



School Newsletter

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

07.02.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We ended the week with a fantastic collective worship from our Y4s. The theme of the assembly was *Community*. The Y4s treated us to beautiful singing, wonderful acting and clear speaking of their lines. They also led us in thoughtful prayer and asked us to leave the assembly thinking about how we can contribute to the communities that we belong to.

It really stood out today how much the Y4 children enjoyed themselves in the assembly and actually, what a great little community they are; they really get on with each other and help each other out. Each one of them can be rightly proud of themselves, as I am sure their parents were. Well done Y4. Thank you Mr Jenkins, Mrs Ash, and Mrs Root for your hard work and a special congratulations to Mr Jenkins for a successful first-ever assembly in a Catholic school!

Pupil Questionnaire

Last week we launched our pupil attitude questionnaire. Thank you to everyone who has responded so far. That said, we have received just 50 or so responses by today's deadline and could do with every child completing to get an accurate picture of our pupils' attitudes. Therefore, we have extended the deadline to Monday 10th February. If you haven't done so yet, we would really appreciate 5-10 minutes of your time to help your child complete the survey. You will find it on the school website www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk under the Pupils tab. Scroll down to the questionnaire and complete on line. It can also be accessed by this link <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/pupilzone> . Many thanks.

Interested in becoming a primary teacher?

Please see Y TSA advert at the end of the newsletter.

Child Protection

One of the most important roles that we have in school is that of keeping your children safe. Each school is required to have a **designated safeguarding lead (DSL)**. At St Mary's I am the main DSL and Mrs Nicklin is the back-up DSL. Yesterday I attended refresher DSL training and as a result, I have updated the 2019/ 2020 Child Protection Policy with one or two additional items. I would recommend you having a read of it and if you have any thoughts on it contact me via the school office. Why do we have a policy?

The purpose of the safeguarding policy is to ensure every child who is a registered pupil at our school is safe and protected from harm. This means we will always work to:

- *Protect children and young people at our school from maltreatment;*
- *Prevent impairment of our children's and young people's health or development;*
- *Ensure that children and young people at our school grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care;*
- *Undertake that role so as to enable children at our school to have the best outcomes.*

Safer Internet Day /Whatsapp Groups/ Please do not allow children to set up or be involved in Whatsapp groups.

Next Tuesday 11th February is National Safer Internet Day. Keeping safe online is part of our all year round curriculum but on Tuesday we will have a special focus on online safety and a special assembly. As part of this I will be talking about social messaging. One of these social media messaging app platforms that many of us use is *Whatsapp*.

It might surprise you to learn (it surprised me!) that the minimum age for *Whatsapp* is 16 in the UK <https://faq.whatsapp.com/en/iphone/26000151/>. *Whatsapp* is a great way of communicating with each other and many of us as families use it and on the whole it's harmless- however it is not designed to be used by primary school children.

It's come to my attention, as these things do, that a number of Y6s are using *Whatsapp*. The problem with this is that it opens up opportunities for misuse. E.g one person has the power over who to include, exclude or 'kick out' members of the group. As you can imagine this can bring problems into school such as online bullying. Nothing like that has been reported to me yet but you can see that the potential is there. I therefore respectfully ask that you do not allow your children to set up or be involved in *Whatsapp* groups.

KS1 and KS2 SATs meeting – Wednesday 12th February – 6.00pm Y2 and 6.30pm Y6

We have organised short sessions on Wednesday next week for parents of children in Y2 (6.00pm) and Y6 (6.30pm). Mrs Nicklin and Mr Cahalin will be talking to parents about the national curriculum assessments (SATs) that they will be participating in later in the year. In addition, Mr Cahalin will use the meeting to share information about the forthcoming Y6 residential to Hothersall.

Message from Mrs Hargreaves in the office

Please can parents settle their accounts on Parentpay by the end of February. If you are unsure what is outstanding, it will show you on your Parentpay account. Mrs Hargreaves has just sent out the extended day invoices this week for up to the end of January, so these should be paid by end of February. There are also some monies for toast, lunches and uniform outstanding. All payments received up to today have been applied. Thank you.

SYNOD 2020 NEWS

Mr Hodge has asked me to publicise the next SYNOD 2020 meetings. See poster at the end of this newsletter.



EYFS request for help!

Our Nursery and Reception staff have issued a request for help. Does anybody have any spare planks of wood (strips of decking is ideal), soil or compost, gravel or astro turf that they wouldn't mind donating to help the staff enrich the outdoor learning environment for the little ones.

Bag2School



THANK YOU for all your Bag2 School Donations . It is very much appreciated.

Bags 2 Schools is a free fundraising scheme, established in 1999, for anyone wanting to raise funds using a resource EVERYONE has got in their wardrobe – unwanted clothes. We work in partnership with Schools, Businesses, Community Groups, Local Councils and Charities to help them raise funds from your donations. We operate throughout the UK; collecting and selling your unwanted textiles to importers and wholesalers in many countries of Eastern and Western Europe, Africa and Asia. All to benefit the Circular Economy.

Intensive Swimming Lessons at Chorley Baths

Chorley Baths have asked us to publicise a swimming course over the upcoming half-term:

INTENSIVE SWIMMING LESSONS

We have aimed to make the lessons more specific to stages and more intensive!

17th - 21st February 2020

08:00 - Small Pool Stage 1

08:30 – Small Pool Stage 2

09:00 - Main Pool Stage 3

09:30 – Main Pool Stage 4

Maximum of 6 children per lesson!

Only £22.50 for the entire week!

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.



Parking

I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not park on the staff carpark**, the **yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. 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. For the safety of the children **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.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2019/2020 W/E 07/02/2020



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	97.68
2 nd	YEAR 4	96.81
3 rd	YEAR 2	96.16
4 th	YEAR 1	96.13
5 th	YEAR 5	95.52
6 th	YEAR 6	95.31
7 th	RECEPTION	95.05

Star of the Week 07.02.2020

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	CiCi	Looking after her friends and always smiling.
	YR	Poppy	Trying really hard with her phonics.
	Y1	Faith	Trying really hard with her writing
	Y2	Feba	Always doing the right thing; she's a conscientious student.
	Y3	Emilia K	An excellent week of work across all subjects but especially in her joined writing.
	Y4	Mati	For being positive and focused in class.

	Y5	Stan	For 100% effort in all his work this week and being extremely helpful.
	Y6	Frazer	A fantastic retelling of Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> , blending action, description and dialogue.

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 – To follow

Are you interested in training to become a primary school teacher? Have you considered school-based training?



B o r n t o t e a c h ?
OPEN EVENT
THURSDAY 13th FEB
7pm-8pm
@St. George's Primary
School, PR7 3JU

Our school is part of the **Yarrow Teaching School Alliance** and is one of a growing number of schools that is leading the way for more school-led, school-based teacher training. As an alliance, we are committed to selecting the very best talent and developing that talent to produce outstanding teachers – teachers who will improve outcomes for our children in our local schools. For further details please contact the Director of Teaching Schools, Bernard Golding, b.golding@st-georgs.lancs.sch.uk In addition, visit the website www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk to find out more about what is on offer while for more general information on becoming a teacher, visit <http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching> Twitter @YarrowTSA

07.02.20



Theme 4

Building Community, Nurturing Belonging

- How do we ensure our parishes are **inclusive**?
 - How do we hand on our **faith**?
- How can we support **the home, school, parish partnership**?
 - How do we reach out to those who feel **excluded**, on the margins, weak, or vulnerable?
 - How do our parishes **grow in love** for God and neighbour?
 - **How could parishes work together?**

***Come and Have Your Say! –
You Will Be Listened To!***

Themes	St Chad's Social Club	St Mary's Social Club	Sacred Heart Primary
Building Community, Nurturing Belonging	Tuesday 25 th February Main Room 7.30pm	Wednesday 26 th February Upstairs Rooms 7.30pm	Thursday 27 th February 7.30pm