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other pupils self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or year group. School closure based on cases within the school will not generally be necessary, and will not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.

**23. What will happen to my child's education if they need to self-isolate either as a result of any of the reasons given above?**

We have made plans to continue your child's education if they are required to self-isolate. Obviously, your child is poorly we would not expect them to complete work.

Thank you for reading.

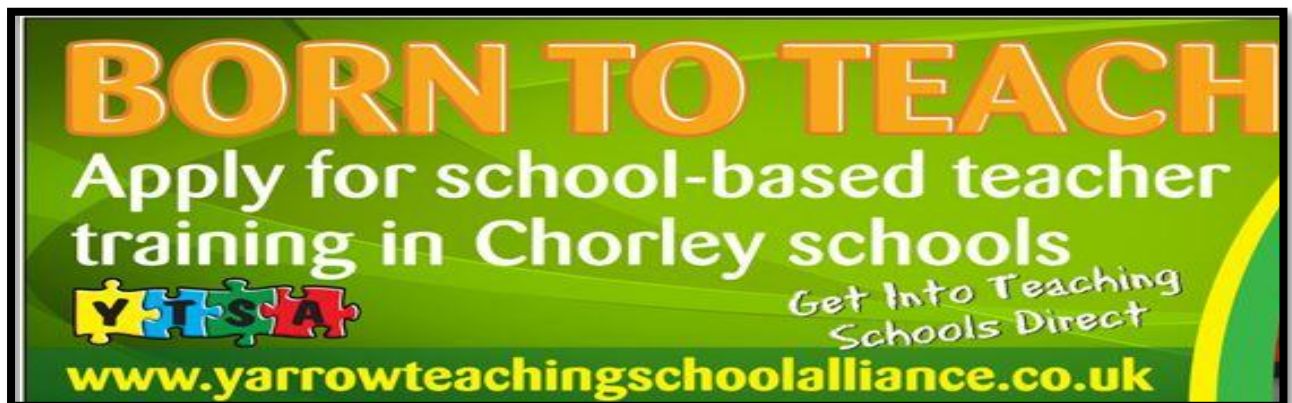
Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth

**06.11.2020**

**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 Zoom open event is on Tuesday 10th November – flyer with newsletter.**



<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 06.11.2020**