



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

09.10.20

Dear parents/ carers,

Last week we held our **harvest assembly** and gave thanks for the food we are fortunate enough to be able to receive each day. A huge 'thank you' to all parents and carers for your harvest gifts last week. Happily, it was a dry morning for the drop-offs. I took the bags of food to the Living Waters food bank. The food was gratefully received by the volunteers there. I was told that without harvest donations from school around the area, that the food bank would not make it to Christmas.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to all the children in Year 5 who have now received their First Holy Communion.

Thank you to Kinga, Mrs O'Neil, Miss Wilson and Fr Marsden for their commitment and determination in making it possible for this group of children to take this important step in their faith journey. Thank you also to the parents and families for your support and encouragement. There have been some lovely messages of support and thanks.

Today, the children wore their First Communion outfits and had a small celebration together in class; they toasted the end of their sacramental programme with a cup of squash and a small cake. Kinga brought each child a beautiful First Holy Communion certificate and an ornate crucifix (quarantined for 72 hours!), as a special commemorative gift from St Mary's Church to mark their special day. Tempest photographers came in to take an official record of the 2020 St Mary's Sacramental Class. Thank you to Miss Hesketh, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Ash and Mrs Blackwell for helping them celebrate today in school.

Well done, Mr Hodge and family

Well done Mr Hodge and family on the completion of their virtual London Marathon last week to help raise funds for the **Society for Mucopolysaccharide Diseases (MPS Society)**.

Parents' Evening - Tuesday 20th October

A reminder that, we are going ahead with our autumn term parents' evening. **It will take place via our online parents' evening booking system** that we have used for the last few years. It is a video conferencing piece of software, a bit like Zoom or MS Teams. The sessions are timed for a maximum of five minutes (there is a timer visible in the screen). At the end of the five minutes, the session times out to allow the next parent to begin their meeting. The booking system is now live.

We have found, in the past, that these early parents' meetings are an opportunity to find out how well children are settling into their new year groups. You might already know that through other channels of communication. Therefore, please do not feel an obligation to book a meeting although of course, you are more than welcome to. Some parents/ carers prefer to wait for a more in-depth consultation in the spring term. The spring term parents' evening will take place over two evenings and will last up to 10 minutes to allow for a more in-depth conversation.

COVID Safety measures

As part of our risk assessment at the start of the term, we said that **teachers are not able to speak to parents/ carers at the door in the mornings or at the end of the school day**. In order to keep school as COVID-secure as possible, we need to minimise the risk of transmission. Thank you for your understanding in this. If parents/carers need to pass a message on to the class teacher, we ask them to do so via Class Dojo during school hours. Thank you.

Coats and Jumpers

For St Mary's, measures such as: children remaining in bubbles, children and staff staying off school if they or household members have COVID symptoms, regular hand washing, good cleaning regime, social distancing, staff with face masks are all helping to keep us as safe as possible from COVID.

Another very important measure is **good ventilation and fresh air**.

Last week in the newsletter, I mentioned the **importance of children bringing their jumpers** into school to keep warm in class, as we need to keep windows and doors open for good ventilation, in our attempts to keep COVID-19 at bay. As the weather gets colder, children might also be advised to wear vests if you think that appropriate. We will have the heating on but we will need to keep doors and windows open – so it will be draughty and chilly!



We also need to make sure children have good **waterproof coats** with them. We want children outside at break times and lunch times and we want them outside as much as possible when doing PE - even if it is raining! Obviously, if the rain is torrential, we will have to stay indoors. Mrs Wilson is investing in some plastic ponchos from Amazon for about £1 each if that is something parents would be interested in.

Value of the Week – Gentleness

Well done to the following children who were spotted demonstrating **gentleness** last week ...

Class	Pupil
YR	Ella
Y1	Poppy
Y2	Marnie
Y3	Feba
Y4	Annabelle
Y5	Harry
Y6	Maddison

A message from the school office ...

There are quite a few outstanding bills to pay, please could parents please aim to settle accounts as soon as possible – many thanks.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2020/2021



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 1	99.33
2 nd	YEAR 3	99.02
3 rd	YEAR 2	98.61
4 th	RECEPTION	98.09
5 th	YEAR 4	97.32
6 th	YEAR 5	97.09
7 th	YEAR 6	95.73

W/E 09/10/2020

Well done Y1 and Y2 on achieving 100% attendance last week.

Bonjour - a message from Madame Russell, our French specialist

C'est Madame Russell, your French Teacher.



I have been so very pleased to see the children again and we are well under way with our weekly French lessons! The priority is to rekindle with them and get the spark back in our activities. We have had quite a bit of fun already discovering France with beautiful clips of villages and towns!

In Classe Trois (Year 3), we started with a return to school rhyme, with care for pronunciation and repetition of the French words, adding actions to bring them alive! Then we looked at the map of France, its shape and big cities. We looked at ways to cross the English Channel and found an amazing tunnel that takes us to France under the seabed! We practised the three colours of the French flag and visited the Eiffel Tower. We read a matching story and now know that the Eiffel Tower does not fly, swim or ski, because she is an Iron Lady, far too heavy! The children could celebrate the European Day of Languages practising greetings from around the world, checking their flags knowledge and practising colours too. I even wore a beret and French apron for the occasion!

In Classe Quatre (Year 4), we welcomed the children back with a return to French school song, for which we practised the words carefully, looking for similarities in both our languages. We watched aliens going back to school, listening and reading familiar words but using our detective skills to find the meaning of new words. We did some gymnastics with our jaws, practising all the sounds

combinations that we find in French words, while revising numbers and colours. For the Day of Languages, we greeted each other with hellos in many languages, memorising flags too. We looked at the map of Europe and discovered what Euros look like. We started to practise questions and answers with information about our name, age and where we live, which we exchanged in partners and in writing.

In Classe Cinq (Year 5), we started with the words to a return to school poem with actions, focusing on familiar words and finding cognates. We continued with a bit of 'Histoire de France', explaining the French flag, finding out what it looked like at the time of Kings and Emperors in France. We spotted the Lily flower as the Royal symbol in their everyday life and were able to explain briefly what happened during the French Revolution. For our celebration of the Day of Languages, Y5 explored the map of Europe and the words to a song in 5 languages! We carried on with a little 'géographie', asking and answering where we live in French in partners and completed our first written activities. We also used cardinal points to describe the precise location of French cities in full sentences!

In Classe Six (Year 6), we were busy finding cognate words from a return to school clip, discussing similarities of school topics in both languages. Then we started a cultural theme in French Geography, exploring the mesmerising island of Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea; touring its winding roads and beautiful coastal beaches. Then we used a set of French instructions to transfer onto individual maps, using our map reading skills to pinpoint specific information and record it. We are wrapping the theme with a famous French character, Napoléon, native of the island. We are deciding together if he was 'un tyran ou un héros', all in French, using short descriptions with adjectives and conjunctions! The children sang in 5 languages for our special Languages celebration and gathered facts about the creation of the EU. They were also offered a fun facts brochure with the creation of the EU, its history and geography.

Keep Calm and Speak more French!

Merci beaucoup.

Melanie Russell
Modern Foreign Language Specialist
Chorley School Sport Partnership CIC

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 is 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

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).****

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary 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 secondary applications for September 2020 is 31 October 2020.

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

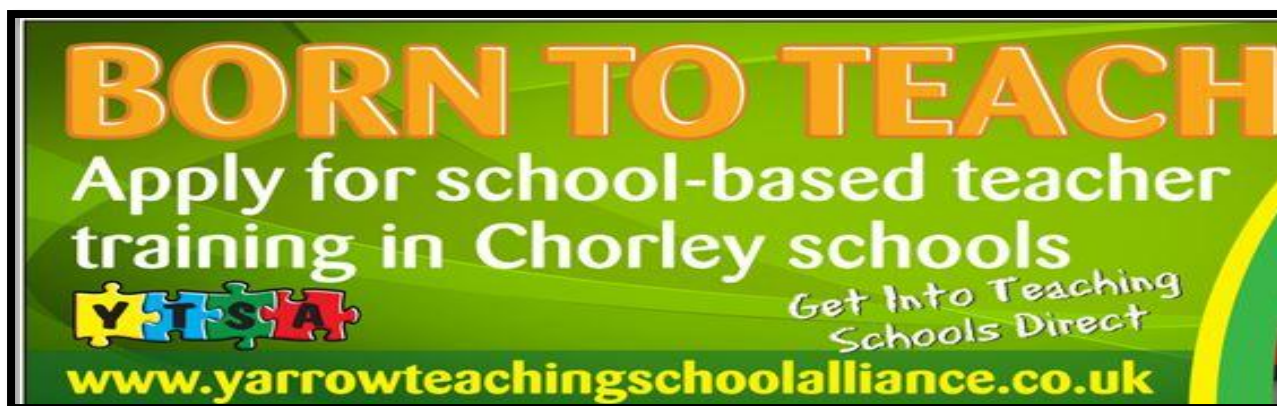
Free milk If you receive benefits, your child could also get free milk. Contact us to find out what arrangements we make for school milk.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 09.10.20

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Jesse	having a super week in Nursery and settling well.
YR	Mickey	fantastic maths work counting to 30.
Y1	Archie	excellent independent writing with accurate sentence punctuation.
Y2	Eliza	high quality writing
Y3	Jacob	super effort & concentration in all lessons.
Y4	William	his hard work and concentration when completing our assessments this week, particularly during our maths assessments.
Y5	Sienna	her commitment towards all her work, especially maths and her non-chronological report this week.
Y6	Peter	persevering with his maths investigation until he had found all the solutions.

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 12.10.20