



# School Newsletter

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

17<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week at St Mary's; it has been a pleasure popping into classes and seeing the children hard at work. I have been very impressed with the quality of writing being produced in particular. Reception children are getting the hang of writing their names, Y1 children are confidently writing sentences with 'and' and 'but' in and the Y2s are writing more complex sentences with some fantastic vocabulary e.g. ebony, traipsed and peak. Well done everyone and keep it up!

## Reception Visit to St Mary's Church

Children in Reception paid their first ever class visit to Church on Wednesday morning. Father Marsden celebrated Mass with them. And Kinga Gray-Grzeczynska, Parish Administrator and School Governor, gave them a mini-tour. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit and learned so much from it. When they returned to school from Church, they told me about the green curtains and the golden door where the Body of Christ is, behind the altar. They told me about the font, the Christmas Tree, the crib and *Arthur the Elf*. They were thrilled to be allowed to go upstairs to the organ loft where Father Marsden played the church organ for them. They were amazed to find out about the air coming out of the pipes to make the sound – a bit of science learning too! They told me about the statue of Jesus with cuts on and Mary's tears and about the story of the boy called Samuel told in the homily.

Mrs Singleton said the children were brilliantly behaved and that they can't wait to return. I would like to say a big thank you to Fr Marsden and Kinga for taking time out of their very busy schedules to host the visit and to show them around Church. Thank you to the parents who came to help on the visit – very much appreciated.

Kinga asked me to ask parents, if there is anyone interested in being baptised in the near future there is a Baptism course at the presbytery on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January from 7.00pm to 8.15pm.

## 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.

## Chorley Police Community Safety Team visit to Y5

We are waiting for final confirmation, but next Tuesday we have booked the Chorley Police Community Safety Team to come into school to introduce a primary school project aimed at Year 5 pupils to educate them about the dangers of going online. The project is based around the topic of “sexting” and Online Safety. The talk includes two short videos and interaction between the PCSOs and the pupils.

## Sports News

### *Sports Hall Athletics*



St Mary’s took a twenty-five-strong team of boy and girl athletes to Albany Academy on Wednesday after school to take part in the CSSP Sports Hall Athletics Competition against schools from across Chorley. It was a busy and noisy evening with indoor track and field events going on in every direction. There were events in sprinting short distances, longer distance running, jumping, throwing and running relays.

I was impressed with the sporting behaviour of each athlete and in the way the team members supported each other in their different events. While we did not win the competition this year, the children put in some excellent performances and deserve a lot of credit for their efforts. Thank you to Mr Hodge for organising the team. Thank you, Mrs Andrew and Mrs McGar, for helping athletes turn up on time to their various events – it wasn’t easy!

### **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.

## STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 17.01.20

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Gabriella	being kind to her friends and trying new things.
	YR	Neave	learning to write her name.
	Y1	Oscar	supersonic phonics
	Y2	Brody	always smiling & adopting a positive attitude to school life.
	Y3	Owen	listening to advice from teacher and putting it into practice.
	Y4	Lucas	some excellent contributions in class discussions – especially about our eggy experiment!
	Y5	Mason	an excellent attitude to his school work and homework.
	Y6	Harrison	a great diary entry from Macbeth's point of view.

### Notable Dates

*SPRING TERM 2020 to follow*



**BORN TO TEACH**  
Apply for school-based teacher training in Chorley schools  
**YTSA**  
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](mailto:b.golding@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk) to reserve your place.

Visit our website [www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk](http://www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk) to find out more about what is on offer.

**P Smyth 17.01.20**