



School Newsletter

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

23.05.2020

Dear parents/ carers,

We have come to the end of the first summer half-term in this most unusual of school years. I originally intended to put this newsletter out yesterday but unfortunately I ran out of time, my apologies. Once again, I want to say thank you to parents and children for your continued hard work in engaging with the home learning. I would also like to say a big thank you to you for your many, many positive comments of support. Thank you to the staff for their efforts in keeping school going whether in providing learning and feedback, childcare, cleaning, cooking, business administration, school governance or most importantly, in supporting one another in our school community. Thank you all.

I wish you all a happy and restful half-term break.

Wider re-opening of St Mary's School & Nursery

Over the last two weeks we have been carefully planning and preparing for the safe re-opening of school to a number of year groups from June 1st. Although many of the measures planned have been put in place, there are a number of things still to do. I wrote to you on Thursday outlining some of our plans and in today's newsletter I will provide more information.

And as I indicated in Thursday's letter there is the caveat that the plans are subject to change for many reasons. The plans are not set in stone. For example, depending upon the scientific advice given, the Government might push back the proposed re-opening date. Or circumstances at school might change for example staff illness or the correct PPE may not yet have arrived.

I would also like to stress that we cannot guarantee the prevention of COVID infection in school but we can do our very best to minimise the risk of it by working together: children, parents/ carers, staff and governors.

What are the groupings and which staff are leading them?

As it stands, these are the planned group arrangements:

| | Bubble A Lead adult | Bubble B Lead adult |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Nursery | Mrs Oswianska (Monday) / Mrs Cassidy (Tues- Friday) | Mrs Bowler |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Reception | Mrs Singleton | Mrs Swarbrick |
| Year 1 | Miss Hesketh | Mr Hodge |
| Critical worker children Y2-6 | Mrs Ash | Mrs Kay |

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, not all of the groups will be able to have their regular teacher. This is because, in order to maintain bubbles we will have to split classes into two. It is also because some of our teaching staff fall into the 'clinically vulnerable' category and so naturally we are following local authority HR advice on their safe deployment. Teachers will organise children into groupings which will suit their learning and social/ emotional needs best, as they judge them. We will let you know which group your child has been allocated to in w/c June 1st.

We will be providing children with coloured wristbands to help staff and pupils identify correct groupings. These are intended to stay in school and will be wiped down each day.

What are the drop-off and collection arrangements?

| Who? Where? When? | Critical Worker | Critical Worker | Nursery A | Nursery B | Reception A | Reception B | Year 1 A | Year 1 B |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Entrance Gate | Main car park footpath | Main car park footpath | Warton Place | Warton Place | Warton Place | Warton Place | Walgarth Drive | Walgarth Drive |
| Door | Main entrance | Main entrance | Nursery class | Reception class | Year 1 door | Year 2 door | Year 3 door | Year 4 door |
| Drop-off | 0900 | 0900 | 0900 | 0900 | 0845 | 0845 | 0845 | 0845 |
| Pick-Up | 1515 | 1515 | 1515 | 1515 | 1500 | 1500 | 1500 | 1500 |

Please note. To minimise adult to adult contact:

- only one parent is allowed on site to bring in or collect child/ren
- if a parent has children at two different pick-up/ drop-off times then please drop-off at latest time and pick up at earliest time; this will remove the need for being on site for any longer than necessary.
- parents may not gather at entrance gates or doors,
- teachers/ TAs will not be able to speak directly with parents - communication will be via Dojo / phone/ email only.
- parents may not enter the building (unless they have a pre-arranged appointment, which should be conducted safely).
- we have been asked to remind parents and carers of recommendations on transport to and from school, reducing any unnecessary travel on buses or public transport where possible (for example, by walking or cycling to school).

- We will use signage to guide parents and carers about where and when they should drop off and pick up their children and also safe distancing markers.

What is going to happen with the home learning for the children not attending school?

The teachers who are not teaching face to face in school will help to manage the home learning. It took a little bit of time at the start of the closure back in March for staff to get used to providing remote education but I think you will agree our teachers and teaching assistants have done an excellent job.

It is going to take a little bit of time to set up the new provision when we return. This is because teachers will be managing home learning of children not necessarily in their classes, so in the week commencing June 1st it is going to take us a few days before to get ourselves in a position where any work is set for the children. Teachers will need to liaise with one another to plan and deliver the work. As I said in the previous newsletter, it will inevitably be a reduced level of provision to that children are currently used to.

What if my child is poorly, should they come to school?

If your child has any of the symptoms of COVID: continuous cough, high temperature or loss of the sense of smell or taste, then please do not send them to school. The same goes for other symptoms which are indirectly linked with COVID for example general achiness, coughs, colds, upset stomachs and headaches etc. We want to be *better safe than sorry*.

What happens if someone becomes unwell in school or nursery?

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or notifies staff of loss of senses of taste or smell, they will be sent home and advised to follow the COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance.

If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to the **Quiet Room** where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age of the child and with appropriate adult supervision at appropriate distance. Windows will be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate them, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.

If they need to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they will use the Men's disabled W/C.

PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs)

Will items be allowed back and forth from home to school and vice-versa?

Items will not be made in school to be sent home with child.

No reading books will go home because we cannot clean them, many more electronic reading books are available on Oxford Owl; your child's teacher will give you more information about this.

Pupils will not bring any bags into school. If they are having a packed lunch, they bring it in its regular container.

We ask that children bring in a drinking bottle for water.

Pupils can bring coats but we ask please only do so when necessary.

What about school uniform?

Parents can opt either to send children in uniform or not in uniform whichever is easiest for them. But in order to minimise risk of infection we ask that children return in clean clothes next day. There is no need for anything other than normal washing of clothes following a day in a school. Please note children should not wear school ties.

Pupils may wear trainers instead of shoes (ones that can be used for PE or outdoor play)

Please do not bring PE kits to school

A request about pencils, crayons, rubbers and sharpeners

We are asking parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and the critical worker children to provide their children with a pencil, sharpener, rubber, set of coloured pencils or crayons and a small ruler if at all possible. This will remain in school. We do not have enough resources in school to provide children with individual sets, so it would really help us out. **This is a voluntary contribution and if you are not able to provide these items we will do our best to do so. School will provide any children entitled to Free School Meals with a set of these items.** We have purchased a set of clear plastic, wipeable pencil cases to house these items of stationery. This set will not be shared by any other children or adults.

What routines in school can my child expect?

There will be many changes to life in school although we will do our very best to ensure your child is as comfortable and happy as is possible. We will ask them to:

- follow any altered routines for arrival or departure
- follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing and sanitising
- follow instructions on who they can socialise with at school
- move around the school as per specific instructions (for example, one-way systems, out of bounds areas, queueing)
- follow expectations about sneezing, coughing, tissues and disposal ('catch it, bin it, kill it') and avoid touching mouth, nose and eyes with hands
- tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus, cough, temp, smell & taste
- follow rules about sharing any equipment or other items including drinking bottles

- follow amended expectations about breaks or play times, including where children may or may not play
- follow rules about use of toilets

What happens next and when will I find out more?

We will be continuing to conduct a rigorous risk assessment over the coming days. Governors will be consulted and we will make a final decision by the end of next week on whether it is safe for the school to reopen. The Government is expected to make an announcement on 28th May on whether their own conditions have been met for schools to reopen in England. We will also be contacting you to confirm which children will or will not be attending during the course of the week.

And I will continue to update you as and when I can tell you more.

Other News

Reception and Nursery Induction evenings

On Wednesday and Thursday evenings we held meetings over Zoom for the parents of our new starters in Nursery and Reception. Although, great uncertainty remains over the practicalities we are planning and preparing as we normally would for our new arrivals. I would like to say a huge thank you to our teachers and teaching assistants in giving up their time and preparing and delivering those meetings and to Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves in preparing the materials.

We are greatly looking forward to welcoming those children and working with their parents hopefully for years to come.

Archdiocese of Liverpool Appeal

The Archdiocese has created an opportunity to ask people to help us with the parish finances which are falling rapidly due to the pandemic and to the fact that churches are closed to the public. Members of the clergy and officers of the Church are still working hard for their parishioners, providing invaluable pastoral, spiritual and physical support for individuals and families through these difficult times. They are doing so with dwindling resources. We have been asked to publicise this appeal.

<https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-mary-chorley>

Online Safety

During this period of school closure and social distancing, children are understandably desperate to communicate with each other, when they cannot see each other either at school or outside of school. Some children are communicating with each other online via games, text or social media.

Please could I ask you to remind children how to stay safe online and report anything they see that worries them to you or to their teacher. I would also strongly advise parents to closely monitor any messaging their children are doing on their devices – thank you.

Chorley Buddies – its great work shown on Channel 4 TV

As highlighted in recent newsletters the work of Chorley Buddies was reported nationwide in Channel 4 News last week.

<https://www.channel4.com/news/communities-battling-dual-enemies-of-poverty-and-coronavirus>

As you probably know, Chorley Buddies was started on the back of the work done in Chorley regarding Synod2020.

One of the many strands that continually arose was connection with the wider community and social outreach.

Motivated by that and the needs of the community during the Covid-19 Emergency, Chorley Buddies was formed by parishioners from St Gregory's and St Joseph's, Chorley, with many good wishes from other parishioners from other parishes.

Since our first day on Wednesday 25th March, we have grown to provide a service across the whole of Chorley Borough Council.

We are on the Stakeholders Steering Group, working with Chorley BC and other agencies to work out how best to meet the needs of Chorley during the Emergency.

But like all volunteer groups, we need to raise money to continue with the work. We have been awarded £750 from the Community Foundation for Lancashire but need another £1000 to continue our work for the coming year.

There is a massive need for continued support, well beyond the easing of the lockdown.

We have created a crowd funding page on Just Giving. Please consider donating. Any amount is significant. As they say in Scotland 'Many a mickle makes a muckle'!

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chorley-buddies>



Chorley Buddies
01257 542367

Want to talk to someone? We're listening
Want to be a PhoneBuddy? We'll connect you
Need a ShoppingBuddy? We'll get it for you
Need meds or Scripts delivered? We'll do it

LINES ARE OPEN FROM 9AM TO 9PM, WITH ANSWERPHONE
OUTSIDE THOSE HOURS



JustGiving

Help raise £1000 to help fund telephone lines for a befriending & shopping service


We're raising money to help fund telephone lines for a befriending &

shopping service. Support this JustGiving Crowdfunding Page.

www.justgiving.com

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chorley-buddies>

Star of the Week 22.05.20

|  | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| Class | Name | Star of the Week for ... | |
| YN | Rebecca B | Being creative and trying new things. | |
| YR | Jacob W | Amazing writing this week. | |
| Y1 | Heidi | High quality work and engagement. | |
| Y2 | Jimmy | Working very hard on all his home learning activities and making Mrs Nicklin smile. | |
| Y3 | Zach, Leon and Joel K | Consistent high quality work - attaining a high amount of house points but not quite enough to be Dojo champions | |
| Y4 | All Year 4! | Continued hard work and positivity. | |
| Y5 | Lucia | Excellent effort through our 'inventions' work. | |
| Y6 | Alex, Bethany and Ciaran | Alex Smith, Bethany Grime and Ciaran Hartley for their Greta Thunberg biographies. https://spark.adobe.com/page/Puaxy8PnTvYtH/ https://spark.adobe.com/page/NWp98y4OIR7TA/ https://spark.adobe.com/page/euWIOe2GVCUUg/ | |

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.

Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities (SEND) Resources

I have also attached the latest SEND newsletter from Lancashire SEND team.

Anniversary of the Manchester Arena Bombing 22.05.20

Yesterday marked the third anniversary of the Manchester Arena bombing at the Ariana Grande concert – a number of our pupils were in attendance. We remember and pray for the victims of that tragic event.

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth

Headteacher