



School Newsletter

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

6th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of a brand-new school and nursery year at St Mary's. The children all look very smart in their uniforms. They have all settled in very well over the last three days. There have been remarkably few tears in Nursery and Reception; in fact, both groups of children have settled in beautifully.

We welcome especially our new starters (and their mums and dads!) in Reception and Nursery. In addition, we welcome back Jamie in Y3, Isla in Y4 and we welcome Mattia in Y1. We also welcome Mrs Garrett as teaching assistant in Y1 and Mrs Root as teaching assistant in Y4. We hope that they all settle in well and have a happy and memorable time at St Mary's.

Start of school year Mass at St Mary's - Wednesday 11th September at 9am.

Children in Years 3, 5 and 6 will be attending 9.00am Mass at St Mary's **next Wednesday 11th September at 9am** to celebrate the start of the new school year. **We ask that children are dropped off at Church next Wednesday morning from 8.45am** where they will be registered by their class teacher. After Mass they will walk back down to school.

Y4 Swimming

The Year 4 class will not be going Mass as they will be going to their first swimming lesson. Miss Hesketh will be taking the Y4 class swimming for the first half term. The Y4s need to arrive in class for 8.20 am as they will catch the bus to the pool at 8.30 am.

Tuesday 10th September - Y4 Sacramental Programme - Sacramental Cheese & Wine Evening



This year's Sacramental Programme will begin with a Cheese and Wine Evening at school for parents next **Tuesday 10th September at 6.00pm**. Fr Marsden and Mrs Gray-Grzeczynska, will introduce the programme and explain the process of *Family Catechesis*. The meeting is intended for parents only but if families are struggling for childcare, then the school will do its best to accommodate them.

Y1 Parents' Meeting Monday 09.09.19

Mrs Grandi is meeting Y1 parents on Monday after school to share information about what and how children will be learning in Year 1 this year and how parents can support pupils in their learning.

Reception Phonics/ Reading meeting 11.09.19

Mrs Singleton is meeting with parents of children in Reception to share information with parents on how children will be learning to read this year and about how we teach phonics in school. Phonics is the learning of letters and sounds to enable children to decode words and to begin to read fluently.

Arctic Map



Miss McCluskey has secured the loan of the magnificent Arctic map once again from the Canadian Embassy for a couple of weeks.

It's an inspirational resource which gives a real sense of scale of one country to another. It helps the children with their understanding of the Arctic. It will be here next week too.

Tempest School Photographs

We have booked the photographer to come in on Monday **16th September**. The photographer will take individual and family photos. Parents will have the option to buy or refuse from the proof that is sent home with the child, therefore to ease the process all children will have his/her photograph taken unless requested otherwise by the parent. Siblings within school and nursery will also be taken.



If you do not wish your child to have a photograph taken, please let the school know as soon as possible. You can do this by email through the school website.

If you wish a family photo with older or younger siblings. Please arrange to attend between 3.15pm and 4.00pm. The photographer's session will finish at 4.00pm. Look out for a Groupcall message about this.

2020 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

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: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools
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 23:59 on 15 January 2020.

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

Year 6 Pupils

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

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 secondary applications for September 2020 is 23:59 on 31 October 2019

Prospective Parents Open Day/ Open Evening

There will be an open day/evening event on **Thursday 3rd October** for parents interested in a place for their child in our Reception class for September 2020. More details will follow.

SPORTS NEWS

Sainsbury's School Games Platinum Award 2018/2019

Also during the summer break, Mr Hodge, our PE and Sports leader, received news that the school earned the prestigious **Sainsbury's School Games Mark Platinum Award after attaining the Gold Award for four years in a row** by maintaining our high standards in sports and PE last year.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.



Our sporting achievements this year include being Chorley Football Champions, sending teams to almost every single CSSP competition with lots of individual and team successes along the way. It was great to note that every single member of our Y6 class, which left in July, had represented St Mary's in at least one sporting competition during their time at St Mary's.

With many of our pupils competing in local inter-school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competitions possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. A special thanks to:

Mr Hodge for his leadership and passion for school sport and PE and for providing so many opportunities for children to take part in sporting activities. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who supported various activities during the course of the year especially the PE steering

group. A big thank you to the wonderful, dedicated and talented team led by Gemma Stokes at the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership who facilitate such a wide range of high-quality competitions and high-quality coaching. And of course well done to all our pupils and keep it up this year. We look forward to applying once again in 2020!

Chorley School Sports Partnership Annual Awards, Chorley Town Hall, July 2019



The success doesn't end there. Mr Hodge and our sports leaders attended the annual awards event at the town hall on the last day of summer term. St Mary's were nominated and voted **runners-up for the CSSP Health and Wellbeing Award**. And we were delighted to learn that **Jacob N** in Y6 was nominated for and awarded the prize for **Best Gifted and Talented Pupil Overall** for Chorley. Not only that, we were proud to see former pupils, **Harriet Q and Alice S** in winning awards for their PE and Sports Leadership roles.

Extra- Curricular Activities

Various clubs and activities will be starting over the next few weeks. We will also be hosting a fencing club for the juniors this half term and a judo club later on. More details of all the clubs will follow.

Volunteers



We really appreciate the help we receive from parents and grandparents who come in to help with reading, supporting children's learning, clubs etc. We have had a couple of parents in recent years who started off volunteering and then have decided to pursue a career in teaching! If you feel you can spare half an hour or more a week please get in touch with the school office. Many thanks.

Break time snacks

Children (and staff) do get a bit peckish around about break time and we are happy for them to have a snack. Our policy is for this snack to be toast or a piece of fruit on Monday to Thursday and a snack of their choice on a Friday. The school provides toast which works out at 20p a day on a pre-ordered basis. Alternatively, children may bring in a snack from home. We do ask that all pupils adhere to this rule. **Chocolate bars, sweets and crisps are not allowed on Monday to Thursday.**

Little Church

Little Church is the Liturgy of the Word for children. St Mary's Church Parish welcomes families and the full participation of young children in the celebration of the Mass. Since 1987, children at St Mary's have enjoyed their own Liturgy of the Word through 'Little Church' at the 10.30am Sunday Mass.

Summer Building Improvements



Over the summer break we have had a few improvements made in and around the school building. The hall floor was re-polished, the IT room, the Peace Room, Mrs Hargreave's office and the disabled toilet were painted. We have purchased

new tables and chairs in the hall for lunchtimes. I'd like to say thanks to Mr Swarbrick and Mrs Macaulay for their hard work in giving the school a deep clean over the summer.



Some beginning of school year and nursery year reminders

Earrings and Jewellery - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If parents wish their children to have their ears pierced then please have them done at the beginning of the six-week break to allow ears to heal. The only form of jewellery children are permitted to wear is watches.

Hair styles

We expect pupils to have sensible hair styles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school and nursery a fashion-free zone!



Shoes Pupils are expected to wear plain black shoes. Again, we want school to remain a fashion-free zone. Some sports companies make black trainers for children. We ask you not to use these for school. They



are trainers and not shoes and of course the children will prefer to wear them! However, once one has them this puts pressure on the other children to ask their parents for them. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.



Labelling Uniforms

The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing, then the lost property box is available on **Tuesdays** after school by the front entrance.

Health and Safety notices

Nut allergies



We have a number of children in school who have an allergy to nuts and may experience a severe allergic reaction. We therefore make every effort to be as **nut-free** as possible in school. Therefore, we ask that you do not send food products into school which may contain nuts. Thank you for your understanding.

Grapes in lunch boxes

If your child brings grapes to school either as a snack or as part of their packed lunch, it is very important that they are halved first. This is because whole grapes present a significant risk of choking hazard to children.



Parking

By way of a reminder at the start of the school year, I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do**



not park on the staff carpark, the **yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. Thank you.

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.

Holy Cross High School Open Evening



Holy Cross
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Holy Cross will be holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents on the evening of Thursday 10 October. Parents of children in Y5 and Y6 will shortly be receiving written invitations from the school.

In addition to this, Mr Gaughan, Headteacher and the head or assistant head of Y7 will also be visiting **St Mary's** to our Y5 and Y6 parents about all that Holy Cross has to offer. We have booked a provisional date of **Wednesday 25th September at 6pm** which we will confirm next week. It usually lasts about 30 minutes and has proved very popular and been very well received in the last couple of years.

P Smyth 06.09.19