



School Newsletter

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

05.09.25

Dear parents/ carers,

Welcome Back to School!

Welcome to the new school year to all our children, families, staff and parents. A special welcome to our new starters in the nursery and reception classes —it has been lovely to see how well the children have settled in this week. They looked so smart in their uniforms and there were lots of happy smiles as they made new friends or reacquainted with their old friends and got to know their new teachers and teaching assistants.

We are also very pleased to welcome Brooklyn in Year 2, Harmony and An in Year 4 and Lawson in Year 5, who have joined St Mary's this term. We are sure they will enjoy a busy, fun and hardworking autumn term ahead!

Y4 Swimming

The Year 4 class will be going to their first school swimming lesson on **Tuesday 9 September**.

Tempest School Photographs

We have booked Tempest Photography to come in on **Monday 9th September**. Children will be photographed individually and with their siblings from school/ nursery. Parents will have the option to buy or refuse from the proof that is sent home with the child. In order to ease the process, all children will have his/her photograph taken unless requested otherwise by the parent. There is NO obligation to purchase any photographs.

EYFS Breakfast Stay & Play - Wednesday 10 September 8.30 am - 9.30am

The EYFS classes are having a breakfast stay and play session for Reception and Nursery children on Wednesday 10 September, from 8.30am - 9.30am. The staff said that it will be lovely to meet all the parents and for them to get to see what their little ones are getting up to and how they have settled in.

Start of school year Mass at St Mary's - Wednesday 10 September at 9am.

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be attending 9.00am Mass at St Mary's **on Wednesday 10 September at 9am** to celebrate the start of the new school year and Our Lady's birthday. **We ask**

that children are dropped off at Church door on that morning from 8.45am. They will be registered by their class teacher in Church. After Mass, they will walk back down to school. Please ensure children have suitable clothing in case of rain showers for the walk back. Thank you.

Sacramental Class Meeting – Cheese and Wine evening 6pm Tuesday 23 September at 6pm

There is a meeting in school for parents and carers of children receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion during the coming school year.

The meeting will take place in the school hall on September 23 at 6pm. At the meeting Mrs Grzeczynska, Lead Catechist and School Governor, will introduce herself and share some information regarding the Sacramental Programme (Family Catechesis) for the coming year. It will also provide an opportunity for parents and carers to ask any questions that they may have.

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. 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 by volunteering and then have decided to pursue a career in teaching! A big thank you to all our returning volunteers this year – you make a massive difference!

If you feel you can spare half an hour or more a week please get in touch with the school office. Many thanks.

Summer Clean

We would like to say thanks to Mrs Macaulay and Mr Fairley for their hard work in giving the school a deep clean over the summer and to the team from Coxhead Cleaning Company. They have done a great job for us again. Thank you!

Summer gardening

We would also like to say a big thank you to Margaret Morgan, a long-time volunteer at St Mary's, who spent much of the six-week break sprucing up the grounds at school. She has spent time planting and weeding and has done a wonderful job. Her work has really brightened the place up – thank you Margaret.

PTFA Notices

The summer fair took place on the last Friday of the summer term. We were lucky to have had such good weather and we thank all the parents and families for their wonderful support. Together we raised a magnificent £1 760. This brings our Project Playground total to near enough £6 000.

Open Evening Tuesday 30 September at 6pm

We are having our Open Evening on Tuesday 30 September at 6pm. So if you know anyone who might be interested in a place in our reception class for their child in September 2026, please let them know.



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 hairstyles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles, which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school 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

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 grapes 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.

Social media concerns

One or two parents have expressed their concerns to me over some reports circulating on social media. One of those reports regards an incident in Chorley. School has not been contacted directly about this but I was informed that the police issued a statement about it yesterday afternoon. See <https://www.lep.co.uk/news/chorley-council-issues-statement-after-man-voluntarily-leaves-home-after-parents-concern-5305054>

Free School Meals – Are you missing out?

Find out if you are eligible and find out how to apply – follow this link.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

STAR OF THE WEEK

Class		Name	Star of the week for...
Nursery	s	All Children	Amazing week with all children settling well. Superstars
	v	-	-
	Dojo	Ottillie	
R	s	The whole class	Settling in so beautifully!
	v		
	Dojo		

Y1	s	The whole class	A super start to Year 1. You're all going to have an amazing year!
	v		
	Dojo	Avaeha	
Y2	s	All of Year 2	Well done to the whole of the Year 2 class for an amazing start to their new learning journey. I am so proud of you all!
	v		
	Dojo	Annie, Edie, Eleanor and Eden	
Y3	s	Cleo	For setting a good example to others
	v		
Y4	s	Willow	For a fantastic start to the year, putting in extra effort in her work at lunchtimes
	v		
Y5	s	Lawson	A superb start to Year 5... keep up the good work.
	v		
Y6	s	Jacob W	For a wonderful start to Year 6, sharing wonder answers and participating in all lessons.
	v		

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth
Headteacher