



School Newsletter

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

10th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school for the new term. I hope you all had a happy and restful Christmas and an enjoyable break. The children returned refreshed, looking very smart and ready to go. They settled down quickly to hard work this week and are a credit to you all. On behalf of all the staff, thank you very much for all the Christmas Cards from the children and families and for all the gifts received.

Unavoidable School Closures

Over the course of this term the hours of daylight will lengthen. Hopefully it will begin to warm up a little bit too. However, in the unlikely event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

Parents' Evenings

A bit of advance notice for you: the spring term parents' evenings have been planned for the evenings of **Tuesday 3rd March and Thursday 5th March**. Details on how to book will be released in the coming weeks.

Primary School Admissions September 2020 Deadline

Applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on Wednesday 15 January 2020.

Please see Mrs Wilson's letter below regarding admissions to school for September 2020. Occasionally, I have to go to appeals meetings for pupils not admitted to school due to missed deadlines or non-completion of **supplementary information forms** (SIFs). If you are unsure about any part of the process please contact the school office – or if you are aware of anyone who is seeking a place at St Mary's next September and may not see this note please make them aware of it. Thank you.

Dear Parents & Carers,

A reminder that if you have a child that is due to start school in September 2020, that the

closing date for applications is **Wednesday 15th January 2020**. Please be aware that if you are applying to our school (or any other faith school) that a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) **must be completed** for each school and the evidence provided where necessary.

Should you have any questions or require any further help or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Mrs Wilson
School Business Manager

Parent Pay Balances



Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to remind you to check balances on Parent Pay and settle any outstanding amounts. Thank you.

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.



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.


Sports News

CSSP Dodge Ball Festival

Mr Cahalin and Mrs Bradley took the St Mary's Dodge Ball team to compete in the CSSP's Dodge Ball Festival at Parklands School on Wednesday night. They reported that the squad played with great team spirit and determination. Mr Cahalin was very impressed with their sense of fair play. Well done to the team and thanks to Mr Cahalin and Mrs Bradley for taking them along.



STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 10.01.20

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Ruby-Rae	Always being polite and for being able to write her name.
	YR	Archie	Fantastic independent writing.
	Y1	Emma	Excellent focus in phonics and English this week.
	Y2	Emily	Trying her very best with all her work.
	Y3	Sebastian	Hard work across all subjects.
	Y4	Sam	Great listening this week and for perseverance in mathematics.
	Y5	Niamh	A great start back and her enthusiasm for our poetry unit.
	Y6	Jacob	Great work in spelling words with 'ough' in.

Notable Dates – dates to follow



BORN TO TEACH
Apply for school-based teacher training in Chorley schools
Y-T-S-A
www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk
Get Into Teaching Schools Direct

Are you interested in training to become a primary school teacher?

Have you considered school-based training?

We have vacancies now to start training **in September 2020** and we would be very interested to hear from you if you are thinking of becoming a teacher, or know someone who is. We are looking for people who have (or will have) a degree, have a passion for teaching and want to make a difference to the lives of the children of Chorley.

Keep your eye out for open evenings over the coming months.

The events will take place at;

St George's CE Primary School, Carr Lane, Chorley, Lancs PR7 3JU.

Please contact the Director of Teaching School, Bernard Golding,

b.golding@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk to reserve your place.

Visit our website www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk to find out more about what is on offer.

P Smyth 10.01.20