



School Newsletter

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

15.03.19

Dear parents and carers,

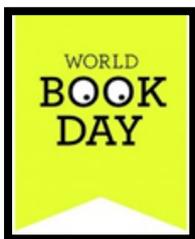
Ash Wednesday

 The week before last, the junior classes went to St Mary's to attend Mass for Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the season of Lent. Father Marsden, although quite poorly, spoke briefly to the children in his homily about how, during Lent, Christians spend time in prayer, giving up something (fasting) and alms-giving. The children all received the ashes on their forehead and resisted the urge to wipe them off! They were really well behaved and sang well despite a lack of musical accompaniment.

Reception, Y1 and Y2 classes receive the ashes

I would like to say a special thank you to Kinga and visiting priest, Father Sergei, for coming in to distribute the ashes to children in the infants. Kinga explained to the children that the ashes were made from burning of palms given out last Palm Sunday. And in placing the ashes on the children's foreheads they were each asked to 'be a friend of Jesus.' Once again the children behaved beautifully, listening intently and answering Kinga's challenging questions.

WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 7th MARCH



We marked World Book Day with an assembly with the theme of celebrating stories and sharing reading. The idea is that we can share books and stories with our mums, dads, grandmas and granddads, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, cousins, friends and you name it. We can share books at breakfast and at tea time, at play times and obviously at bed times. Just 10 minutes a day can entertain us, boost our brainpower and help us in our learning. Children will be receiving a World Book Day £1 voucher which they can also exchange for a free book from a limited list of free titles.

The children (and staff) loved all the activities that took place. They dressed up for World Book Day, enjoyed listening to a mystery reader (teacher), read with children from other year groups and did so much more besides.

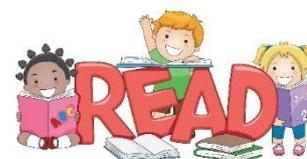
"The more you read
the more things you know.
The more that you learn
the more places you'll go."
-Dr. Seuss



Thank you to Miss Hesketh for organising the day and well done to all the children for taking part so well!

Achievement for All - 200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge –

We have signed up to the AfA - 200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge which we started on WBD - it will continue to help us in our aim of boosting 'reading for pleasure.' Here is a link for more



information: <https://200millionminutes.org/>



Book Sale

We are replenishing some stock in our library and updating our reading scheme. As a result we have quite a few books that we are going to put up for sale. There will be books available for children of all ages and there all in decent condition. The money that we raise will be ploughed back into buying new stock for the library. The book sale will take place on **Tuesday 26th March** after school until 4pm.



Nugent Care Lenten 'Good Shepherd Appeal 2019'



We have started the Good Shepherd Appeal and will continue up until the Easter break. Read more about the appeal at: <https://www.wearenugent.org/fundraising/good-shepherd-appeal-2019/>

Good Shepherd Activities

Children are asked to devise small enterprises e.g. guessing the amount of sweets in a jar, selling cakes, biscuits, holding raffles and so on. **We start with the break time cake sale on Monday.** All proceeds will go towards the Good Shepherd Nugent Care Appeal. In addition, the annual Talent Show will be staged on **Thursday, 4th April.** Last year the children's efforts raised over **£600** for the fifth year running – thank you for your generosity and support.

The weekly activities are planned as follows:

Monday	Cake Sale in the Quad (Children can 'Bring and Buy' cakes.)
Tuesday	Games and Activities in the Quad (Guess the name of the Teddy etc.)
Wednesday	Disco in the Hall (20p admission)
Thursday	Games and Activities in the Quad (Guess the name of the Teddy etc.)

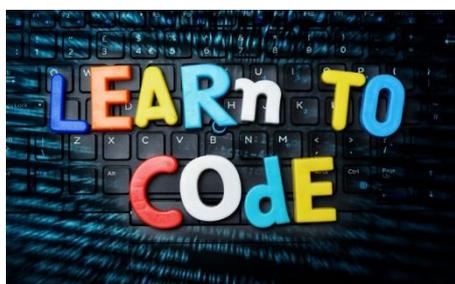
The first week's total came to **£182.50.** Thank you so much for your kind generosity.

CAFOD Lenten Fast Appeal

Thank you very much for your donations today for our annual CAFOD Lenten Fast Appeal. It's very much appreciated especially when we are also fundraising for the Good Shepherd Appeal.



Chorley Borough Council Coding Competition



Mrs Banwell and Mrs Hands took a team of Y5 and a team of Y6 programmers to Chorley Town Hall last Friday to take part in a coding competition.

Mrs Banwell reported how well both teams performed, especially at the end when they had to take quick-fire questions from the judges about their particular programs.

The Y5 team actually finished in second place and each received a bag of goodies. Well done coders and thanks to Mrs Banwell and Mrs Hands for preparing them so well and taking them along.

Sports News

Dodgeball



The St Mary's dodgeball team were in action last week. They travelled to Parklands Academy and took part in a frantic, noisy tournament with dodgeballs flying in from every direction. They all played terrifically well. St Mary's managed to finish in joint 4th place. We were proud of their effort, enthusiasm and behaviour. Well done to all the players and the parents for their support. Thanks also to the CSSP for putting on such an enjoyable event.

Staff Vacancies

We have two lunchtime vacancies: one to help supervise our diners in the Nursery class and one to support a child with special educational needs at lunchtime – further details are available from the school office.

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) drop-in events

See end of newsletter for more details

Parents and Carers are invited to attend drop-in events to meet local professionals working with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

- Ask for information and advice
- Talk to professionals who work in your area
- Meet new parent/carers and share experiences
- Learn about some of the improvements taking place

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.

If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office (not Class Dojo!) for every day of absence. Mrs Hargreaves has told me that she is having to chase up a number of reasons for absence. 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.

STARS OF THE WEEK

w/e 08.03.19

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Joseph M	Being a big boy in nursery and settling down for classroom activities with no help.
	YR	Sophie B	A huge improvement in phonics.
	Y1	Brooke	Her clear logic and reasoning in mathematics.
	Y2	Phoebe	Being a total superstar and always trying her best.
	Y3	Sam	Answering lots of questions in class this week.
	Y4	Daniel	Great effort and improvement in his handwriting.
	Y5	Ella	Her adventurous vocabulary when making a prediction in English.
	Y6	Chloe	Excellent work on the Eucharist.

w/e 15.03.19

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	James M	Fantastic enthusiasm in his learning. Very clear explanations.
	YR	Emma	Massive improvement in her independent and guided writing.
	Y1	Hettie	Trying really hard to innovate in her story writing.
	Y2	Norah	Amazing writing based on <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> .
	Y3	Dylan	Much improved presentation in his work this week.
	Y4	Sam	A super diary entry from the point of view of Gulliver from <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> .
	Y5	Harry O	Amazing work all week in mathematics when adding and subtracting and converting fractions.
	Y6	Caitlin	An outstanding lifestyle leaflet

Notable Dates

SPRING TERM 2019

March	
19	Sing Together Choir at King George's Hall, Blackburn Evening Performance
24	Sacramental Class Family Catechesis Church
29	Mary Poppins theme day
30	<i>What's your story, Chorley</i>
April	
4	Good Shepherd Talent Show
5	End of term
8 – 22	Easter Holiday

SUMMER TERM 2019

April	
21	Easter Sunday
23	School reopens for pupils (Tuesday)
May	
5	Sacramental Class Family Catechesis Church
June	
2	Sacramental Class Family Catechesis Church

P Smyth 15.03.19

Interested in teaching in a Catholic Secondary School?



Wigan & West Lancashire Catholic School Direct

We believe in nurturing the whole child, to grow in faith and realise their full potential.

We believe that you will have the best start in your teaching career by choosing to train within our supportive Catholic community.

Teachers trained by us make a positive difference to children's lives.

School Direct is a teacher training programme which puts schools/colleges at the heart of the process.

You will be trained in two of our good or outstanding Catholic schools in the Liverpool Archdiocese (Section 48). This will lead to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Our partner, Liverpool Hope University, will work with us to provide additional high quality training which leads to the Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE).

(Our schools / colleges work closely together to provide an on-going programme of Continuing Professional Development to enhance your career.)

We welcome enquiries and applications from committed graduates who wish to join us in shaping Catholic education in the future.



We have training places for September 2019 in the following subjects;

Mathematics

English

Physics

Chemistry

Biology

History

Physical Education

Geography

Religious Education

Computer Science

MFL—Spanish with French

MFL - Spanish

MFL—French with Spanish

MFL—French

Music

Drama

SEARCH FOR UCAS COURSE CODE : 27Q

 St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School Ashton-in-Makerfield
 St Beale's Catholic High School, Ormskirk
 St Mary's Catholic High School, Astley
 St John Fisher Catholic High School, Wigan
 Holy Cross Holy Cross Catholic High School, Chorley
 St John Rigby Catholic Sixth Form College, Wigan
 Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College, Salford
 St Peter's Catholic High School, Orrell
 St Gregory's Catholic High School, Warrington

enquiries@catholicdsd.org.uk

www.catholicdsd.org.uk



Contact Address:
St Mary's Catholic High School
Manchester Road, Astley
Tyldesley, Manchester
M29 7EE
Tel: 01942 766906 Fax: 01942 884357



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 2019** 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.



Coffee, Cake and Conversation

Meet local professionals working with children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Parents and Carers are invited to our drop-in events at:

Monday 18th March

St Peters Primary School,
Chorley, PR6 0DX
Tel: 01257 262625
930am to 12:30pm

Monday 8th April

Eavesdale Centre,
Skelmersdale, WN8 6BA
Tel: 01695 724873
930am to 12:30pm

- Ask for information and advice
- Talk to professionals who work in your area
- Meet new parent/carers and share experiences
- Learn about some of the improvements taking place

**Register online at
eventbrite.co.uk**

and search for 'Lancashire SEND Partnership' or call your local Inclusion service office on 01772 531597

