



St. Mary's News

17th September 2021



Year 6 High School Applications and Open Evenings

The time has come, yet again, for our Y6 children and their families to be thinking about where to continue their education. It does seem strange to be thinking about next year when the children have only just started this year, but local high schools are running open evenings over the next few weeks for Y6 children and their families to attend in order to help them make an informed decision about their choices. (Y5 children and their families are usually welcome too.)

The online application portal is now open for Y6 parents to apply for a secondary school place for September 2022. The **CLOSING DATE** for applications is 31st OCTOBER 2021.

Applications received after this date will be treated as late applications and may impact upon the place that your child is offered.

We will be holding a Y6 Parents' Meeting on Wednesday 22nd September, at 6pm, in the Infant Hall to talk our Y6 parents through what life in Y6 looks like. Part of this meeting will be about transition and the high school application process.

Please note that if you are applying for a place at a Catholic High School, then a proof of faith form must also be completed and returned to the high school before the 31st October. If this form is not returned, your child's application will be judged under a lower admission criteria. Again, this will be explained further at the Y6 Meeting.

Local High School Open Evenings (Y5/6 welcome to attend)

St Peter's Catholic High School Orrell— 30th September 6.00 - 8.00pm

St Augustine's Catholic High School—30th September 6.00 - 8.00pm

De la Salle High School—Thursday 7th October times to be confirmed

Cowley High School—already taken place. Contact school to arrange a visit.

Rainford High School— 30th September 5.45 - 8.00pm

Up Holland High School—28th September 5.00 - 7.30pm

St Edmund Arrowsmith Ashton in Makerfield— 22nd September 6.00 - 8.30pm



Squash that

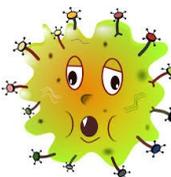
Flu Vaccinations



The school nursing team are going to be in school on Thursday 2nd December to administer the flu vaccine to our children. The vaccine is given as a quick, simple nasal spray.

All children are encouraged to have the spray on an annual basis.

Letters and an online link were emailed out to the parents of our Y1—Y6 children last term for parents to sign up and give consent. New letters and links have been sent out again, this week, for our new Reception families and for those of you who didn't sign up last term. If you have any further questions please contact the school office. Please note that parents do not need to be present for the nasal spray.



Your child's class teacher will be present whilst the spray is administered.

Car Park



Just a week into a 'normal' school year and we are already having complaints about the queues in the club car park and the speed in which some of our parents/carers enter and leave the car park. This has been an ongoing issue for several years. It has been suggested that school returns to staggered starts and ends in order to help with the congestion.

This is something that school can not return to - unless for COVID reasons. Staggered starts and ends lead up to an hour of formal learning being missed every day - the equivalent of 5 hours a week = nearly a whole day! and after 18 months of disrupted learning, this is not something that we, or the children, can afford to do.

Staggered starts and ends would also prove problematic for parents who have returned to work following a period of furlough or the reopening of their offices.

We are the only primary school in the local area to have car park facilities - most primary school sites only have on street parking. School gates are open for 15mins at the start of the day and 10mins at the end of the day to help ease congestion - can we just ask that at busy times, people are patient and that you enter and exit the car park slowly in order to ensure that our/your children are safe. Thank you.



Year 6 Parents' Meeting

A text went out earlier this week to invite our Y6 parents to a meeting on Wednesday 22nd September at 6pm in the Infant Hall. The meeting is an important meeting as it will cover the year ahead e.g. SATs, Christmas Play, PGL etc as well as explaining the high school application process. The headteacher from St. Peter's will start the meeting with a short presentation about St. Peter's and the different steps needed in the application process for his school. Mrs Hymers will also be present and will be able to answer other questions about the application process in general. The meeting should last no longer than an hour.

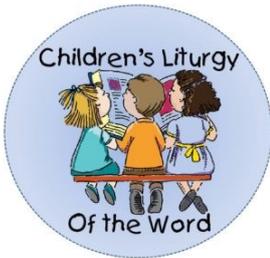
Amendment to School Holiday Dates 2021/2022— A Reminder

The Government has announced that the May Bank Holiday weekend next year (2022) would be moved to Thursday 2 June 2022, and an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June 2022 will see a four day weekend to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As the extra bank holiday falls within the Whit half term holidays schools are able to take an additional day off. We have decided to add the additional day to the existing October half term break. The new dates for October half term will now be: Break Up—Wed Oct 20th and return on **TUESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER** and **NOT MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER.**



By doing this, we hope that families may be able to get away for an extended October holiday. (COVID restrictions allowing.) **Please note that the holiday cards do not reflect this change as they were published prior to the government announcement.**

Children's Liturgy



Children's Liturgy has returned to the 11.00am Sunday mass. There is an Infant group: 3—7 years of age and a Junior group: age 7+. All children are very welcome to attend and a parent/carer is welcome to accompany very little children to help them settle in. Please bring along your children and let them join in the many different activities that have been planned to enable your child/ren to learn about Jesus and their faith.



School Council

We believe that it is very important for our children to have a voice and one of the ways in which they can do this is through our School Council. The School Council members for this academic year are:

Chair	Emily L
Vice Chair	Gabriel
Treasurer	Joshua M
Secretary	Kiera L
Year 6 Representatives	Joshua C & Isla
Year 5 Representatives	Harrison & Heidi
Year 4 Representatives	Heidi & Michael
Year 3 Representatives	Indiana & Harry
Year 2 Representatives	Aiden & Delilah

A big well done to those children who have been selected to represent their classes and school this year. Mrs Cotterill is looking forward to meeting you all.



Rising Numbers of Infections

Primary Schools across the borough are seeing significant rises in the number of COVID cases in their school communities. Two have already had to revert back to class 'bubbles' and several others are approaching the threshold levels that require Public Health intervention and the reintroduction of further measures.

In order for us to keep everyone safe, can we please, please ask that, as a family, you take regular lateral flow tests and that, if positive, you then take a confirmatory PCR test. Many of the cases currently being detected by lateral flow tests are from children who are not showing any symptoms at all - which is rather worrying as the only way of detecting these cases is via testing.

At St. Mary's, our threshold levels for the reintroduction of further measures is 3 children or staff (10%), who have been in close contact with each other, testing positive within a 10 day period.

Our children have really loved being able to mix with each other. We really do not want to have to go back to bubbles, social distancing, face masks on site, eating in classrooms etc. So please, do help us to keep our school/bubbles open and children and staff safe. Thank you.



Year 3/4 Guitar Club

Mrs Connolly is hoping to start a beginner Y3/Y4 Guitar Club after the half term, on a Tuesday evening after school for 45 minutes.



Separate letters will be sent out shortly to those children in Y3/4 who express an interest.

Places will be limited to 15 children and will be allocated to the first 15 children who return their slips. Please do not try to book places via email.

School will loan guitars out to the children, free of charge. Tuition costs are £20 for a block of 5 lessons, per half-term and can be paid directly to Mrs. Connolly.

Further information will be included in the letter.

Class Attendances for the Week

Reception	99.44%
Year 1	98.78%
Year 2	97.53%
Year 3	98.91%
Year 4	100%
Year 5	96.11%
Year 6	96.62%



Well done to Year 4 for their excellent attendance this week.



Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life.



Tip toe if you must - but **BE BRAVE** and take the step.

A Thought to End the Week





Our Celebration Page



This week's Bucket Fillers are



Bucket Fillers

Bucket fillers are children who fill other people's buckets (lives) with kind words and deeds. They are shining examples to others around them.

Good Work Stars

A huge well done to the following children who have all been recognised for their super work week.

Rec	Rose - fantastic colour mixing
Year 1	Emily L - writing a super, independent sentence
Year 2	Lyla - achieving her writing targets
Year 3	Maddison - super descriptive writing
Year 4	Kate - super effort in English
Year 5	Harriet - fantastic effort in Maths
Year 6	Maya - creating a great piece of art about her name

Rec	William for being kind to others
Year 1	Daisy for always using her manners in class and around everyone
Year 2	Erin for beautiful manners and following the Golden Rules
Year 3	Robert for being kind to his friends
Year 4	Luca for helping with jobs in the classroom
Year 5	Jayden for having lovely manners
Year 6	Joseph for listening to instructions and following them first time

Star of the Week

A big shout out to Bobby in Reception who has been chosen as ABC's Star of the Week. She has been helping other Reception children to get their breakfasts.

Well done Bobby we are proud of you.



Star Pupil Award



	Matthew House Winner	Mark House Winner	Luke House Winner	John House Winner	Overall Star Pupil
Rec	Sebi	Arlo	Taylor	Charlie	Sebi
Year 1	Abir	Olivia	Mika	Daisy	Olivia
Year 2	Jude	Alasdair	Arthur	Delilah	Delilah
Year 3	Howie	Jessica	Oliver	Georgia	Howie
Year 4	Alex	Alice	Ethan	Emily	Alex
Year 5	Olivia M	Harrison	Molly	Christopher	Olivia M
Year 6	Deacon	Jacob McD	Bronagh	Jacob BP	Deacon

A big well done to our star pupils. Remember to return your trophy on Monday. Thank you



Ever thought about becoming a teaching assistant?



**Do you enjoy helping and supporting your
child with their work?**



**Do you know
what
qualifications
you will need?**

Contact Teresa to find out more information about the

Level 2 Certificate Supporting Teaching and Learning Course

**Contact Teresa on
01744 677328 / 07749709715**

or

Email: teresaslee@sthelens.gov.uk

