



School Newsletter

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

20th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's the last newsletter of 2019. We have come to the end of a 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 from the Nativity story and songs from the performances of the EYFS, KS1 and KS2. 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. And we look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 6th January 2020**. 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 16th December



Thank you all for your great support in coming to see the performances over the last couple of weeks. It was the turn of the juniors last Monday night. The children sang beautifully at St Mary's Church; I was really impressed with the *Christmas is Coming* song and the performance of *In the Bleak Midwinter* carol. Many parents have commented to me on how beautiful the performance of the *Little Match Girl* was.

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 hosting us at Church and being so accommodating in letting us come to practise. And thank you parents and families for supporting in great number.

Collections at the end of performances

Thank You!

Many thanks for your **extremely generous** donations at the end of the recent Christmas performances. You donated just over **£800 in total** and it has been banked. We will pass on **£200.00 to Derian House, £200.00 to St Catherine's Hospice, £200.00 to Meningitis Now** and the remainder **£200.00** the heating at St Mary's Church.

Christmas Parties

The children enjoyed their Christmas parties on Thursday and the infant classes received a very special visitor indeed, Father Christmas. Thank you, Father Christmas, for taking the time out of your busy schedule 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 Mass times at St Mary's RC Church, Chorley

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



Christmas Eve - Tues 24th December

19.30 Carols

20.00 Night Mass

Christmas Day – Wed 25th

08.00 Dawn Mass

10.30 Day Mass with children's tableau

14.00 Polish Mass

St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) Thurs 26th

12.00 noon Mass

PE Kit Reminders

I noticed during last term that some of the children in the junior PE lessons were not wearing the correct PE kit for their indoor PE lessons. I told them in Friday's assembly, that from January 2020, onwards they need to be wearing the correct kit. This consists of white T-shirt, black or blue shorts and black gym pumps for indoor PE. Many thanks.



Applying for School Places September 2020

PRIMARY

Nursery/ pre-school children – due to start Reception class in primary school in September 2020. The statutory **closing date is 15 January 2020 – just under four weeks away.**

The application to be made by the closing date using this direct link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

Should you need any help, support or guidance, the Pupil Access Office Contacts are listed below
Preston, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Chorley
01772-532109

VERY IMPORTANT: You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

****Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF).****



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2019/2020 20.12.19



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 3	97.75
2 nd	YEAR 4	96.16
3 rd	YEAR 1	95.63
4 th	YEAR 2	95.31
5 th	YEAR 5	95.11
6 th	RECEPTION	95.10
7 th	YEAR 6	94.56

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.

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.



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

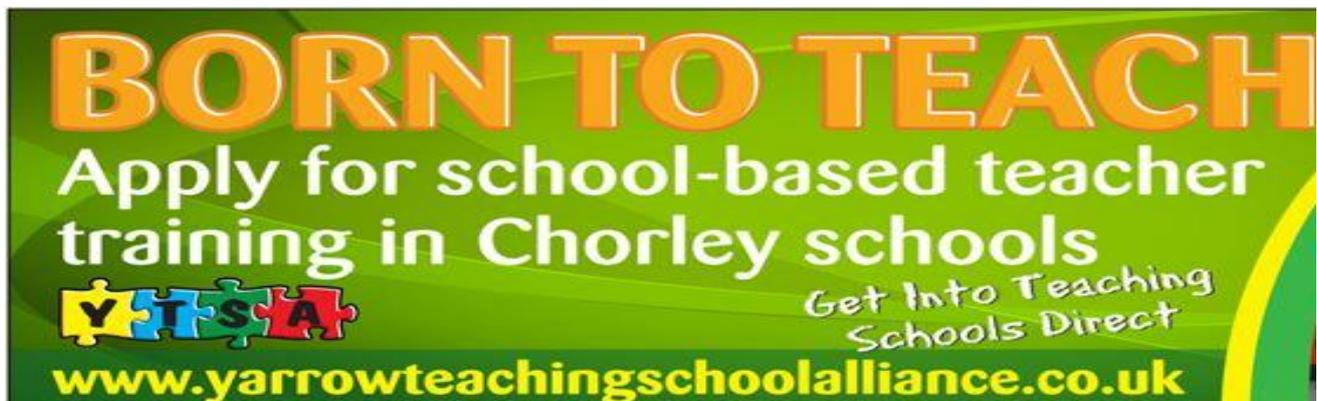
Preston
PR1 8RJ

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 –

January	
6	School reopens for the spring term
15	Closing date for admissions into St Mary's School for September 2020



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 2020** 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.

To help you if you're interested keep an eye out for Open Events.

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.

P Smyth 20.12.19