



School Newsletter

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

27.05.22

Dear parents and carers,

We have come to the end of the first half of the summer term with the bonus of one additional day to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the start of the traditional one-week Whitsun break. Thanks for your support as always over the last half-term and we look forward to seeing the children back refreshed and ready to go for the final half-term of the school year.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The teachers planned a lot of the children's learning this half term around the Platinum Jubilee, given it is such a significant event and I am sure the children will look back on this period with many fond memories of the things that they did and learned about. Below are some of the things they have been doing.

EYFS Garden Party

Thank you to all the mums, dads and other family members who joined their children in dressing up for our 'indoor' EYFS Royal Garden Tea Party the week before last. It was great to be able to get together; the children looked fantastic and had a fabulous time - as did their teachers and parents.

Jubilee Garden

In the summer term as part of their science curriculum learning about living things, Year 1 and Year 3 study plants. This year their study of plants has involved the creation of a *Jubilee Garden*. Next time you pass the wooded area on the way down from Walgarth Drive, take a look at it – it's very impressive. Well done to our Year 1 and Year 3 children and staff, you have done a great job.

Association of Jewish Refugees Oak Tree – Part of Queen's Green Canopy project for the Jubilee

Also doing well, is the oak tree given to the school to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees. It was also planted as part of a group of 80 oak trees nationwide to contribute to the *Queen's Green Canopy* project for the Jubilee. It has taken very well and is covered in healthy leaves with their unmistakeable oak leaf shape.



Jubilee Portraits of Queen



This week, all the children across the school produced some art work based on the Queen's silhouette that you might see on a postage stamp. Once again, they did a fantastic job with each year group given the challenge, by Mrs Cassidy, our art subject leader, of doing it in a slightly different way. Thanks Mrs Cassidy, for organising.

I know some of you had a chance to look at them in exhibition in the hall at the end of school on Thursday.

If you missed them at school, there is another chance to see them at St Mary's Church where they have been put on display.

Commemorative Clay Tile Designs



By now, you should have seen your child's Jubilee commemorative clay tile. They are absolutely fantastic; the children did a brilliant job in their work and they now have a wonderful memento of the Queen's jubilee.

Mrs Wilson has sent images of these to parents via Class Dojo. Mrs Nicklin sent me the message below from Jennie from Alabaster Jar who worked with the children – we thought she did an excellent job!

Once again, the children were praised for their excellent behaviour (see Y4s' tiles with names removed).

'It was genuinely a real pleasure to work with all the children and I have never met such a well-behaved and polite group in my time here. I shall look forward to working with you again in the future.' Jennie, Alabaster Jar.

Year 2 Cooking Pizzas

On behalf of our Y2s we would like to say a big thank you to Mr Casey for coming in to help the children in Y2 make their own delicious pizzas which were cooked in special pizza oven. He helped make an impressive 30 pizzas from start to finish on Thursday morning which is an incredible achievement in itself. Thank you!

British Council International School Award success for St Mary's

Great news! St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery in Chorley has been awarded Foundation level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work in today's world. Thank you to Mrs Nicklin, all the staff and children for their hard work in achieving this.



First Confession – Year 4

The Year 4s made their First Confession on Monday afternoon this week. Fr Ball, Fr Crowther and Fr Marsden heard children make their First Confession in the junior playground on Monday afternoon. Mrs Cooper and Mrs Grzeczynska helped the children as they made this, their next step on their faith journey receiving this important sacrament for the first time. We thank Fr Ball, Fr Crowther and Fr Marsden and Mrs Grzeczynska for their time and effort and congratulate the children.

Sacramental Class meeting

There will be a meeting on Zoom for parents of children in Year 4 receiving their First Holy Communion next months on Tuesday 7th June at 6pm. Parents will receive a link via GroupCall. Kinga Grzeczynska, lead catechist, would like to go through some final arrangements with parents. Thank you Kinga in arranging this and for finding a gap in the weather!

Ascension Day (26th May)

Yesterday was Ascension Day. Deacon Norman came to school in the afternoon to celebrate a Liturgy of the Word with children in Y1 to Y6. He also spoke briefly about the Queen's jubilee and his own memories of the Queen's coronation when he was four and a half years old. Thank you Deacon Norman for coming to celebrate with us.

Alpha Course

All the Catholic Parishes in Chorley are working together to put on an Alpha Series, starting in September. Alpha can best be described as an Introduction to Christianity and tries to give answers to the big questions in – why am I here, is there a God, what has Jesus got to do with it, etc etc? It is suitable for both those with no background in Christianity but are searching and for those with a background in Christianity but are perhaps looking for a 're-boot'. Follow this link for an explanation of how Alpha works: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/214170130> 'Alpha is Coming [Alpha in a Catholic Context Introductory DVD \(extended version\) - English - YouTube](#)
Can you help? Open Evening 30th June 7pm-9pm St Gregory's Church House'

Scandi-inspired 'pop up stay and play' group at St Joseph's Parish Hall Hoghton

Mrs Aldridge, an EYFS teacher from St Joseph's in Withnell is running a Scandi inspired 'pop up stay and play' group at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Hoghton. The stay and play is for children aged 0-5 and their grown- ups.

The sessions have been carefully planned, and will be well resourced with high quality toys, soft play... and delicious coffee/ tea and home baked cakes :-)

The next six-week block is running each Thursday morning from Thursday 9th June- 14th July. The session is limited to 20 families. Pre booking is essential. More information can be found on the following Instagram page:

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cb2WiEwgZpJ/?utm_medium=copy_link

Alternatively you can book by emailing littlefolklancashire@outlook.com

'Quality Sport' Holiday Club

We have been asked to share information with you about a May half-term holiday club in Chorley. See leaflet attached with booking details.

Sports News

Health Week 2022 – a message from Mr Hodge

This year's Health Week is centred on fun and competition. In our PE Steering Group Meeting at the start of the year, pupils commented on how they enjoyed the fun aspects of the Health Week the year before and how they appreciated an opportunity to try something new (e.g. Kinball and Ultimate Frisbee). As a result of this feedback, we have booked 'Disco Dodgeball' for KS1 and 'Footdarts' for KS2 alongside the popular 'Colour Run' (provided by the CSSP last year) that the children (and staff) absolutely loved.

Our competitive edge to Health Week is provided by our 'Sports Days' (please see the timetable so that you know which days the CSSP will be in school to deliver these to different classes as spectators will be welcomed this year with open arms!).

We will, as always, focus on healthy food choices (each class doing a healthy eating activity) with Hannah Dixon from the Chorley School Sports Partnership doing some 'Exploring Food' activities with Nursery and Reception. Pupils also expressed an interest in using the gymnastics equipment in the hall (ropes, climbing bars and ladders) so Mr Hodge will be running a 'Gymnastics Day'. In this way, pupils can experience the hall differently in comparison to their usual assembly or dinner time.

Alongside the other action packed activities we have planned (Rhythmicality, Girls Football, Active Maths etc.) we are sure to have a great week. Fingers crossed that we get suitable weather so that we can enjoy the week to its full potential. More information will follow on the EYFS plans for Health Week.

CSSP Orienteering Competition

Mr Hodge took the St Mary's Orienteering Squad to the CSSP orienteering competition the week before last. They used maps to find targets and run between targets in the fastest possible time. Mr Hodge reported that the children had a great time. Thanks Mr Hodge for taking them.

CSSP Netball Finals

Mrs Blackwell and Mrs Southern took the talented St Mary's netball team to the Chorley finals on Wednesday evening. They were up against the best teams in the area. They made it to the semi-finals and earned third place overall. This is a superb achievement. The team have improved so much during the year. Miss Hesketh, Mrs Blackwell and Mrs Southern were extremely proud of the children who played but also of the whole squad who have contributed to get to this point. Needless to say, they were highly impressed with the behaviour of our team in their good manners and in their sporting behaviour. Well done St Mary's and well done to the staff for their time and effort.

Holy Cross Year 9 Football Teams Lancashire Cup Winners

Congratulations to Holy Cross and their Y9 football team on their fantastic achievement in winning the prestigious Lancashire Cup. St Mary's can claim a little bit of credit in that SEVEN members of the team are former pupils of St Mary's. Congratulations, once again!

Car Parking – Pick up and Drop off

Can I ask all parents/ carers, when dropping off and picking up:

- Please bear in mind especially, the safety of child pedestrians
- Please do not park across driveways.
- Please do not park in the hammerhead on Warton Place. Signs are now in place there.
- If possible, set off a little earlier, park a little further away and walk the rest of the way. The children get rewarded for a *Park and Stride*.

SHOW YOU CARE, PARK ELSEWHERE!

Walking to School – Visit of the mascot Strider.

St Mary's have been taking part in a national initiative, *the WOW Living Streets Walk to School Challenge*, for over a year now. The children tell their teachers each day how they travelled to school. Mr Hodge collates all the results and sends them off to Living Streets. He also dishes out the badges to children who have managed to include at some walking on their travels to and from school. Mr Hodge found out recently that St Mary's was in the top 10 best participating schools in Lancashire and we received a surprise visit by *Strider* – the WOW mascot. Well done children, mums and dads and thank you, Mr Hodge.



National Curriculum Tests – SATs

Our Y2s have just finished their tests to help Mrs Nicklin make her assessments of the children as they reach the end of KS1. These test results do not get reported to the DfE or the local authority, they are just there to support Mrs Nicklin in her judgements.

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

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 20.05.22

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Rory H	for having a 'can do' attitude to learning this week and trying his best in all activities
	YR	Caitlin	For fantastic team work and helping her friends
	Y1	Buddy	for displaying such sensible behaviour and excelling at his art work this week.
	Y2	Jacob W	For his determination to do his best
	Y3	Oscar	focus and attention in his Maths work (on fractions).
	Y4	Seb	His excellent start to his story based on The BFG.
	Y5	Jamie	Excellent effort on his sentence structure and creating engaging ideas.
	Y6	River H	A great retelling of a story



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2021/2022 27.05.22



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	96.03
2 nd	YEAR 5	95.82
3 rd	YEAR 2	95.80
4 th	YEAR 1	95.78
5 th	YEAR 4	95.42
6 th	RECEPTION	94.85
7 th	YEAR 6	93.38

Yarrow Schools Teaching Alliance



P Smyth, Headteacher 27.05.22