



School Newsletter

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

01.05.26

Dear parents and carers,

We have enjoyed another week of the summer term. Next week is going to be a little disjointed with school closed for the May Bank Holiday on Monday and then again on Thursday because school is used as a polling station.

PTFA Project Playground



The new playhouse has been installed in the nursery outdoor area and we have fresh designs and lines painted onto the playgrounds.

A big thank you, once again, to our PTFA for allowing us to fund this playground refresh for the children and a big thank you to our parents and carers for supporting our PTFA events.

Fundraising opportunity

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/chorleystmaryscatholicprimaryschoolandnursery/40ZI0U/c2s/uc0KLOgX/CE072/facebook/>

Y4 Sacramental Class

Children in Y4 will be making their First Holy Communion a week on Sunday at St Mary's Church. In preparation, they will be going to 0900 Mass at St Mary's on Wednesday 6 May for a practice. They will also be receiving their First Confessions on Wednesday afternoon in school from Fr Marsden and

Fr Dunne. For next Wednesday morning, please could Y4 parents drop their children off at church from 0845. The children will walk back to school after the practice.

Competitions

Netball

The St Mary's netball team have taken part in the third of the four-week netball league. Although we are yet to win a game, we scored our first two goals in the competition. Well done to our players for their resilience and determination and thank you Mr Hodge for taking them along.

Spelling Bee

Mrs Critchley took a team of Y5 spellers to take part in the Holy Cross Spelling Bee competition. They competed against some of the best spellers from across Chorley. They performed superbly well and made it all the way to the final. They finished in runners-up position which is a fantastic achievement of which they can all be proud. Mrs Critchley was so impressed with their attitude and behaviour that she awarded the team: Finley N, Thomas I, Alexia and Freddy, the *value of the week*, this week for *showing great dignity and support during the competition and representing the school to very high standard*.

Online Safety Newsletter

The May edition of the online safety newsletter will be sent out separately tonight, please keep an eye out for it. As usual, it provides some really good advice around online safety for parents and carers. This month's Online Safety Newsletter focuses on helping families keep children safe online. It highlights potential risks linked to online games, group chats and unfiltered gaming sites, alongside guidance on screen time for young children. It also shares important updates on *Roblox* safety features, age-based accounts and parental controls, offering practical advice to support positive, safe online behaviour at home.

Parent/Carer online safety information session

Wednesday 6th May 2026 – 4pm – 4.45pm

Focus: Guide to social media and livestreaming - this will include latest trends and emerging threats and will focus on developing your understanding of social media and livestreaming, the associated risks and steps we can take to support our children.

Please find below the link to access the parent/carers session scheduled for next Wednesday 6th May 2026 (4pm – 4.45pm).

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZWMzYzRmYTYtMDkONCO0MWQ0LWlyMDctNjYzYzNkZTI0MGJj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22dcdb1ea5-3b10-49a2-bf8f-5fd59edcd762%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%225772fa8f-9814-4199-aef2-

9195804f833e%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btpe=a&role=a

Attendees do not need to register, they simply click on the link at the above time to access the session. Cameras and voice/audio will be switched off for all attendees. Attendees can ask questions by typing in the Q&A box, but this will be explained during the session.

The event will be streamed using Teams. Attendees can watch the live event in:

Teams app—desktop (Windows or Mac) or mobile. (The Teams app is free to download if attendees would like to do that beforehand).

If they don't have Teams they can access it via one of the following browsers - Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Firefox.

As a reminder, this session (and all our virtual sessions) will be recorded and will be subsequently shared so if somebody can't make the live session then they can watch it back at a time that is convenient to them.

Foodbank

A big thank you to Mrs Nelson from our After School Club. She took your recent food bank donations to Living Waters Store House, where the items were very gratefully received. The Living Waters container is back in the school entrance to collect further donations. A big thank you to you too, for your generous support.

Lancashire Schools Music Service – a message from its district music lead, Mark Waltho

We would like to let you know about the Jazz Day that is running on Saturday May 16th, and would be very grateful if you would share this information with any musicians at your school with the appropriate skills and interests.

Young musicians, 18 and under, are invited to come and join us for our Jazz Day 2026! The Day will consist of workshops, masterclasses and performances with an emphasis on creativity and improvisation, featuring Yamaha artist, Craig Wild.

Musicians should be able to play their instruments at a Grade 1 level of proficiency or above. If they are not sure they can ask their LMS music teacher if they think Jazz day would be appropriate for them.

📅 16th May 2026, 10am – 3.30pm (arrivals from 9.45am)

📍 Lancaster Royal Grammar School, East Rd, Lancaster, LA1 3EF

Click here to sign up:

<https://UKLANCASHIRE.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=2092#/Course/918/0/7313/2092>

Yarrow Schools Alliance – for teacher trainees

St Mary's is proud to have been a member of the Yarrow Schools Teaching School Alliance (YSA) for over a decade now. Over those years, we have welcomed a number of trainee teachers on placement here at school. Many of these teachers have gone on to work in schools in Chorley and the local area and have forged successful teaching careers. It is an excellent way into primary teaching. There are a number of routes into teaching but those who have taken this particular path speak very highly of it.

The teacher-training programme provided by the YSA is for those who want a career in teaching and already have a degree level qualification. The programme lasts for one year and involves two long-term placements in Chorley area primary schools alongside high quality training and support provided by the YSA. At the end of the programme, participants emerge as qualified teachers.

If you are interested, or you know anyone else who might be, please contact Rob Horne at r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can call me for a brief chat and I can tell you a little bit about.



NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGE
TRAIN TO TEACH WITH YARROW SCHOOLS
ALLIANCE, STARTING SEPTEMBER 2026

INTERESTED
IN FINDING OUT MORE?
EMAIL
R.HORNE@ST-GEORGES.LANCS.SCH.UK
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Free School Meals – Are you missing out?

Find out if you are eligible and find out how to apply – follow this link.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

Baby and Toddler Group

We host a fantastic parent/ grandparent, baby and toddler group at St Mary's in the school hall on Monday afternoons – it's a very friendly group and the children have lots of fun. If you are interested, then please do come along or if you know anyone who you know think might be interested please point them in our direction. Thank you so much to the volunteers who come along to run the sessions each week.

– it is a very enjoyable session – please spread the word!



Message from Chorley St Mary's Beavers, Cubs and Scouts groups

Chorley St. Mary's currently have spaces in their Beaver and Cub sections, and some availability in the Scout section. We meet at the Scout Hut on Hodder Avenue, PR7 3PB on Friday evenings during term time. Beavers and Cubs meet from 5 30 to 6 45pm, and Scouts from 7 till 8 30pm. We have a wide and varied programme and have a lot of fun in our Scouting activities. Please email jacqueline.malone@chorleyscouts.org.uk for more information.

Tax-free childcare

One of our governors shared some information with me a couple of years ago to pass on to parents and carers - here is a reminder, in case your circumstances have changed.:

You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year). For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2 to use to pay your provider.

You can get Tax-Free Childcare at the same time as 30 hours free childcare if you're eligible for both. You can use Tax-Free Childcare for: childminders, nurseries and nannies and after school clubs and play schemes. <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 01.05.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Ottilie and Millie	Fabulous role play about becoming a mummy
	v	Nova	Being a good friend to all her peers
	Dojo	Oliver C	
R	s	Indie	For super answers in Science about Insects
	v	Ozias	For being loving towards his friends
	Dojo	Marabelle	
Y1	s	Mila	Super answering in maths this week.
	v	Anais	Always being an honest and kind friend.
	Dojo	Oscar	
Y2	s	Sophie	For showing excellent concentration and determination on her cursive handwriting.
	v	Joey	For showing forgiveness.
	Dojo	Annie and Rory	
Y3	s	Evie Wood	For huge improvements with her writing content - aiming to WOW.
	v	India M	Always shows love, thought and care for others.
Y4	s	Joshua W	Great piece of writing personifying a river
	v	Josh A	For always being supportive and faithful to his classmates
Y5	s	Finn H	For participating well in class and showing a focused, enthusiastic attitude towards learning.
	v	Finley, Alexia, Freddie and Thomas	Showing great dignity and support during the Holy Cross Spelling Bee competition and representing the school to very high standard
Y6	s	Joseph M	For his wonderful reasoning skills in maths.
	v	Jacob B	Showing thought and care for others.

Love - values for this half term

- **Dignity** – Love recognizes the inherent worth of every person.
- **Faithfulness** – Love remains committed, loyal, and trustworthy over time.
- **Purity** – Love seeks what is good, honest, and life-giving rather than self-serving.
- **Forgiveness** – Love chooses mercy and restoration over retaliation.
- **Sacrifice** – Love is willing to give of itself for the sake of others.
- **Diversity** – Love embraces difference, seeing it as something to honor rather than fear.

Smartphone Free Childhood



Fact of the Week

FACT OF THE WEEK

Children's brains are still developing, and excessive screen time can interfere with attention and emotional regulation.

You will notice around school a QR code inviting parents and carers to the St Mary's Smartphone Free childhood Whatsapp group. Here is the link again:



You are not alone in wanting to create a childhood free from smartphones and social media.

Join the St Mary's Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp community for tips and support because screens can wait - childhood cannot!

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

Smartphone Free Childhood – 'We're united for childhood - Join the growing movement of families who believe childhood's too short to scroll away.'

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2025/2026 w/e 01.05.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %	↑ OR ↓
1st	YEAR 3	97.59	→
=2nd	YEAR 2	96.94	↑
=2nd	YEAR 4	96.94	↓
4th	YEAR 5	96.89	↑
5th	YEAR 1	96.75	↓
6th	RECEPTION	96.21	↓
7th	YEAR 6	94.44	↑

Congratulations to Y2 (moved up to joint 2nd) and to Y5 (who have moved up to 4th position) on their **100%** attendance this week!

At primary school, children who have high attendance (95-100% attendance) in Year 6 are 30% more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who miss just 2-4 weeks of school (90-95% attendance).

Lancashire Schools Attendance Data up to 23.04.26

How does St Mary's compare? (We have moved up two places since last update – we're slowly but surely going in the right direction)

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ⓘ
Overall attendance	96.5%	You are ranked 81st out of 481 schools
Overall absence	3.5%	You are ranked 81st out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	3.1%	You are ranked 136th out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.4%	You are ranked 29th out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	5.7%	You are ranked 74th out of 481 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 481 schools



Some reminders

Earrings and Jewellery - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If

Hair styles

We expect pupils to have sensible hair styles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school and nursery a fashion-free zone!

Hair tied-up to prevent head lice infection, please!

As we all know, head lice do not fly or jump from head of hair to head of hair, they just walk! Therefore, to prevent the spread of head lice in school we ask that hair, longer than shoulder length, be tied back. Many thanks.



Shoes Pupils are expected to wear plain black shoes.



Again, we want school to remain a fashion-free zone. Some sports companies make black trainers for children. We ask you not to use these for school. They are trainers and not shoes and of course, the children will prefer to wear them! However, once one has them, this puts pressure on the other children to ask their parents for them. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

No boots please!



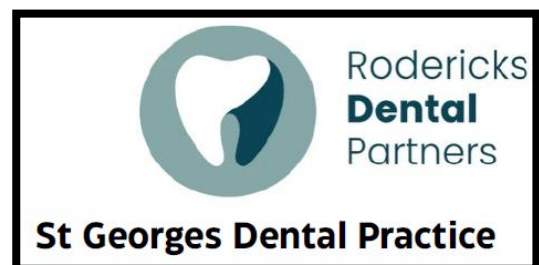
Labelling Uniforms

The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing, please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing, we will be putting the lost property box in the newly available space in the main entrance.

P Smyth
01.05.26

NHS Dentist for Children

We have been contacted by the NHS to publicise NHS dentistry for children. Please see attached leaflet.



Message from
SVP Chorley
Buddies



SVP Chorley Buddies

We're Helping

01257 542 367

Supported by
Chorley Council

Activity Classes



Good Food Clubs



Community Café



Craft Club



Children's Activities



 Part of the SVP Nationally



SVP Chorley Buddies
We're Helping

01257 542 367



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Seated Yoga Adlington Library 9:30-10:30am. FREE to all.</p>	<p>St Joseph's Good Food Club St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane, Chorley 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.</p>	<p>Coppull Good Food Club St John the Divine Parish Hall, Coppull 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.</p>	<p>Buttermere Good Food Club Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.</p>	<p>Clayton Brook Good Food Club Clayton Brook Village Hall, Clayton-le-Woods 10:30-11:15am. £5 to shop and refreshments available in the Café.</p>
<p>Knit and Natter Primrose Gardens, Chorley 10am-12pm. Donations welcome.</p>	<p>Seated Yoga Adlington Library 11am-12pm. FREE to all.</p>	<p>Gardening Club Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 11:00am-12:00pm. FREE to all.</p>	<p>Seated Exercise Ravensthorpe Independent Living Accommodation, Astley Village 10:30am-11:30pm. £3 suggested donation.</p>	<p>Aquarobics All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. Term time only. £5 suggested donation.</p>
<p>Kids Arts and Crafts Coppull Library 3:30-4:30pm. Term time only.</p>	<p>Chair Fit Euxton Community Centre, 11:15am-12:15pm. £3 suggested donation.</p>	<p>Lunch Social 2nd Wednesday of the month St Chad's Parish Centre from 12-2pm BOOKING ESSENTIAL Donations welcome.</p>		
	<p>Lunch Social 4th Tuesday of the month Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley from 12-2pm. BOOKING ESSENTIAL Donations welcome.</p>	<p>Buddies Café Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 9am-3pm Affordable café with crafts running from 12:30-2pm Everyone welcome</p>		
	<p>Seated Exercise All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. £5 suggested donation.</p>	<p>Chair Fit Crosston Old School, Church Street, Crosston 1:30-2:30pm. £3 suggested donation.</p>		



SCAN TO DONATE

Badminton Sessions at Clayton Green Sports Centre

We have been asked to share the following:

Dear sir/madam

I hope you are well.

I'm getting in touch to share news of our :

'New badminton session aimed at Age 6+ delivered by 2 Badminton England L2 Coaches'.

We would be grateful for your help in promoting it to within your communities. These are fun, friendly sessions designed to introduce young children to badminton in an engaging and supportive environment.

Details

Sessions begin:

The Venue: Clayton Green Sports Centre.

Cost: £6 on arrival

The sessions are run on a "pay and play" basis, so there is no need to book in advance—children can simply turn up and join in.

If you would like any further information, posters, or social media content, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you very much for your support.

Kind regards,

Derek and Lynette

Beyond Badminton Chorley

Tel : 07942361912 (Derek)

Email : Tidyl.BB@gmail.com

Chorley Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshops

See below leaflets about Chorley Sweet Chilli parenting workshops – the first one is in June/ July, the second in September/ October. I know some of our parents have attended these in the past and have found them very useful. See below for details.



A down-to-earth
workshop in a
supportive setting

Learn about brain development, parenting styles, attachment, the impact of stress on both adults and children and how a trauma informed and therapeutic approach to parenting can have a positive impact on the whole family

No Jargon

We keep things simple and relatable

No Judgement

Share your experiences without fear of criticism

No Pressure

Join in the discussion as much or as little as you would like

Chorley Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshop Dates

Wednesday 10th June 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Wednesday 17th June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Wednesday 24th June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Wednesday 1st July 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm

The sessions will take place at the Home-Start Central Lancashire offices, 112a Market Street, Chorley PR7 2SL
Access to the building is via the Fleet Street Car Park

If you would like to register for a place on the session, please call the office on 01257 241636 and ask to be added to the booking list.

Please be aware that **all sessions** must be completed, and we are unable to offer any childcare for the sessions.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served served

If you would like to hear about our future Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshops, please register via the QR code and we will then be able to send you the information when new sessions are released.



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Chorley Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshop Dates

Thursday 17th September 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Thursday 24th September 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Thursday 1st October 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Thursday 8th October 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm

The sessions will take place at the Home-Start Central Lancashire offices, 112a Market Street, Chorley PR7 2SL
Access to the building is via the Fleet Street Car Park

If you would like to register for a place on the session, please call the office on 01257 241636 and ask to be added to the booking list.

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