



School Newsletter

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

18.06.22

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a busy start to the final half-term of the school year. Amongst the things they have done so far, children from reception to Y6 went to the Chill Factor in Manchester, experiencing sub-zero temperatures on the hottest days of the year so far.

First Holy Communion - Sunday 19th June

The children in the sacramental class (predominantly Y4) will be receiving their First Holy Communion on Sunday during the 10.00am Mass at St Mary's.

They had their final practice in Church on Wednesday morning and are now very excited, looking forward to their big day. Father Marsden spent time talking to the children and explaining the readings and different parts of the Mass to them. Both Mrs Grzeczynska and Mrs Banwell were highly complimentary of the children's engagement.



Thank you to Father Marsden, Mrs Grzeczynska, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Banwell, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Root and the families for working so well together in preparing the children for this special and holy day.

Mrs Grzeczynska asked mentioned to me on a number of occasions throughout the year about the excellent participation and behaviour of the children. Well done Y4.

Sacramental Class Tea Party



At the start of this school year, parents of Y4 children attended a Zoom meeting one evening to mark the start of this important year in their children's journey of faith. To mark the end of the year the children will celebrate with a tea party with their parents/ carers/ grandparents on Monday afternoon next week. They can bring their Communion gifts along and these will be blessed by Fr Marsden.

Annual Good Shepherd Mass – St Mary’s Church, Leyland

Mrs Banwell and Mrs Root will be taking the Y4 class to the annual Nugent Care ‘Good Shepherd’ Mass at St Mary’s Church, Leyland on Wednesday next week. It is being celebrated by Bishop Tom Williams. They will join in with children from the other Lancashire schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool in giving thanks for the money raised for the work of Nugent Care.

The children will present the charity with a cheque for the money raised in school during Lent. Once again, the children and families of Chorley St Mary’s raised over £450

Learning about other faiths

As part of our *Building Bridges* partnership with the Interfaith centre in Burnley, we have several faith visitors to come and visit us throughout the year. This helps support our Come and See, PSHE and Personal Development (including global learning) provision for our children. We are looking forward to welcoming Sikhism expert, Kash. She will speak to the children about Sikhism and share aspects of her faith and culture with them.

Educational Visit to the Chill Factore Thursday and Friday this week

Each year Mr Hodge meets and consults with the PE Steering Group, made up of parents, staff and pupils. As part of the discussions the group has, they generate many ideas about new and exciting activities that the children could experience to develop a love of sport and a healthy lifestyle. I believe that the idea of taking out children to a winter sports activity first cropped up at such a discussion.

Mr Hodge therefore, set about planning a visit to our local winter sports facility, the Chill Factore. He wanted a visit to coincide with 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics; however, the high COVID incidence at the start of 2022 made that impossible. Undeterred, he arranged the visit for June, on what has turned out to be the hottest couple of days of the year so far!

By all accounts, the children (and staff and helpers!) enjoyed a wonderful visit and got an authentic taste of winter sports. Children in Reception and Y1 told me that they had a go at tobogganing and sliding down the slopes on ‘doughnuts.’ They also tell me that it was as cold as -6 degrees centigrade. Children from Y2 upwards also got to put on skis and carry out some basic skiing skills.

Thank you to Mr Hodge for all his time and effort in putting this visit together to give the children in YR-Y6 an unforgettable experience and thank you to the army of staff and volunteers who accompanied them over the last couple of days.

Phonics Screening Check

Mrs Grandi completed the phonics screening check with all the Y1 children last week. The children enjoyed having the one-to-one time with their teacher, unaware that were doing a statutory assessment! Mrs Grandi was really pleased with their progress and thanked the whole team of staff who have been teaching phonics over the course of the year.

Multiplication Tables Check

The Y4s completed their multiplication tables check to assess their knowledge of multiplication and division facts (up to 12x tables) this week. This is a national assessment that became statutory this year. Mrs Banwell, Mrs Cooper and Mrs Root have been very impressed with the children's hard work and enthusiasm this year in trying to commit these facts to memory. Well done Y4!

PTFA Ladies' Night



Well done to Mrs Wilson and all the organisers of the PTFA's Ladies' Night for preparing last night's event. This marks a very welcome return of a popular event after the impact of COVID. Thank you to all who have purchased tickets; I know that hundreds of pounds have been raised towards PTFA funds. That is a magnificent effort. I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful evening!

Sports News

Please see below the final timetable (weather permitting!) for spectators to come and watch the sports day events for the various classes this year. I am aware that there is a clash for parents who are accompanying children attending a nursery trip to the Blackpool Sea Life Centre on 27.06.22. Some of these may have children who are involved in their sports days on that day.

The Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) are helping us run our sports day events. Mr Hodge tried his best to see if we could shift dates about but it wasn't possible due the CSSP's other commitments during this busy period.

We know the disappointment this will cause some parents/ carers and we apologise to any parents who this affects and will do our best to make sure we avoid a similar clash next year.

Date	Time	Class
27.06.22	0900 - 1100	Y1 and Y2
27.06.22	1310 - 1515	Y5 and Y6
01.07.22	0900 - 1000	EYFS
01.07.22	1000 - 1155	Y3 and Y4

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.

SCHOOL GOVERNOR UPDATE – a message from Kath Smith, Chair of Governors

I am pleased to confirm that Matthew Simpson, Deputy Chair of Governors and myself, Chair of Governors have been re-elected for a further term of office.

I am also delighted to welcome two new School Governors:

- Nicola Chester - Local Authority Governor
- Sarah Nightingale – Foundation Governor

Both are parents of children in school and have an educational background. Together they will bring a wealth of skills and experience along with much-needed additional capacity.

As Governors we have three core responsibilities:

1. ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
2. holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff
3. overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

For further information regarding St Mary's School Governors please see the website <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/governors/governors>

Regards,

Kath Smith, Chair of Governors

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

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!

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 18.06.22

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Rory T-J	For amazing phonics work, joining in orally with the weeks sounds and much improvement with his letter formation
YR	Sienna O	For using super description in her writing
Y1	Whole class	For their excellent behaviour yesterday on the school trip! It is always a pleasure to take them out.
Y2	James	Great effort and huge improvement in his writing and remembering his own writing targets
Y3		
Y4		CHILL FACTORE
Y5		CHILL FACTORE
Y6		CHILL FACTORE



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2021/2022 18.06.22



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	96.05
2 nd	YEAR 2	95.77
3 rd	YEAR 5	95.73
4 th	YEAR 1	95.64
5 th	YEAR 4	95.62
6 th	RECEPTION	94.85
7 th	YEAR 6	93.58

Yarrow Schools Teaching Alliance

YSA

Yarrow School Alliance

New Year, new challenge
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email
r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk for more information

P Smyth, Headteacher 18.06.22