



# School Newsletter

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

21.12.18



Dear Parents and Carers,

It's the last newsletter of 2018. We have come to the end of another long and busy autumn term. We finished off with a beautiful whole school Christmas service in the hall prepared for us by Mr Hodge. It featured readings and songs from the performances of the nursery's *Toby's Drum*, the infants' *Little Angel Gets Her Wings* and the juniors' *The Bells Ring Out*. The children and staff have all worked incredibly hard over the last few months and I think that they are all looking forward to a bit of rest.

We look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January**. On behalf of everyone at St Mary's, I **wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a happy new year.**

## Junior Nativity Performance Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December



Thank you all for your support in turning out to see all of the performances over the last couple of weeks. I hope you enjoyed them as much as we did.

It was the turn of the juniors on Monday night. The children sang beautifully at St Mary's Church. I was impressed with the way that they sang in parts and in harmony. It was especially impressive to see the youngest Y3s do so well to fill the Church with their voices when they sang on their own unaided by the rest of the juniors.

Well done to the children and the staff for their hard work which paid off so well in their excellent performance. It has really helped us all in getting ready for celebrating the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.

Thank you to Father Marsden for allowing us to use Church on the night and being so accommodating in letting us come to practise. Thank you also to Kinga for looking after us on each of our visits to Church. And thank you parents and families for supporting in great number.

## Collections at the end of performances

Many thanks for your **extremely generous** donations at the end of each of the recent Christmas performances. You donated over **£710 in total** and it has been banked. We have sent cheques for **£200 to Derian House, £200 to St Catherine's**

*Thank You!*

**Hospice and £200 to Meningitis Now** and the remainder has been sent as a contribution to the heating at St Mary's Church for Monday night's performance.

### Rec and KS1 DVD

Y1s were watching their performance of the Nativity DVD in class today. Both the sound and video quality are really good. Thank you to all the parents who purchased a copy; I hope it gives you a good memento of the performance for years to come.

### Health and Safety Reminder – sickness and/ or diarrhoea



We are now in the middle of that 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.

### Adverse weather causing school closure

If there is a heavy snowfall, sometimes it is necessary to close the school for the health and safety of the children and staff. Of course, we will do everything we can to keep the school open as we have done in recent years, but if it becomes too dangerous and we are forced to close school, we will inform you by GroupCall. It would also be announced on local radio and published on the school website.



### Christmas Parties

The children enjoyed their Christmas parties yesterday; they were very civilised affairs. Thank you to the parent volunteers who came and helped make the parties go so smoothly.

The infant classes received a very special visitor indeed, Father Christmas. Thank you Father Christmas for taking the time out to come and see us! He came to give all the children presents and we are very grateful to the PTFA who helped us supply the presents to him.

### Christmas Food Donations to the Living Waters Food Bank

Thank you for all your donations to the Living Waters food bank it really is very much appreciated.

We delivered all the bags of food, toiletries and nappies to the Living Waters Food Bank this morning.



## Christmas Mass times at St Mary's RC Church, Chorley



### Christmas Eve (Night Mass)

Carols start at 7.30pm

Night Mass at 8.00pm

### Christmas Day Masses

8.00am Mass

10.30am Mass

2.00pm Polish Mass

## Primary School Admissions September 2019 Deadline – **Tuesday 15 January 2019**

Please see Mrs Wilson's letter below regarding admissions to school for September 2019. Occasionally, I have to go to appeals meetings for pupils not admitted to school due to missed deadlines or non-completion of supplementary information forms (SIFs). If you are unsure about any part of the process please contact the school office – or if you are aware of anyone who is seeking a place at St Mary's next September and may not see this note please make them aware of it. Thank you.

*Dear Parents & Carers,*

*A reminder that if you have a child that is due to start school in September 2019, that the closing date for applications is **Tuesday 15th January 2019**. Please be aware that if you are applying to our school (or any other faith school) that a **Supplementary Information Form (SIF - copies are available on the school website) must be completed** for each school and the evidence provided where necessary.*

*Should you have any questions or require any further help or information, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

*Kind regards,*

*Mrs Wilson*

*School Business Manager*

## Parent Pay Balances



Mrs Wilson and Mrs Hargreaves have asked me to remind you to check balances on Parent Pay and settle any outstanding amounts. Thank you.

## Staffing

We say a fond farewell to Mrs Shepherd who has worked both in our nursery can reception classes since February this year. We thank her for her hard work and dedication to the children in school and wish her well in her next post. At the same time we are looking forward to welcoming back Mrs Ainscough in January.

## Autumn Term Attendance Champions

Congratulations to the **Reception class**. They were awarded with a special new trophy for being the termly attendance champions this morning in assembly. I wonder if they can remain champions next term too!



## Interested in teaching? Primary and Secondary opportunities available.

Please see adverts at the end of this newsletter.

## Parish Newsletter

Please see attached St Mary's Parish newsletter.

## Parking

**Please do not park on the staff carpark even for Breakfast Club and After School Club**, the **yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways** - I would really appreciate your help in this matter. Thank you.

## School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. **Please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance.** This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.

## Notable Dates –

January	
7	Monday. School reopens for spring term
15	Closing date for admissions into St Mary's School for September 2018

## Christmas Holiday activities

Held at St Joseph's RC High School

# WINTER SPORTS CAMP

**THURSDAY 3RD - FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY**

Half day 9:00-12:00 £10 | Full day 9:00-15:00 £16 | 2 full days £26

A fun filled 2-day camp, giving children the opportunity to take part in a variety of sports and team games. Sessions will be delivered indoors, in a fun and safe environment by our fully qualified coaches.

**Childcare Vouchers accepted**  
**Ages 5-12 years**

To book, please call **01204 488100**  
or email **sport@boltonarena.com**  
for more information

[www.boltonarena.com](http://www.boltonarena.com)

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At St Joseph's RC High School, Horwich.

## Free School Meals – Are you missing out?

### Free School Meals

The offer of a free school jumper is still available for any family who make a successful free school meal application.

### 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).

St Mary's School can access this extra funding, if you receive any of the benefits below:

- 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.

## 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**



[enquiries@catholicisd.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@catholicisd.org.uk)  
[www.catholicisd.org.uk](http://www.catholicisd.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](http://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](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.

Merry Christmas one and all.



P Smyth 21.12.18