



School Newsletter

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

8th November 2019

Dear parents,

Phonics success

We received a letter earlier this week from Nick Gibb, the Minister of State for School Standards.

Dear Mr Smyth,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on your school's outstanding achievements in the 2019 phonics screening check. Your excellent teaching of phonics is something I hope to see replicated across the country: decoding skills are the foundations for pupils to progress to reading fluently, for purpose and for enjoyment.

The 97% pass rate in Y1 in June put St Mary's in the top 5% of schools nationally. Congratulations to the children on their hard work and excellent attitude in learning phonics, well done to the staff for their excellent teaching and well done to the parents for their support. I've attached the letter at the end for you to read for yourselves.

Phonics Sessions for Parents

This week the Nursery and Reception classes put on phonics lessons for parents of children in the early years classes to watch and find out how their children are learning about letters and sounds. I hope those parents found it of benefit and thank you for the great turn out and support. Thank you to Mrs Singleton, Mrs Cassidy, Mrs Swarbrick and Mrs Bowler for all your hard work too.

General Election 12th December 2020

As you are probably aware, St Mary's school is designated as a polling station for elections and we've had two already this year. On a few occasions in the past we have kept the school open for children, but we found that having the school open to the public all day presents a significant safeguarding risk. So, if there is to be polling in Chorley, the school will close to pupils on the 12th December.

I say '*if there to be polling*' because you may also be aware that the Chorley MP, Sir Lindsay Hoyle was elected Speaker of the House of Commons earlier this week. Traditionally, the Speaker's seat remains uncontested. If this is to be the case, there will be no polling in Chorley and the school will remain open. Chorley Borough Council will know by next Thursday afternoon whether or not there will be polling in Chorley.

In summary, if there is polling in Chorley, the school will be closed to children on 12th December. If there is no polling in Chorley the school will be open to children as normal on the 12th December. We will find out the answer to this question next Thursday and I will let you know next Friday.

A few messages from Miss Hesketh

1. A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the book fair this week.
2. It is National Non-Fiction month (November) at all local libraries. The theme this year is travel and transport – we know a lot of children enjoy books about cars, trucks, trains and planes etc.
3. Well done to the St Mary's netball team – very good behaviour and participation in their tournaments before half term.
4. YEAR 5 ASSEMBLY THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 9AM SCHOOL HALL - ALL Y5 PARENTS & FAMILY MEMBERS WELCOME.



A request from Mrs Cassidy regarding the Nursery class

As part of our efforts to develop an early passion for reading, Mrs Cassidy has a vision to create an even more attractive reading area in the Nursery classroom. She is on the hunt for a few items. So if your child has grown a bit too big for some of the items listed below and you'd be happy to donate, then Mrs Cassidy would be delighted to receive them for her nursery children. She is looking for:

- A small canopy (the type you might find over an infant's bed)
- Battery powered fairy lights
- Play knives and forks for the home corner.

If you can help, please let the school office or Ms Cassidy know. Many thanks.

Parents Evening Y3 and Y4

We have rearranged the dates for the Y3 and Y4 parents evening which was postponed last half-term. It will take place on **Wednesday 20th November** after school. The online booking system went live school this afternoon. If you have difficulty accessing, please contact the school office.

As with the parents' evening earlier on in the term, the meetings are of five minutes duration and you can also come along and look at the work in the children's books. In the past, parents have told us that they didn't need such an early in the year parents' evening and that they are happy the way their children have settled into their new class. That is why we reduced it to five minutes per meeting. So, we don't want you to feel obliged to attend but we don't want to put you off either!

There will be a longer, more in-depth parents' evening in the spring term lasting 10 minutes, where the teachers will be able to talk in more detail about your child's progress.

PTFA Monster Ball

Thank you to the PTFA for organising last Friday's Monster Ball at the parish centre; it was extremely well attended and a huge success. Thank you so much to all our PTFA volunteers for their hard work in organising, thank you to all the parents who helped out on the night and thank you to all the parents and children who supported in such large numbers.



Y2 Local History Walk

Mrs Nicklin, Mrs Grayken and a team of parent volunteers took the Y2 class on a walk around Chorley today. They visited the addresses of men who left Chorley to fight in the First World War but tragically never returned. One of the residents of the houses that they visited produced a Widows Coin with one of the soldier's names written on it. The man told the children that he had found it when he moved into the house many years ago. The children were so enthused; the trip provided a real connection to those figures from the past. Thank you Mrs Nicklin, Mrs Grayken and all the parents. Well done to the children.

Parent Questionnaire

Mrs Wilson sent out a questionnaire to parents via GroupCall last week. Please take time to have a look at and complete. It helps us as we continually try to improve what we do in giving the children the best education possible. We'll be giving the children the chance to have their say over the next couple of weeks too.

RE Monitoring Visit

A representative of the Archdiocesan Christian Education Department is coming to visit next week to give us a health check (not an inspection!) on the quality of Religious Education, Collective Worship and Catholic Life of the school next week. We received an outstanding grade in our RE inspection in September 2016 and we hope to achieve the same in our next inspection in 2021.

SYNOD 2020

A message from Mr Hodge regarding SYNOD 2020



We've been asked not to use St Joseph's Club for our Exploration of Themes Workshops, so, unfortunately, we've had to cancel the upcoming workshop there. This meeting will now be held at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 21st November** at **Sacred Heart Primary School, Brooke St, Chorley PR6 0LB.**



Synod2020 Chorley Pastoral Area

Theme 2 - Sharing The Mission of Jesus

Can the Church in Chorley rise to the challenge?

3 Big Questions

What does the Church in Chorley, need to do to:

1. *more effectively evangelise and lead people to a deeper relationship with Christ?
Catholics, lapsed Catholics and non-Catholics*
2. *show the compassionate love of Christ in Chorley & Beyond*
3. *equip lay people to be the presence of Christ at work, at home, in the street?*

Come and Have Your Say! – You Will Be Listened To!

Themes	St Chad's Social Club	St Mary's Social Club	Joseph's Social Club
Sharing The Mission of Jesus	Tuesday 19 th November	Wednesday 20 th November	Thursday 21 st November
	Main Room 7.30pm	Upstairs Rooms 7.30pm	7.30pm

Themed weeks in school

Next week is Judaism week in school, children across school and nursery will be learning about the Jewish faith. In the week after we will look at Anti- Bullying.

Applying for School Places September 2020

PRIMARY

Nursery/ pre-school children – due to start Reception class in primary school in September 2020. The statutory **closing date is 15 January 2020.**

The application to be made by the closing date using this direct link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

Should you need any help, support or guidance, the Pupil Access Office Contacts are listed below
Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley
01772-532109

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.

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

SPORTS NEWS

Girls Football

The St Mary's girls football team were in action on Tuesday night after school. Mr Hodge reported that they played three games and gave a good account of themselves in each match. Showing great resilience, they picked themselves up after two close defeats to triumph in their third and final match. Ella scored all the goals for the St Mary's team. Mr Hodge praised the team's positive attitude and behaviour.



Boys Football

The St Mary's boys football team were in action the following night. They had started the season with two victories so went into the competition feeling very confident. They also played three matches, drawing the first two and losing the last one by a single goal. Jacob scored all of St Mary's goals. I was very impressed with the team's ability and attitude especially given that many of the St Mary's team are still in Y5. Well done St Mary's and thank you parent for withstanding the cold and supporting in good number.

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.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2019/2020



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	98.73
2 nd	YEAR 1	97.78
3 rd	YEAR 4	97.50
4 th	YEAR 6	97.36
5 th	YEAR 5	97.06
6 th	RECEPTION	96.83
7 th	YEAR 2	96.23

AND A SPECIAL 'WELL DONE!' TO THE RECEPTION CLASS WHO ACHIEVED 100% ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK!! W/e 08.11.19

Message from the school office

A reminder for all parents to please for voluntary contributions to be completed for the trip to the pantomime in December. Many thanks. Any queries should be emailed to Mrs Hargreaves at admin@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk

Health and Safety notices

To prevent accidents from happening please keep children from playing on school equipment at the end and start of the school day. I will remind children in school as well. Thank you.

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.

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 08.11.19

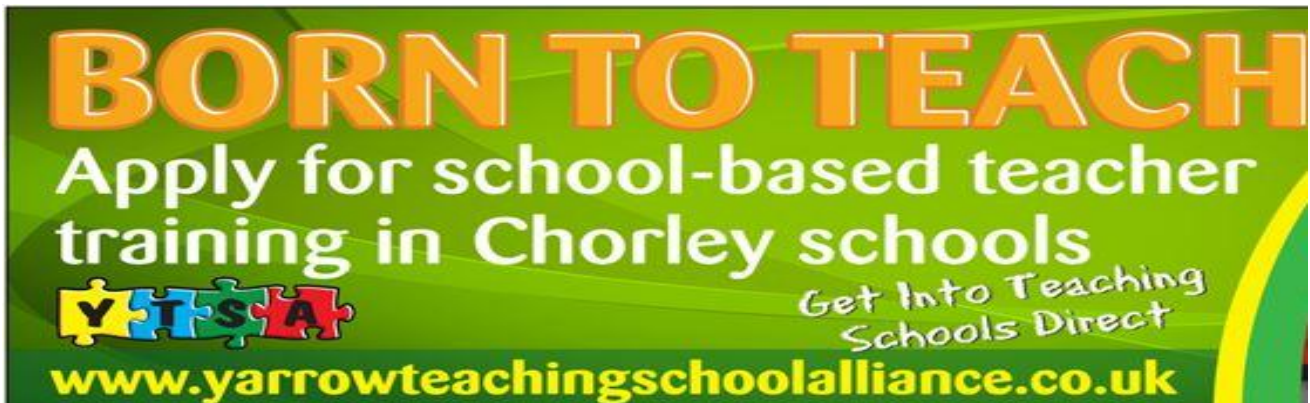
	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Nathaniel	Super phonics work and always using beautiful manners.
	YR	Kristian	Excellent concentration and trying hard with guided work.
	Y1	Mattia	Excellent history time line about his life so far.
	Y2	Ella	Trying her hardest and being positive in mathematics work.
	Y3	Millie	Excellent concentration and effort in all lessons.
	Y4	Lewis	Excellent attitude, effort and kindness to all.
	Y5	Harriet	Excellent effort throughout the week, being proud of her work and her excellent dancing.
	Y6	Jayden	Great attitude in class over the last couple of weeks with a higher quality of work in all subjects.

Notable Dates – There are a few dates which I have pencilled in which have yet to be fully confirmed (TBC) but I wanted to give you some advance notice of our plans.

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Autumn HT - 2		
	November	
3 PEACE Judaism Week	11 – 15	Judaism Week
	11 - 15	Anti-Bullying Week
	11	Remembrance Day
	14	BBA Launch
4 HUMILITY Anti Bullying Week	19	Nasal Flu Vaccinations from 0900 - 1430
	21	World Philosophy Day
5 COMPASSION		
	December	
6 CELEBRATION	2	Sacramental Class - First Confessions School
	6	Nativity EYFS Dress Rehearsal 0915 - 1015
	6	Nativity KS1 Dress Rehearsal
7 DEMOCRACY	9	Y3-6 Attend Mass Immaculate Conception/ Advent Mass
	10	Nativity - KS1 performance to parents 0930 – 1030 TBC - Details to follow
	10	Nativity - KS1 performance to parents 1830 – 1930 - TBC - Details to follow
	11	Nativity – EYFS performance to parents 0915- 1015 - TBC - Details to follow
	11	Nativity – EYFS performance to parents 1700- 1800 - TBC - Details to follow
	12	KS2 Carol Concert Practice – Church
	13	Panto Trip - Rec - Yr 6
8 FORGIVENESS	16	Carol Concert
	19	Party Day
	20	End of term

P Smyth 08.11.19



Are you interested in training to become a primary school teacher?

Have you considered school-based training?

We have vacancies now to start training **in September 2020** and we would be very interested to hear from you if you are thinking of becoming a teacher or know someone who is. We are looking for people who have (or will have) a degree, have a passion for teaching and want to make a difference to the lives of the children of Chorley.

To help you if you're interested keep an eye out for Open Events.

The events will take place at;

St George's CE Primary School, Carr Lane, Chorley, Lancs PR7 3JU.

Please contact the Director of Teaching School, Bernard Golding,

b.golding@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk to reserve your place.

Visit our website www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk to find out more about

what is on offer.