



School Newsletter

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

14.02.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of the first half-term of 2020. Once again, I would like to say a big thank you to all the children for their hard work and excellent behaviour. And of course, well done and thank you to all the staff for their hard work too. They all now deserve a good rest and a recharge of the batteries. We look forward to meeting up again on Monday 24th February for the start of the spring second half-term which begins with a very busy week.

Shrove Tuesday

Father Marsden is coming in to school to speak to the KS2 classes about Blessed Roger Wrenno, one of the English Martyrs, who lived in Chorley in the 16th Century.

Ash Wednesday and Lent

 The first Wednesday after the holiday (**26th February**) 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.

Lent also heralds the arrival of the Nugent Care 'Good Shepherd Appeal,' which the children love to get involved in and culminates in the famous Good Shepherd Talent Show.

Thursday 27th February- Chester Zoo Trip

On Thursday 27th February, it's the whole school trip to Chester Zoo as mentioned in the newsletter a couple of weeks ago and while the rest of the school are away the nursery class are being visited by a double decker bus!

World Book Day March 5th 2020

This year for World Book Day on March 5th, as part of our **vocabulary** push we would like children to dress up as '**advanced words**.' What does that mean? It means, for example, that they could dress up as a cat and be a **feline** or they could dress in bright colours and be **fluorescent**. The children can dress up either just with a prop, or a complete outfit - the choice is yours.

The children must know the **advanced word** they are dressed up as (perhaps this could be written down for them or on a label). It is hoped this day will boost the enjoyment of reading but also enhance children's and adults' vocabulary!

As it happens, I learned a new word today from Ella in Y6, who used the word **claying** in her writing today. Definition: *claying (adjective), meaning too sweet* – I don't know how you would dress up for that word though!

Miss Hesketh has arranged for the Footlights Theatre company to come into school during the morning to perform to EYFS, KS1 and KS2. We hope the children have a great day and enjoy celebrating all of the amazing vocabulary we access through the wondrous world of books.

An invite to parents from Miss Hesketh to Strictly Come Dancing Y5-style

Miss Moss, Mr Smyth and myself would like to showcase the year 5's dancing to their parents. It will be on World Book Day (WBD) Thursday 5th March 2.25 - 2.55pm (roughly). Miss Moss told the children yesterday so they have probably mentioned to you parents/grandparents already but if not I thought a message best go out too.

We have emphasised that there is no pressure on the children to perform on the day if they are too nervous, so perhaps parents you will need to be aware of this. The children will be in their WBD outfits (they can either wear these or their PE kit – we will leave it up to the children).

Kind words from parents

I just want to say thanks to parents on behalf of all the staff for some of the messages and feedback we receive from you on a regular basis – here is small sample which I came across this week.

- *Thanks for giving up your time and offering the after school Math's Puzzle club. Betsy and Jimmy always came home really excited to share what they have learnt 👍*
- *Hello! Seb wanted me to share with you...he has adopted a wild rhino through the WWF! inspired by reading the 'our class tiger' reading book 😊👍 he has a certificate for his adoption too and will receive his pack in a few days. He may like to bring it in to show the class next week! 😊*

- *A Y6 parent told us in the Y6 meeting this week that her son (now at high school) always remembers the kindness of his teacher when he read him a story at night when he was feeling sick at Hothersall Lodge residential.*

Thank you and it's much appreciated!

A night at the musicals

Year 5 walked up to Holy Cross High School on Wednesday afternoon to watch the production of *A Night at the Musicals*. It was brilliant and the children loved it. I'm sure it will inspire many of them to get involved in the performing arts when they're in Holy Cross or one of the other local high schools. It was also great to spot so many talented former St Mary's pupils who were involved in the cast, to see how far they've developed and how they have grown further still in their confidence. Well done to the staff and pupils at Holy Cross and thanks for the invite.

Y2 Adverts for Trips to Kenya - Altham's Travel

Y2s have put together some advertisements to persuade people to visit Kenya for their holidays. They have produced them for Altham's Travel Agents in Chorley. Check out their work on the St Mary's Twitter feed.

https://twitter.com/Chorleystmarys?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauth
[or](#)

Music certificates of achievement

Approximately 15-20 children received certificates in assembly today for their achievements in their extra-curricular music lessons delivered by the peripatetic music teachers. We have string players, flautists, keyboard and piano players and a trumpeter. The teachers have been very impressed with the hard work and dedication of our young musicians. Well done to them all on their achievements.

School Council

The school council held its regular weekly meeting today – you can find the minutes on the school website. <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/pupilzone/school-council>. They asked me to mention in the newsletter that:

- Mrs Grandi has put the words and music for the forthcoming Singing Together Concert in Blackburn on the school website to help the children practise.

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/pupilzone/useful-websites/music/sing-together>

- The school is still welcoming donations of food which can be deposited in the bins in the front entrance which will then be taken to the Living Waters Food Bank.
- They discussed how we could improve our school for disabled users e.g. installing push button door systems, put Braille information more widely around school a para-sports day.
- The bike racks could be fitted during the half-term.

Emile –New Online Learning Resource

We have signed up for a free trial with a highly regarded online learning resource called Emile. Mrs Nicklin explained how it all works to the children in assembly on Tuesday and they will be beginning to use over the next few weeks. Most of the children will have already been given their user names and passwords.

<https://www.emile-education.com/>

From the website: The Emile range of resources has been developed by a group of teachers, academics and game developers. Together we have developed and supplied games-based learning resources to over 15% of the primary schools in the UK & Ireland.

Our range of resources are all underpinned by robust pedagogical research and are tested rigorously with teachers in real classrooms before launch.

Safer Internet Day 11th February

Children learn about how they can stay safe online as part of the school curriculum but each year we join in with this national awareness raising day. This year we looked at the benefits and fun that can be had with an online identity but we also looked at how that can be done with consideration and safety.

Please do not allow children to set up or be involved in Whatsapp groups.

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 for us to communicate with each other, 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.

Pupil Questionnaire

Thank you to everybody who filled in the recent online pupil questionnaire; it will help us to improve what we do.

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

Thank you to Mrs Nicklin and Mr Cahalin for their time in putting on information evenings for the parents in their classes. As you will probably be aware, both classes are end of key stage classes which both undergo statutory assessment at the end of the year. Mr Cahalin also shared some information about the Y6 residential trip booked for June. Thank you to all the parents who attended in good number we hope you found them useful in supporting your children's learning.

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 recently 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.

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 14/02/2020



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	97.71
2 nd	YEAR 4	96.90

3 rd	YEAR 2	96.27
4 th	YEAR 1	96.12
5 th	YEAR 5	95.65
6 th	YEAR 6	95.30
7 th	RECEPTION	95.07

Star of the Week 14.02.2020

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Luke	Being really helpful and trying hard all week.
	YR	India	An excellent attitude to her learning.
	Y1	Max	Excellent 'Talk for Writing' when practising his independent recount.
	Y2	Noah	Being a gentleman
	Y3	Jamie	A wow week of work all around.
	Y4	Isabelle	Excellent maths all week.
	Y5	Finlay	His enthusiasm throughout our space topic and completing extra homework.
	Y6	Freya	Super poetry using similes, metaphors and personification to create imagery.

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.

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

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

14.02.20



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