School Newsletter

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

29.03.19

Dear parents and carers,

Y1 Class Trip – 'Bring Yer Wellies'

Last week, Mrs Grandi's class enjoyed a wonderful day out at the *Bring Yer Wellies* outdoor centre in support of their *Growing Plants* topic.

They had an action-packed day of learning; Mrs Grandi and the other adults reported that it was a fairly quiet coach ride on the way home.

They were complimented on their superb behaviour. Thank you to all our volunteers who came along to support on the trip.

Y4 and Y5 Spelling Bee

Last week Mr Cahalin and Mrs Banwell took some spelling experts from Y4 and Y5 to take part in a brand-new English competition launched by Holy Cross this year. Mrs Banwell reported that '*all of the children did extremely well, and Mr Cahalin and I were very proud of their calm and collected manner whilst under high pressure.'*

Y2s Book Bench Trail.

Miss McCluskey, Mrs Grayken and Mrs Oldham and some very kind volunteer parents took the Y2 class to walk the Book Bench trail in Chorley yesterday. It was a long walk, but they managed to tick off all the benches from their lists and get a good look at all the wonderful book- inspired designs that have been produced by local schools this year. Thank you once again to all our parent volunteers.

What's Your Story, Chorley?

Tomorrow is the *What's Your Story, Chorley?* event in Chorley - a big celebration of reading and writing. http://checkoutchorley.com/whatsyourstory/. There will be kite colouring and balloon making activities along with 'Read Aloud Stories' in St Lawrence's church refectory in addition to the activities included in the WYSC programme. It looks as though the weather will be fine but a bit chilly. Most of the children's events will be located in Chorley library, including an opportunity to make story jars which sounds like fun.

Look out for the St Mary's Mary Poppins themed bench in town.

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 a couple of weeks ago 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.

The Chorley Hack video is now available on YouTube should you wish to have a look https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T58tyASOgn8

Sing Together, King George's Hall, Blackburn

Mrs Grandi's singing group – don't call them a choir! – went to King George's Hall in Blackburn to perform in the *Sing Together Show* on 19th March. The thirty-strong singing group have been practising for months with Mrs Grandi, Mrs Bradley and Mrs Catterall. The hours of practice and rehearsals were all worth it because, on the night, our children (and staff) sang their hearts out. They performed beautifully and did their families and teachers proud. It was also very obvious by their beaming smiles that they were having the time of their lives.

The coach driver who delivered them to King George's Hall was moved to tears by the non-stop singing she was treated to on the journey from Chorley to Blackburn. She said she never heard anything like it.

Thanks to all the parents who came along to support; thank you to Mrs Grandi for organising it. Well done everyone – it was a brilliant night.

Nugent Care Lenten 'Good Shepherd Appeal 2019'

This year's Good Shepherd Appeal has almost finished; it will to an end on Thursday with the annual Good Shepherd Talent Show. The children have been auditioning this week and are excited about performing to the rest of the school.

The fund raising has finished though and this year the children have raised an incredible **£649.50** for the appeal. This is fantastic – thank you everyone.

Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2018/2019

CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	RECEPTION	97.91
2nd	YEAR 1	97.37
3rd	YEAR 3	97.33
4th	YEAR 4	97.28
5th	YEAR 2	97.27
6th	YEAR 5	97.09
7th	YEAR 6	96.00

Well done to our Reception class who are currently the top attending class in the school from September – great job and well done!

Book Sale

Thank you everyone for supporting ourbook sale this week and thank you to all our teaching assistants for organising the event. I'll let you know as soon as I can how much money was raised for new books. Thank you.

Year 2 Class Assembly

The Year 2s will be performing their class assembly next week for the school on **Wednesday 3rd April** at **9.00am.** The theme of their worship is **Lent**. As always mums, dads, grandmas and granddads are very welcome to come along to celebrate with us.

CAFOD Lenten Fast Appeal

Thank you very much for your donations for our annual CAFOD Lenten Fast Appeal – you raised **£205.00**. It's very much appreciated especially when we are also fundraising for the Good Shepherd Appeal.

Fair Trade Cake Sale

Thank you for baking cakes and thank you for buying cakes during the recent Fair Trade Week. You raised **£118.** Once again, thank you for incredible generosity and support.

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.

Sports News

Cross Country Results 2019

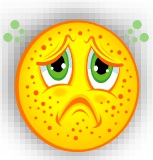
Well done to all the boys and girls from Ys 3-6 who represented St Mary's last Saturday morning in competition with runners from all around Chorley at Astley Park. They were all brilliant. They showed grit and determination just to complete the race; it was a challenging course but they took it in their stride.

St Mary's did very well. The Y5/6 boys' team finished in fourth place overall out of 22 schools; well done to two of our athletes who finished in the top 10 out of the 132 runners; **Jacob N who finished 3rd in the race and to Robert who finished in 7th.**

The Y5 / 6 girls' team finished 10th out of 18 schools. The 3 / 4 boys' team finished in 8th out of 21 schools and the 3 /4 girls finished 16th out of 19 schools.

Congratulations to all of our runners and thanks to parents who were there in great number to support. Thanks especially to Mrs Blackwell once again for all her help in training the children and for sorting out vest numbers on the day! Thanks once again to Gemma Stokes and all her team at the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership for getting up at the crack of dawn putting on such a great event for the children

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 22.03.19

Class	Name	Star of the Week for …
YN	Evie B	Lovely writing and a fabulous week learning phonics.
YR	Harrison H	A massive improvement in phonics.
Y1	Sebastian	His enthusiasm and excellent behaviour on our class trip.
Y2	Amelia S	Being a superstar gardener!
Y3	Eleanor	Super focus and concentration on her own version of the *Iron Man* story.
Y4	Jake	A fantastic adventure for *Gulliver* using lots of ambitious vocabulary.
Y5	Thomas	A great story based on *The Invention of Hugo Cabret.*
Y6	Ryan R	Excellent contributions during our detectives work.

w/e 29.03.19

Class	Name	Star of the Week for …
YN	Lydia	Fantastic repeated pattern work.
YR	Victoria	For excellent ditty book work.
Y1	Noah	Making a big effort in his approach to learning.
Y2	Annabelle	Super writing based on Y2's Book Bench walk.
Y3	Jessica	Super reading of comprehension questions.
Y4	Daisy	A super *Gulliver's Travels* story using speech and complex sentences with adverbial starters.
Y5	Evie	A wonderful drawing of a sloth in Art.
Y6	Ruby	An amazing piece of Mary Poppin's Art.

Notable Dates

SPRING TERM 2019

March	
30	*What's your story, Chorley*
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 30.03.19

Interested in teaching in a Catholic Secondary School?

Wigan & West Lancashire

Catholic School Direct

Liverpool Hope University

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.

St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School Ashton-in-Makerfield

St Beda's Catholic High School, Droylsden

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, Skelmersdale

St Peter's Catholic High School, Orrell

St Gregory's Catholic High School, Warrington

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

Mathematics	*Religious Education*
English	*Computer Science*
Physics	*MFL—Spanish with French*
Chemistry	*MFL - Spanish*
Biology	*MFL—French with Spanish*
History	*MFL—French*
Physical Education	*Music*
Geography	*Drama*

SEARCH FOR UCAS COURSE CODE : 27Q

enquiries@catholicsd.org.uk

www.catholicsd.org.uk

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

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.