



School Newsletter

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

01.03.19

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. It was great to come back to the summer-like conditions in late February. The children have once again made a great start to the new half-term.

Science and Maths Week 2019

They have enjoyed a hugely enjoyable and highly memorable week of maths and science. We had a number of visitors and many exciting events planned. The week started with a visit from *Mad Science* who gave a whole school assembly and wowed us with a variety of experiments. Thank you to Fr Marsden who came in to Y5 and Y6. He spoke to the children about the periodic table, the Big Bang theory and the contribution made by members of the Catholic Church in the advancement of science (e.g. Fr Georges Le Maître) amongst other things.

Members of the RAF/ BAE STEM team came into speak to the juniors about radar and flight. Mrs Simpson gave a fantastic science talk and demonstration to children in Y1 and Y2 using chemicals used in shampoos and soaps. I would like to thank all our visitors for taking time out to come into school and make the learning so memorable for the children – you have inspired them!





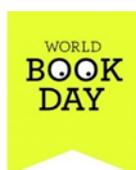
During the week children took in a variety of maths and science activities including maths puzzles and investigations and scientific experiments. The science and maths fair on Thursday was great success. Thank you so much to all of you who put so much effort into creating a variety of wonderful and interesting displays and demonstrations.



Thank you also for all the wonderful science selfies that you sent in – we will use them to create a science display in the hall.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work in making the week a success and especially to Mrs Banwell and Mr Cahalin who organised the whole event.

WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 7th MARCH



To celebrate World Book Day, **we are going to be dressing up again**. Or if you would prefer you can **simply bring in a prop related to your book**. The theme this year is quite open once again, simply dress up as a character or bring a prop in from a book that has captured your interest or written by an author who has **inspired** you.

Achievement for All - 200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge – advance notice!

We have signed up to the AfA - 200 Million Minutes Reading Challenge which we will start on WBD (7th March) - it will continue to help us in our aim of boosting 'reading for pleasure.' We will launch it on WBD and then send a message out on the newsletter that week too. Here is a link for more information: <https://200millionminutes.org/>

Ash Wednesday – Juniors to attend Mass



Next Wednesday (6th March) is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the season of Lent. Children in **Y3, Y4, Y5** and **Y6** will be going to Mass at St Mary's, so we ask that the children are dropped off at Church from **8.45am at the earliest** where they will be registered. Children in the Breakfast Club will walk up to Church with staff from school. At the end of Mass, the children will walk back down from Church to school in time for morning break.

Nugent Care Lenten 'Good Shepherd Appeal 2019'



We will start the Good Shepherd Appeal next **Monday 4th March** 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.)

Fair Trade Week

We are in the middle of national Fair Trade Fortnight and during the course of next week the children will have the opportunity to look at some Fair Trade issues. On Friday we will be hosting a Fair Trade coffee morning.

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

Swimming



The St Mary's swimming team were in action last night at the All Seasons Leisure Centre in Chorley. All the swimmers did fantastically well. We even managed to win a few medals. Robert claimed silver in the boys' butterfly and Isla won gold in the girls' backstroke.

The Aquasplash (fun water challenges) event in the small pool also brought success to St Mary's; our four-strong team also claimed gold. Well done swimmers. I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Blackwell and Mrs Singleton (parent) for their time and effort in taking the swimmers along on what is always a very busy and hectic evening. Thank you very much!

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.

Online Safety

We sent out a GroupCall message and leaflet earlier in the week about the **MoMo phenomenon**. It seems that actually there was a lot of 'fake news' circulating about this and things that were said to have happened didn't actually happen. This news was even reported in reputable news outlets such as the BBC.

However, our advice to the children remains the same – if they see something online that they are not comfortable with, report it to an adult and if they can minimise the screen, turn the screen off or report it to the website.

I received this advice today which I thought you might be interested in:

Children should be aware of their personal safety and know how to report concerns such as telling a trusted adult, reporting to the website/app and accessing appropriate support. Keep your advice to parents the same as ever – they should work to create a positive relationship with their children around their internet use, closely supervising younger children’s online access, and crucially, ensuring their children feel they can tell them (or another trusted adult) if they ever encounter anything worrying. Parental controls go some way to protecting children from accidentally viewing disturbing content but are unlikely to prevent it in many cases, for example the MoMo image has been deliberately spliced into content aimed at children. Inappropriate content should be reported direct to the online service it appears on.

Please direct parents to our website www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents for further online safety information and advice. Additionally, you may want to download and use our parents and carers presentation to help them understand the behaviour of children online and they can use to support them: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/resources/parents-and-carers-presentations/. You can also direct children to our 8-10s website: www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10 for online safety advice.

Additionally, you may find the following blog post from Kent County Council useful when determining how to approach the issue: www.theeducationpeople.org/blog/online-safety-alerts-think-before-you-scare-updated-2019/

https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2019/feb/28/viral-momo-challenge-is-a-malicious-hoax-say-charities?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

Music - Sing Together Concert

Mrs Grandi’s choir have been practising hard for many weeks now and their big performance is just a couple of months away **Tuesday 19th March at 6pm**. If you would like to go and watch them perform see the poster below for ticket details.



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 01.03.19

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Hannah	Amazing writing.
	YR	Michael	Settling in so well!
	Y1	Betsy	Her enthusiasm in every area of the curriculum.
	Y2	William	Excellent scientific knowledge in our chocolate experiments.
	Y3	Charlotte B	Being reliable and doing the right thing all week.
	Y4	Diana	Great work finding the area of rectangles and joining in with all the maths and science.
	Y5	Jane	Wonderful participation in all of our science and maths activities,
	Y6	William	His enthusiasm throughout the week.

Notable Dates

SPRING TERM 2019

March	
4	Fair Trade Week
4	Good Shepherd fundraiser begins (4 weeks)
4	3d Printer arrives in school on loan to inspire writers!
6	Lent begins – Ash Wednesday Mass
7	World Book Day

8	Chorley Coding Competition Y5 and Y6 teams
13	Lancs Fire & Rescue Y2 and Y6
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

April	
21	Easter Sunday
23	School reopens for pupils (Tuesday)

P Smyth 01.03.19

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 Basil's Catholic High School, Ormskirk
 St Mary's Catholic High School, Astley
 St John Fisher Catholic High School, Wigan
 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
Get Into Teaching Schools Direct
www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk

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

