



# School Newsletter

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

19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Dear Parents and carers,**

Our school vision - This is our aim:

*From their first day to their last at St Mary's, we support our children on a journey of learning and faith.*

*In learning, we want our children, by the time they leave our school: to be numerate and literate, to have received their full entitlement in all areas of learning and to have the opportunities to succeed in areas of particular interest to them. We want the children to be active and healthy. We want the children to be challenged, to be exposed to the highest quality teaching, to take risks, to be unafraid of making mistakes and to reach their full potential.*

*On their journey of faith, we want to support our children to develop into well-rounded citizens for the future. We want the children to be thoughtful, loving, caring and considerate members of society. We want the children's attitudes, decision making and relationships to be underpinned and informed by Christian values with Christ at the centre of all we do at school. We want to be a Catholic, Christian community which aims for excellence and which learns, improves and achieves.*

It is good, therefore, at the end of the school year for us to review how well we've done against what we say we aim to do. It is with tremendous pride then, that we say farewell to our current Y6 cohort. We feel, given what we set out to do, it is pretty much mission accomplished. They are an absolute credit to the school.

**Farewell  
and  
Good Luck**

We wish them all the best in their new schools. We are very proud of each and every one of them and in what they have achieved in their time here and how they have all turned out. Thank you also to the Y6 group of parents; your children are a credit to you and we thank you for your support over the years.

## **Thank you**

For us all, it has been a very busy and successful year. The children have worked hard and they deserve a rest. We are really pleased with how each and every one of them has progressed. I'd like to thank everyone who works or volunteers in the school for making it such a happy and successful place.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work with the children since September – enjoy **your** well-deserved rest. Thank you to you the parents for your support of the school and your children in their education. Thank you and goodbye to the parents and children who will be leaving us this summer – it's been a pleasure working with you.

Thank you to the Governors of the school for their hard work and support for the school. Thank you to Father Marsden, Kinga Gray-Ggrzeczynska, Marian Knight and the Family Catechesis team for your time, effort and support this year. Thank you to all the volunteers, parents and grandparents and the PTFA for your efforts and for making this school and nursery such a great community to be a part of.

Have a great summer everyone and see you all back again on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**.

## **New staff**

We appointed two new teaching assistants who will join us on a permanent basis next year: Mrs Root, who will be a familiar face to many of you, and Mrs Garrett. They will be classroom assistants in Year 4 and Year 1 respectively.

They have been appointed because Mrs Catterall and Mrs Hands have decreased their hours of work and will no longer be classroom TAs. They are not leaving us, thankfully, but we will miss their experience and expertise in the classroom from day to day.

We say goodbye – temporarily – to Mrs Ainscough who is now starting her maternity leave and is due to return around this time in 2020.

## **Year 6 Leavers' Mass and Party**

The Y6 Leavers' Mass took place in school on Tuesday evening. Father Marsden celebrated the Mass for the children and their families on a warm evening in the school hall. I would like to thank Father Marsden for coming to say Mass, for his kind words and advice in the homily and for presenting the children with their records of achievement and their hoodies. The children enjoyed their leavers' party later in the evening which took place outside on the field with plenty of food, music, dancing and games. Thank you to all the staff for helping the children celebrate on the evening.

## Governors' Writing Competition – *My Year at St Mary's*



This year we have had a big focus on raising standards in writing and we are reaping the rewards of that effort. We are really pleased with the quality of writing that the children across school are now producing.

In recognition of this, the governors requested that we hold a writing competition based on the

theme of *My Year in School*.

We thank Kinga, who, on behalf of St Mary's Church, provided prizes for the winners. Y4, 5 and 6 winners received a fountain pen; Y2 and Y3 winners received a handwriting pen; and Nursery, Reception and Y1 winners received a pencil, ruler, sharpener and rubber set.

The winners are Winter Rose, Jimmy, Erin, Sebastian, Melodie, Evie, Emily and Abbie. Well done to them all for their fantastic writing and thank you to everyone for taking part.

### **Parent governor vacancy in the autumn term**

Next half term, Mrs Quin, who has served as parent governor for nearly four years, will be coming to the end of her term of office. In September, there will be an election for her successor. We will be asking for nominations for a parent governor to join our governing board. I am giving a bit of advance notice in case this is a role you might like to consider.

### **St Mary's 'My roots, my routes' Competition Winners!**

We received this letter at the start of the week- well done everyone!

*Dear Miss McCluskey*

*Thank you for taking the time to enter the 'My roots, my routes' competition. We were very impressed by the quality of the entries across all the schools that entered.*

*Having considered all the entries, we decided to award 2 schools – 1 primary and 1 secondary. We would like to congratulate you as the winning primary school.*

*We really enjoyed seeing the variety of the entries at your school – from mobiles to videos to family trees. We could see that this had been a valuable learning experience for the pupils. It both celebrated children's backgrounds and allowed them to learn new things about themselves. For example, one boy proudly told us he had found out he had a Polish relative he did not know about prior to this project. It was great that all children took part, whether their ancestry went back generations in Chorley St Mary's or whether they had a more international background. Both were equally valuable.*

*We have a certificate and the prize for your school and would like to come into school to present these, if this is convenient for you. Please contact me with some dates if you would like to make this arrangements.*

*Please pass on our thanks to the pupils and we look forward to hearing from you.  
Best wishes,*

## **PTFA Summer Fair**

### *Summer Fair*



On behalf of the PTFA, I would like to thank you all for your generous donations of chocolates, toys and bottles for our summer fair last week. I would also like to thank you for your support; there was a great turnout and we were blessed with kind weather! I hope you enjoyed it and had a good time.

I would also like to thank all those parents and those staff volunteers who helped to plan the event, to organise stalls, to arrange prizes for the raffle, to set up and to tidy away and for all the other things you did. I won't name anyone in case I forget anybody! You know who you are. You were all brilliant! Thank you very, very much! Well done to the Y6 entrepreneurs who sold their wares on the evening and made an excellent profit.

Together, we have raised nearly **£ 1 400**. This is a fantastic amount and will allow us to subsidise school trips for year ahead, invite visitors in such as authors and artists, purchase equipment for the school etc. and many more things besides. Thank you.

## **PTFA Annual General Meeting**

The date for the AGM will be arranged in September and we will inform you as soon as it has been.

## **Notices from the School Office**

Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to pass on three messages:

**ParentPay** – please ensure any outstanding payments for Toast, dinners, trips etc. are settled.

**School Dinners** - if you intend to move your child from packed lunches to dinners in September or vice versa, please inform the office in good time as the dinner ordering system is in place.

**Old school tables and chairs** – thank you for your take up of old tables and chairs from the school dinner hall – much appreciated.

Many thanks!





## Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2018/2019



CLASS	CURRENT %	CURRENT POSITION
RECEPTION	97.67	1 <sup>st</sup>
YEAR 1	97.50	2 <sup>nd</sup>
YEAR 3	97.48	3 <sup>rd</sup>
YEAR 2	97.38	4 <sup>th</sup>
YEAR 4	96.73	5 <sup>th</sup>
YEAR 5	96.58	6 <sup>th</sup>
YEAR 6	96.42	7 <sup>th</sup>

**Well done to the Reception class for having the best attendance in school this year – A fantastic achievement!**

### **Sacramental Programme 2019/2020**

The lead Catechist for the parish, Kinga Grey-Grzecznska, has asked me to give Year 3 parents (next year's Y4 parents) advance notice of important dates for the Sacramental programme of family Catechesis for 2019/2020.

- ❖ Introduction to the programme - Cheese & wine party
  - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 18.00 in the school hall.
  
- ❖ Catechesis sessions
  - Session 1 Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September in church, after the 10.30 Mass
  - Session 2 Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September in parish centre, after the 10.30 Mass
  - Session 3 Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October in parish centre, after the 10.30 Mass
  - Session 4 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November in parish centre, after the 10.30 Mass
  - Session 5 Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the parish centre, after the 10.30 Mass
  
- ❖ First Confessions
  - Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 18.00 in school
  
- ❖ First Holy Communion Day
  - 10.30 am Mass on Trinity Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **Summer Holiday Activity Ideas**

I was asked by the **HomeStart** charity to share this with you:

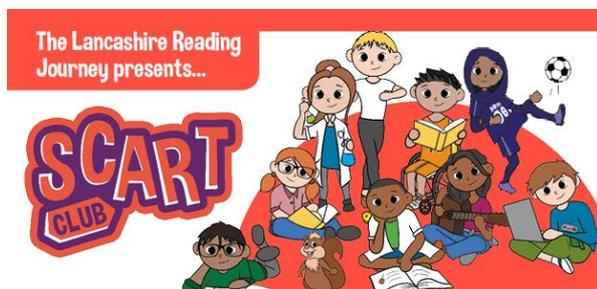
#### **Holiday Hunger - Packed lunches for families in the School Holidays**

Food for lunches (funded by Asda Chorley) will be given out to families who need them at the Home-Start Building on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10am-12.00**. Families should let us know by **phoning on 01257 241636 before 10am on the day they want to collect food**.

For more information please phone Home-Start on 01257 241636. Many Thanks  
Eunice Weller (Secretary)

## SCART Club Chorley Library Summer Reading Challenge

Lancashire Reading Journey presents The SCART Club.



Children across Lancashire are invited to take part in this summer's Lancashire Reading Journey.

Lancashire Library Service will be launching their Summer Reading programme on **Saturday 29 June**. This year the scheme is called the SCART Club and children will be invited to sign up at any

Lancashire Library, for free.

SCART Club stands for Science, Culture, Active, Reading and Technology and 11 characters have been created as members of the club; 10 boys and girls and the club's mascot SCART Squirrel. Children from 5 years to 12 years old are invited to come and discover these new characters by taking on the challenge at their local library.

This summer the challenge is to collect all 5 SCART subjects. Each subject has tasks set by our club members, complete two tasks to unlock the subject and collect your sticker. For each subject one of the tasks must be reading related.

By finishing all 5 subjects children will be rewarded with a cool prize and certificate!

There'll be **lots of activities** taking place across all our libraries over the summer weeks, plus plenty of ideas to keep you entertained. So make sure you visit from the 29 June and join the SCART Club!

The Lancashire Reading Journey's SCART Club will be running throughout summer until **28 September**.

### A note for parents

Reading is a great activity to keep your children happy during the quiet times in the long summer holiday. Children who keep on reading outside school during the summer months have also been shown to improve their literacy levels and perform better when they return to school in the autumn. There are also many fun activities in our Reading Journey tasks that will encourage your child to be more creative and provide opportunities for the whole family to get involved.

## Sports News

### *Year 2 Multi sports*

Our Y2 class took part in a Chorley wide virtual multi sports competition. They took part in a variety of sporting activities and the CSSP staff measured and recorded their efforts. We found out earlier this week that **Y2 are champions of Chorley**. They each received a certificate in assembly today.



### *Past pupil successes*

It's interesting to find out how past pupils are progressing in sport. Well, three of our past pupils represented Lancashire to compete against other elite athletes in last week's prestigious English Schools Athletics Association 2019 Track & Field Championship at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. Imogen B (Y9) progressed to the girls' 800m semi-final, Liam B came 6<sup>th</sup> in the boys' 800m final and Kian D came first in the senior boys' 3000m race (a race previously won by Sir Mo Farrar).

## PRIDE

Last year, Mr Hodge and his PE steering group team established values that they want to develop in St Mary's in PE and sport; they are encapsulated in the word, **PRIDE**. Note the word starts with **P** and ends in **E**.

Each of those letters represents a sporting value/ principle we want to encourage in our pupils.

**P**articipation- **R**espect- **I**nclusion- **D**evelopment- **E**ncouragement

In assembly today, we awarded certificates to pupils who embodied those principles this year and during their time at St Mary's.

**Participation**- Jacob N - Y6

**Respect**- Bethany - Y5

**Inclusion** – Patch - Nursery

**Development**- Evan - Y1

**Encouragement** – Charlie E - Y3

Keep an eye out for future meetings of the PE steering group – all parents are welcome.

**This button is on our website as part of our ongoing effort to keep children safe online.**

The Click CEOP button (pictured right) is an asset of the National Crime Agency's CEOP Command. The CEOP Command works to protect children from the harm of sexual abuse and exploitation both online and offline. The button has been developed to offer children, young people, parents/carers and



professionals working with these groups with a simple and convenient mechanism for gaining access to trusted online safety advice, help and support.

### House Champions



Congratulations to Hoghton who won the end of term House Championship. They are the first house in living memory to win a clean sweep of championships every half-term. Congratulations to House Captain and Vice-Captain, William and Isabella, for their leadership and perseverance and to all the members of Hoghton for earning those house points.

## 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.

### **Notable dates**

July	
19	End of term
<b>Autumn term 2018</b>	
September	
3	Wednesday – school open for children

**P Smyth 19.07.19**