



# School Newsletter

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

16.12.22

Dear parents and carers,

## Christmas Performances

Well done to all the children in the nursery and the infant classes for their wonderful Nativity performances over the last week.

The **Nursery** and **Reception** children were fantastic in their acting, singing and in remembering their lines for their Nativity performance of **Wriggly Nativity**. It was a brilliant performance and made parents and school staff, alike, very proud. Well done!



Well done to **Year 1 and Year 2** for their Nativity, **The Angel Gets Her Wings**. The two classes combined extremely well to tell the story of the birth of Jesus two thousand years ago. They spoke clearly, sang beautifully, acted and danced very well in order to share with us, this special story.

As I said at the end of all the performances, these productions serve as one of the ways in which the children learn the story of the first coming of Christ and they help them prepare for Christmas Day which is now only just over a week away – ten sleeps!

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers for their hard work in preparing the children so well and to their work on the set design this year. Thank you, parents, for supporting all our performances in great number and for contributing to our collections for Derian House, St Catherine's Hospice, Meningitis Now and towards meeting costs of licenses etc. at the end. We will let you know how much has been raised as soon as we have the totals.

What struck many people was how clearly the children enjoyed what they were doing – they had great fun!

## DVD Recordings of the Rec/Y1/Y2 Nativities

Both performances were recorded and the costs are £13 for the DVD and £11 for digitised version. Ordering details were sent out separately.

### **Junior Christmas Concert Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm**

The children in the juniors (Y3 to Y6) will be performing their Christmas concert and tableau in Church on the evening of **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm**. Prior to that, they will have one final practice at Church on Monday afternoon. Children will walk up to Church after lunch and then will walk back to school for home time.



Check out Class Dojo because **a couple of classes would appreciate parent volunteers to accompany us on the walk to and from Church on Monday afternoon**. If you can help, that would be brilliant. I believe Y3 and Y4 still need some volunteers.

**On Monday evening**, we would like all the children to meet in the Church. We would like all children to arrive no earlier than **5.45pm** and no later than **5.50pm**. We would like the Y4s to arrive wearing their costumes to save time on getting changed in Church and to allow for a prompt start at 6pm. Parents/ carers can come into Church with their children when they arrive; they do not need to wait outside as in previous years.

**Children must wear full uniform and look smart please - coats and other belongings to be left with parents, please.**

The concert will start at 6.00pm and the performance will last between 40 minutes and an hour at the most. There will be a collection at the end to contribute to the Church's heating costs for the evening. Father Marsden estimates the cost of heating the Church is about £10 an hour and to get it warmed up for 6pm, the heating has to be switched on at 1pm!

It will be the first such performance since Christmas 2019. It should be a lovely evening, if previous years' events are anything to go by.

### **Christmas Dinner**

Thank you to Mrs McKeown, Mrs MaCaulay and Mrs Waddington for preparing our wonderful Christmas dinners this week. The children (and staff!) enjoyed their tasty Christmas feast very much!

### **Christmas Parties**

The children across school enjoyed their Christmas parties today. Thank you to the PTFA for funding some snacks treats and selection boxes for the children to enjoy. A very special thank you to Father Christmas who once again made a special trip to St Mary has to visit our children and hand out some early presents. He worked very hard this morning: he spoke to the children, he gave them a present each, he brought each class their own book to keep and he read each class a story too. Thank you Father Christmas – what a great job you did!

### **Message from Kinga Grzeczynska, St Mary's Parish Administrator**

Here are the Mass times at St Mary's over the Christmas season:

Christmas Eve 5pm  
Christmas Day 10 am  
New Year Eve 5pm  
New Year Day 10am



I look forward to seeing the children in church during Christmas and New Year especially the Yr 4 Class who are preparing for their First Holy Communion and are invited to Mass on a weekly basis.

Thank you.  
Best wishes.

*I would like to say a big thank you to Kinga for her work with the Y4s on their Sacramental preparation this term and thank you for her wonderful gift of next year's version of the Guinness Book of Records for the school library. Thank you!*

#### **Christmas Joy New Toy Appeal - A message from Paul McBeth SVP Chorley Buddies**

Hi,

Thank you and your communities so much for the amazing response in this very difficult year, to the Christmas Joy Toy Appeal. Nearly 300 children in Chorley will have a bigger smile on their face due to your generosity. And thank you to the growing number of Chorley businesses supporting the Appeal!

Paul J McBeth

SVP Chorley Buddies

*Paul came to collect the presents earlier this week.*



#### **Applying for School Places September 2023**

##### **PRIMARY**

Nursery/ pre-school children – due to start Reception class in primary school in September 2023  
The statutory **closing date is 15 January 2023– just over four weeks away.**

The application can be made using this direct link:

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

School places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis. All applications received up to the closing date are given equal priority, but if you miss the deadline, a late application may reduce your chance of getting your preference of school.

The arrangements for the admission of pupils to primary schools in September 2023 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable.

15 January 2023 - National closing date for primary applications (statutory).

During this period all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the published admissions policy. Where there are more applications than places available, decisions are made as to which children should be offered the available places. LCC will liaise and exchange information with all other admission authorities including neighbouring local authorities. The allocation and offer of a primary school place is finalised.

17 April 2023 - Offers issued to parents\*

(The national offer date is 16 April, if this date falls on a weekend or a bank holiday, offers are sent the next working day.)

28 April 2023 - Deadline for requesting:

- an appeal
- a place on the reserve (waiting) list(s)
- Week commencing 1 May 2023 - Distribute appeal forms to parents

By 7 July 2023

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).\*\*** You can access this from the following link: <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions>



**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League**  
**2022/2023** w/e 16.12.22



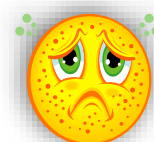
CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	Year 4	97.22
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Year 5	96.84
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 6	96.50
4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2	96.32
5 <sup>th</sup>	Reception	96.13

6 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3	95.44
7 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1	95.09

w/e 16.12.22 No 100% attendance this week.

### Health and Safety Reminder – sickness and/ or diarrhoea

This is the time of year when there are more bugs and germs around than usual. If your child does become ill with **sickness or diarrhoea**, the guidance for schools from Public Health England gives a minimum recommended absence from school of 48 **hours**. This is to limit the spread of the bug around school. Thank you.



### Strep A/ Scarlet Fever

What are the symptoms of Strep A/scarlet fever?

Strep A infections can cause a range of symptoms that parents should be aware of, including:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel
- On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel

If a child becomes unwell with these symptoms, please advise parents to contact their GP practice or contact NHS 111 (which operates a 24/7 service) to seek advice.

If a child has scarlet fever, advise they stay at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

Parents/ Carers should trust their own judgement and if their child seems seriously unwell call 999 or go to A&E if:

- a child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs
- there are pauses when a child breathes
- a child's skin, tongue or lips are blue
- a child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

### How to help prevent Strep A?

To prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises children, young people and staff to implement good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

For more information, visit the UKHSA website or the Education Hub.

# YSA Yarrow School Alliance

New Year, new challenge  
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!  
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.  
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based  
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email  
[r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk) for more information

P Smyth 16.12.22