



School Newsletter

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

02.10.26

Dear parents and carers,

Y6 Isle of Man visit

The Y6s returned this afternoon after an amazing week at the *Venture Centre* near Ramsey on the Isle of Man. They enjoyed a full, action-packed schedule of activities. The weather has been mostly kind to them and children and adults all reported that they had a fantastic time. I am sure they will all be absolutely shattered and sleep well tonight. I would be interested to find out, but I bet they didn't miss screen time one bit!

A passenger on the ferry this morning emailed school to say:

Hello. I hope the email finds you well. Today, I had the pleasure of speaking to one of your teachers... some of your students are travelling this morning on the [ferry boat] Ben My Chree. Your students were very well behaved, with wonderful attitudes. A true credit to your school.

Ceri XXX.

Well done to our Y6 for representing us so well and throwing themselves so wholeheartedly into the visit over the last few days. A big thank you to our staff and volunteers: Mrs Banwell, Mr Cahalin, Mrs Blackwell, Mrs Bradley, Mr Richards and Mrs Heenan for giving up their time to ensure that the children had a safe, enjoyable and truly memorable adventure.

Toddler group

Toddler group is on Monday mornings in the school hall – please spread the word!

Open Days 8th October and 15th October



We had our first open morning this week and we will be opening our doors to prospective parents for two more Thursdays: 8th October and 15th October. If you know of anyone looking for a place at St Mary's for September 2027, please let them know that they can come in and take a look at the school in action!



Sacramental Class Cheese & Wine Evening

Next Tuesday evening at 6pm, Fr Marsden and Kinga will be coming into school to speak to parents about this year's sacramental programme. The children in Y4 will be preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Eucharist (first Holy Communion). The meeting will take place in the school hall.

Author Visit – Sean Perkins to visit our Reception, Y1 and Y2 classes



Sean Perkins, a local author, who specialises in children's picture books is coming to visit **EYFS and KS1** on **Wednesday 7 October**. Sean has written and illustrated the *Oscar and Ben* series of books including, *The Birthday Party* and *The Sleepover*. During his visit, Sean will talk about the characters in his books, sing songs and answer any questions the children might have.

Information about how to purchase any of Sean's books will be sent home after his visit via the school office.

Tickle Pink Adventure Bear Making with Reception Class

We have a very exciting new activity for our reception class this year. We are going to be joined by *Tickle Pink* next week on Thursday. They will help our children make their very own adventure bear to keep. The children will join in with songs and dances to bring their new friends to life. They will join the bears on an adventure and have story time about the 'Everywhere Bear.' Thank you to PTFA for funding this new initiative – it something that the children will be able treasure for ever. When they reach Y6 they can share their bears with their new reception buddies.

Abbie Ayr and the shed of Science Y5 and Y6 Active Travel Theatre Workshop

Next Wednesday morning, our Y5s and Y6s will be visited by the *Active Travel Theatre Workshop* to put on a performance of *Abbie Ayr and the shed of Science*. The performance will share a message to try and encourage the children to think about a more active way to make their journeys to and from school.

Cuddly Toy and Children's Book Collection Donation Day Wednesday 14 October

Following the visit of charity volunteer, Pauline Barnes, we are having our pre-owned *Cuddly Toy and Children's books* donation day on **Wednesday 14 October**. If you are able to donate anything, please bring items to the school's front porch from where they will be collected.



This initiative has been inspired by our Y3 pupil, Sophie who contributed 50 bags worth of items to Pauline Barnes her neighbour and volunteer who volunteers on behalf of the Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity. Pauline came into school recently to appeal to the children to donate any cuddly toys or books that they have finished with. The donations will be split between children's wards, A&E wards in Chorley and Preston as well as some going to children in Ukraine.

Harvest Mass 12 October

This year, children in KS2 Y3 to Y6 will be going to St Mary's Church for the Harvest Mass instead of Fr Marsden saying Mass in school. It will be a week on Monday on the **12th October** at 9am. We ask that children are dropped off at Church door on that morning from 8.45am. They will be registered by their class teacher in Church. After Mass, they will walk back down to school. Please ensure children have suitable clothing in case of rain showers for the walk back. Thank you.

Harvest 2026

Unfortunately, with the shorter half-term this year and the way things have fallen, we are requesting a food donation and a cash donation at the same time. My apologies for that. Please note, **there is no obligation to do either**. Food donations are left on the car park nobody knows who has or hasn't been able to make a donation. The CAFOD cash donation is a voluntary donation and children can still wear a bright piece of clothing whether they were able to make a donation or not.

Harvest Food Donations, next Friday 9 October



We will give thanks for the food we have at the Harvest Mass on Monday and we know that there are many people in our community who will be struggling to put food on their tables.

We would like to ask our families, but only if they are able, for donations of food, which will be taken to the *Living Waters Storehouse Food Bank* in Chorley when it is open. I know that they would be extremely grateful for donations of tinned food e.g. hot dogs, tinned meat products, tinned vegetables - tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, peas, tins of soup and beans and tinned fruit such as peaches. The bags can be left in the coned-off parking bay of the school car park on the morning of **Friday 9th October**. Thank you.



CAFOD's *Brighten Up the Harvest* fundraising day Friday 9th October



On Friday 9th October it is CAFOD's 'Brighten Up the Harvest' fundraising day. In school, pupils can bring a **voluntary donation** in exchange for wearing one item of bright clothing to school, e.g. socks, tie, t-shirt, hair band etc. It is not a non-uniform day. For more information on this event, please see the link below:

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/harvest-resources-children>

Thank you in anticipation of your support of both collections.

Parents' Evenings

Our Parents' Evenings will take place during the week beginning **12 October 2026**. Appointments will be held online and will last five minutes. Information on how to book has been sent out.

In order to make the best use of both parents'/ carers' and teachers' time, please do not feel obliged to book a slot. At this stage of the autumn term, children have only been in their new classes for around five to six weeks and parents, carers and teachers often tell us that there is little to discuss beyond the positive news that children have settled in well and are enjoying their learning.

If your child's teacher has wanted to discuss a particular concern or celebrate something significant, they will usually have contacted you already, and likewise many parents will have already been in touch if they have something specific they wish to raise.

That said, these meetings are available for any parent or carer who would like an opportunity to speak with their child's teacher. We are always happy to answer questions, discuss how your child has settled into their new class, and work together to support their continued success.

Please also remember that there will be a further opportunity in the spring term for a longer, 10-minute face-to-face meeting with your child's teacher when there will be much more to share.

St Mary's Instagram account

Follow us on Instagram at: @stmaryschorley



Holy Cross Open Evening – Thursday 8 October from 6pm

A reminder that the Open Evening for Holy Cross is next Thursday from 6pm– former pupil, Evie in Y7, has been selected to sing on the night!

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.

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>

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 02.10.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Jack T	Following nursery rules and using his manners
	v	Sebastian B	Helping friends up when they have fallen
	Dojo	Freddie	
R	s	Coby	For sharing and taking turns with his friends
	v	Millie	For being a kind and caring friend
	Dojo	Nova	
Y1	s	Olivia	For her hard-working attitude to all that she does.
	v	Noah	For giving a class mate a hug and looking after them when they were upset.
	Dojo	Ella, Lucia	
Y2	s	Gloria	For her excellent effort during our mathematics work on less than and greater than.
	v	Robert	For showing compassion and helping his friend.
	Dojo	Amaya	
Y3	s	Marnie	Working hard all week.
	v	Katie	Always demonstrating kindness to everyone in class.
Y4	s	Isaac	Excellent work in the Macavity poem and great English work overall.
	v	Rose	Always showing kindness to her friends in class.
Y5	s	Joshua W	Working brilliantly in all lessons and a super attitude towards learning
	v	Brodie	Showing patience, gentleness and understanding to all around her.
Y6	s		Isle of Man Visit
	v		

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2026/2027 w/e 02.10.26



No 100% attendance this week – Mrs Hargreaves is desperate to give out one of her newly designed 100% attendance certificates.

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).

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL						
WEEKLY CLASS ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLE (ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027)						
Week Number:	Week 5	Date/Period:	28/09/2026 - 02/10/2026	School Target:	97.0%	
Rank	Class Name	This Week %	Last Week %	Change	Trend	Target Met? (97%+)
1	Year 3	99.19%	99.24%	-0.05%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
2	Year 6	98.90%	98.93%	-0.03%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
3	Year 4	97.87%	98.20%	-0.33%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
4	Year 1	97.81%	97.77%	0.04%	▲ Up	★ Target Met
5	Year 2	97.73%	97.62%	0.11%	▲ Up	★ Target Met
6	Year 5	97.36%	96.77%	0.59%	▲ Up	★ Target Met
7	Reception	92.22%	90.25%	1.97%	▲ Up	Below Target
School Average		97.3%	97.0%	+0.3%	▲ Up	★ Target Met