



School Newsletter

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

08.04.22

Dear parents and carers,

We have come to the end of a long spring term and we now break up for the Easter holidays. The children have all worked hard, learned lots and, hopefully, have had fun along the way. They and the staff are entitled to a good break. We return to school on **Monday 25 April** to start the final term of the school year and the final term at St Mary's for our Y6s. On behalf of all the staff and governors at St Mary's, we wish you a happy and holy Easter.

Easter Services at St Mary's Church (see parish newsletter for more details)

SERVICE TIMES

9th/ 10th April **PALM SUNDAY** Sat 17.00 /Sun 10.00

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Thurs 14th
19.30

HOLY (MAUNDAY) THURSDAY
Mass of the Lord's Supper
For Ukraine and her people
Confessions as required after Mass

Fri 15th
10.30
11.15
14.15-14.40
15.00

GOOD FRIDAY (Mass book p.204)
Stations of the Cross (St Alphonsus' version)
Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
Confessions
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Confessions as required after the liturgy

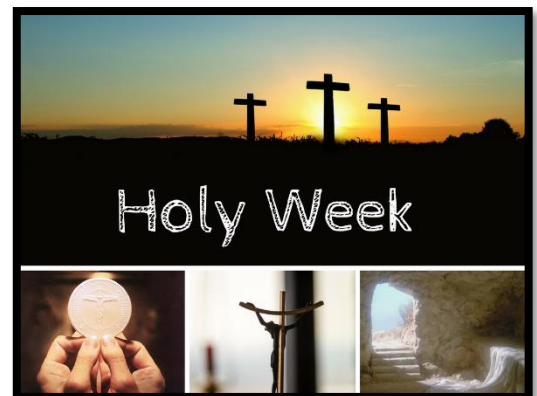
Sat 16th
11.00
11.30-11.50
12.00

20.00

HOLY SATURDAY
Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
Confessions
Paschal Food Blessing for the Polish community –
Święconka
Easter Vigil and Mass

Sun 17th
10.00

EASTER SUNDAY
Mass



Palm Crosses

Fr Marsden has kindly provided all the children and staff in school with palm crosses. Mrs Grzeczynska ordered them from Masasi, in Tanzania and they have travelled up the East coast of Africa through the Suez Canal, through the Mediterranean, around Portugal and France eventually arriving in the UK.

Thank you Fr Marsden and Mrs Grzeczynska.

St Mary's school & nursery loves reading!

St Mary's school and nursery believe passionately in the importance of reading and in promoting a love of reading in the children. Miss Hesketh, our English leader in school, has been working hard to develop that love of reading still further with our children and staff.

Volunteer readers wanted!

One of the things, Miss Hesketh would like is for people in our community to come in and read to the children. We have learned over time that the children love to hear different people read to them - not just their teachers and teaching assistants. It could be a regular thing or a one-off.

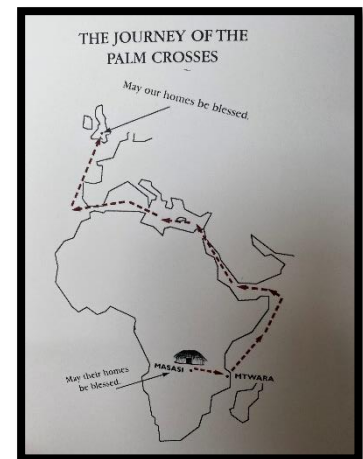
Miss Hesketh - 'We want to feed that love of reading at St Mary's. We want children to hear other members of our community read to them - they are inspired when they hear others do this. Could you spare a small amount of time to become a reading volunteer at St Mary's? It could be reading to the whole class or reading to smaller groups with the teacher there. If you are someone who is passionate about helping children to develop a lifelong love of reading, then please contact Miss Hesketh for further details via the school office.'

Books for birthdays. Rather than sweets.

Celebrating children's birthdays in class with children's books, rather than bags of sweets, is something we would like to give a go in September. We thought that rather than buying sweets for the whole class to celebrate a child's birthday, children could donate a book on their birthday to the class library. Over time, this would really expand the book collection in each class with titles and authors we know the children really enjoy.

During the year, we have *Ebb & Flo* bookshop deliver gift-wrapped books to each class. You would not believe the excitement that causes even in the older classes! So it's something we know the children will enjoy.

In September, the class teacher could provide a list of suitable books for the parents and we could cross off titles from the list as the year progresses. We realise that this may be an expense too far for some, or that some would simply rather not do this so there is absolutely no obligation and it is, of



course, completely voluntary. If you have any thoughts either for or against this idea, please let us know via the school office.

Book swap boxes – double glazed windows wanted!

We also want to create book swap boxes on the school grounds. You might have seen these around and about. Mr Cahalin has offered to build us a couple, so he has asked me to ask you, if you or if you of know of anyone, are replacing double glazed windows and have any spare old windows frames that are being thrown away. If you do, Mr Cahalin may be able to use them to build some 'book swap' boxes. If you can help, please let the school office know. Thank you.



Good Shepherd Appeal – thank you

Thank you very much for your donations to the Good Shepherd Appeal this year. Thanks for the cakes that were brought in, in the infant classes and well done to all the children who put themselves forward for the various class talent shows. It was a nice way to end the term. Thanks.

Dogs Trust Visitor



On Wednesday this week, we were visited by Andrew Larrington, of the Dogs Trust. He spoke with the children in Y1 to Y6 about: how to stay safe around dogs, how we should behave around dogs, what are the signs and signals dogs give to us to let us know how they are feeling and what to do if a dog approaches us, if we are out and about.

Andrew is a fantastic presenter, we thank him for coming - the children (and staff) learned a great deal from the visit. Ask them what they found out!

St Mary's Little Church is starting again from Sunday April 24

After a long absence due to COVID Little Church is starting back again, the week after Easter Sunday. See the leaflet attached.

What is Little Church?

"Little Church" is the "Liturgy of the Word for Children". Our Parish welcomes families and the full participation of young children in the celebration of the Mass. Since 1987, children at St Mary's have enjoyed their own Liturgy of the Word through 'Little Church' at the 10.00am Sunday Mass. There are two groups: 3-6 and 7-10 year olds.

We try to ensure that Children's Liturgy is an enjoyable experience for the children which helps develop their relationship with God. We discuss the Gospel of the day at a level the children can understand and enjoy. We enrich this with discussion, prayers, songs, and readings. We also try to raise awareness of God's love, the humanity of Jesus, the Seasons of the Church, the understanding of symbols in the Mass and the context of the Bible.

*The children gather in Church for the beginning of the Mass with their families and after a blessing from Father they go out to the activity rooms with the leaders and helpers.
We return to lead the offertory procession and join our families for the rest of Holy Mass.*

Resources to talk to children about Ukraine

Resources can be found on the following link. They have been produced by the **First News** group, a children's newspaper that we subscribe to.

What is happening in Ukraine and why?

'The news is pretty scary right now and we imagine the children in your life will have a lot of questions around the rapidly changing news coming out of Ukraine. If you are struggling to discuss the situation in Ukraine with your children, **First News** is here to help navigate those difficult discussions with our free Ukraine Explainer and daily news updates.'

See First News link on the school website:

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/news/2022-03-14-ukraine>

Families eligible for Tax-Free Childcare



Mrs Wilson spotted this on *Facebook*. Some of our families may be able to benefit from this but might be unaware.

This is the link on the post:

www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership CSSP Easter Holidays Multi Sports Camp 11-14 April.

Please see attached a leaflet advertising the CSSP's Easter holiday sports camp. Unfortunately, our own Easter holiday and that of the other Chorley Catholic schools is slightly 'out of sync' with the other schools so will only be available for one week for our children: 11- 14 April at St. James' CofE Primary School & Clayton Green Leisure Centre (see attached).

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!

St Mary's School has been at Hornchurch Drive for forty years – share your memories! – A message from Mr Hodge

To the wider school community on our 40th Anniversary of the school site,

- *Did you attend St. Mary's School in the past?*
- *Do you know someone who did?*
- *Was it at our current site or next to the church at Mount Pleasant?*

If you did, no matter how long ago it was, please do share those memories with us...

In order to collate the memories and mark this special occasion, we have set up an e-mail address where you can send photographs, typed memories, achievements etc, etc, about your time at St. Mary's. Mr Hodge will then collate everything and share these memories as part of our celebration in the Summer Term.

The address is memories@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk

You may know an older parishioners for whom sending an e-mail doesn't suit them? Could you ask them to write something down and you submit the details on their behalf? Do they have any old photographs? Any old certificates? Anything and everything is welcomed.

We look forward to looking at your memories and sharing them with you in due course.
DEADLINE – Friday 13th May 2022

Accompaniment - Side By Side – Archdiocese of Liverpool events



Our school and parish members are invited to take part in an archdiocesan initiative: *Accompaniment - Side By Side*. These events take place on **Tuesday & Wednesday, 26th and 27th April online**. The organisers invite us to:

Join us for this interactive event, exploring the vision of a Church that walks together and accompanies people in life and faith. We'll consider how deepening our existing practice of accompaniment will help our Catholic community be recognised as relevant and impactful, and how it will offer us all hope for growth.

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.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 08.04.22

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Penelope	being really brave this week in Nursery class
YR	Lucas	super learning choices and being very helpful to others
Y1	Austin	his much improved independent writing. Well done!
Y2	Hannah	great improvement in her maths
Y3	Johnathan	For enthusiasm in lessons this week and amazing homework (as always!).
Y4	Brooke	her wonderful artwork in <i>Come and See</i>
Y5	Izzy F	an excellent effort with her handwriting and writing linked to a chosen author.
Y6	Matthew S	great improvement in his mathematics.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2021/2022 08.04.22



CLASS	CURRENT %	CURRENT POSITION
RECEPTION	95.05	6th

YEAR 1	95.53	5th
YEAR 2	95.68	4th
YEAR 3	95.73	2nd
YEAR 4	95.71	3rd
YEAR 5	96.26	1st
YEAR 6	93.34	7th

No classes with 100% attendance this week.

Yarrow Schools Teaching Alliance



Happy Easter!

P Smyth, Headteacher 08.04.22