



School Newsletter

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

4th April 2025

Dear parents and carers,

We have reached the end of the spring term, we would like to take a moment to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our children. They have put in great effort, learned so much, and, we hope, have enjoyed the last couple of months. Their excellent attendance suggests that they have. Now, it is time for a well-deserved break!

School will resume on **Tuesday, 22nd April**, immediately after the Easter bank holiday, as we begin the final term of the school year. For our Year 6 pupils, this will be their last term at St Mary's—a time to cherish and make lasting memories.

On behalf of all the staff and governors at St Mary's, we wish you a joyful and blessed Easter.

Good Shepherd Appeal 2025 - A Huge Success!

Yesterday, we celebrated the end of the Good Shepherd Appeal with our annual *Good Shepherd Talent Show*—a spectacular two-hour showcase of incredible talent! Our performers, who have been eagerly preparing for weeks, took to the stage with a mixture of excitement and nerves, delivering fantastic performances that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Well done to everyone involved—we hope all our performers had as much fun as the audience did!



A heartfelt thank you to all the children, parents, and staff for your support of this wonderful cause. Thanks to your generosity, we have raised and banked a record-breaking **£1 018**. That is an incredible effort – well done everyone!

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) – Annual School Cross Country Championships

St Mary's Shines at CSSP Cross-Country Championships

Last Saturday, in near-perfect conditions, the St Mary's cross-country team joined hundreds of enthusiastic young runners at Astley Park for the annual CSSP Cross-Country Championships. Our team put in a fantastic effort, delivering impressive individual performances with determination and smiles throughout the event.

Some of our runners even had enough energy left to take part in the *Fun Run* at the end—an amazing display of spirit and enthusiasm!

A huge well done to the entire team, and a heartfelt thank you to our parents for their support. Special thanks to Mrs. Blackwell for her excellent training and to Mr. Hodge for his invaluable help on the day.

We are so proud of our runners—great job, everyone!

Year 2 Book club

Our Year 2 pupils have been taking part in the *Brilliant Book Awards*, a scheme run by Lancashire Library Service. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and today they cast their votes for their favourite book. The winner is *Gigantic* by Rob Biddulph.

Gigantic: The incredible new illustrated picture book about family, friendship, kindness and the sea - the perfect read for young children

When asked about their highlights, responses ranged from discovering new stories and taking part in a quiz to hearing from authors themselves. Our children said that it made them want to read more stories at home—what a wonderful outcome!

As part of the celebrations, we also held a ‘*Design a New Character*’ competition. We received lots of amazing entries and I was given the almost impossible task of choosing a winner. A huge congratulations to James R, whose winning character, a sculpture, ‘*Sydney the Scuba Diver*’, will now go on to represent our school in the county-wide competition. Good luck, James!

A special mention to Arthur, who shared, ‘It’s inspired me to be an illustrator when I grow up!’ — what a fantastic aspiration!

Well done, Year 2—keep on reading and keep on creating!

Y3 Stay and Pray, Tuesday 1st April

On Tuesday, Mr. Hodge welcomed parents and carers of the Year 3 children to a special prayer and liturgy session in the school hall – *Stay and Pray*. The children took the lead, sharing their learning from Religious Education and guiding the prayerful reflection.

As part of the session, the children also performed the song, *Do This in Memory of Me*, which they have been learning. Their heartfelt singing and thoughtful reflections made for a wonderful experience.

Family members, who attended, spoke warmly about the session, highlighting how much they enjoyed it. With just one class present, the gathering had an intimate and personal atmosphere, making it even more special.

A huge well done to Year 3 for their fantastic work and to Mr. Hodge for organising such a reflective and engaging event. Thank you to all who attended!

Year 4 Sacramental Class – First Confession

On Monday afternoon, the children in our Year 4 Sacramental Class took part in a special moment on their faith journey as they received their First Confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The confessions took place in the KS2 playground, creating a peaceful and reflective setting for this important step.

A special thank you to Fr. Marsden, Fr. Crowther, and Fr. Ball for hearing the confessions, and to Kinga Grzeczynska for facilitating the service. The children found the experience deeply meaningful, with some even asking to make a second confession straight away.

Well done, Year 4—we are very proud of you.

Reception Class Trip to Blackpool Zoo

On Wednesday, our Reception class set off on an exciting trip to Blackpool Zoo. They enjoyed the wonderful sunshine in their caps and sunglasses!

The children had a fantastic time exploring the different areas of the zoo and seeing the animals they have been learning about in class. One of the biggest highlights of the day for many, of course, was the dinosaur display, which is always a firm favourite!

A big thank you to the staff and volunteers. It was a day full of fun, learning, and adventure—well done, reception class!

A Blooming Transformation at St Mary's!

A huge thank you to Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Crosbie, two of our wonderful parent and grandparent volunteers, for their fantastic work in improving the school grounds!

They have planted a beautiful variety of flowers and shrubs, making our outdoor spaces more vibrant and inviting. To help the children learn more about nature, they have also added labels to the plants, encouraging curiosity and an interest in gardening.

Their hard work has truly made a difference—thank you for making St Mary's even more beautiful!



Parent/ Carer Questionnaire

Please look out for the Parent/ Carer Questionnaire that went out last week. Thank you to those who have already responded; we have had 68 responses so far. It is very helpful in letting us know

what you think we do well and areas in which you think we could do even better. We would greatly appreciate your time and consideration in completing it.

The feedback from the last year's questionnaire was extremely positive; parents and carers said that were proud of our school and overwhelmingly agreed that your children enjoy coming to school and feel safe here, that the behaviour is good, that they are taught well, that they experience a wide and varied curriculum and that you are happy with the religious education and Catholic life of the school. We take on board your feedback and comments to help us to improve what we do. Thank you.

Last year you indicated that you thought that there were '*Too many forms of communication: Dojo, emails, texts, paper in bags, Seesaw, newsletter.*' We listened and we have reduced the number of ways we communicate.

Tax-free childcare

One of our governors shared some information with me last year 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>

EASTER AT ST MARY'S CHURCH - THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM AT ST MARY'S:

- Maundy Thursday 17th: 19.00 The Lord's Supper – with watching at the Altar of Repose until Night Prayer at 21.30. Confessions after Mass.
- Good Friday 18th: 10.30 Stations of the Cross. 15.00 The Passion of the Lord. Confessions follow as required.
- Holy Saturday 19th: 12.00 Paschal Food blessing for the Polish and then the Ukrainian communities. Confessions. 20.15 – Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection.
- Easter Sunday 20th April: 09.30 – Mass with Little Church.
- Divine Mercy Service: Sunday 27th April 15.00 Sacred Heart Chorley. Chaplet and Mass.

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2024/2025 w/e 04.04.25



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 6	98.30
2nd	YEAR 3	97.61
3rd	YEAR 2	97.51
4th	YEAR 1	97.49
5th	YEAR 4	97.36
6th	YEAR 5	96.85
7th	RECEPTION	96.31

The reception class can celebrate this week with **100%** attendance – well done – could they yet catch Y6?

Our attendance data compared to other Lancashire Schools as on 03.04.25

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ⓘ
Overall attendance	97.6%	You are ranked 4th out of 481 schools
Overall absence	2.4%	You are ranked 4th out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	2.1%	You are ranked 14th out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.3%	You are ranked 12th out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	1.1%	You are ranked 3rd out of 481 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 481 schools

We are still in the **top 1%**, can we finish there? This is a truly fantastic effort – well done children, parents and carers!

PTFA future dates

PTFA Meeting - Tuesday 29th April - time to be confirmed

Ladies Party Night - Friday 27th June - St Mary's Parish Centre

Best wishes and have a very happy and holy Easter,

Patrick Smyth 04.04.25

Chorley Marlins

We have been contacted by Chorley Marlins swimming club:

Good morning

I am emailing on behalf of Chorley Marlins Amateur Swimming Club. We are currently looking for new members to join the club and I think this may be of interest to some of your pupils. Chorley Marlins has been providing learn to swim lessons, swimming coaching and opportunities to participate in competitive swimming to young people locally for over fifty years. We are a voluntary group with the aim of developing swimming locally and getting more young people active

Could you please share the attached flyers with parents by including it with your newsletter?



The flyer features a blue background with a large, semi-transparent image of a swimmer's face wearing goggles. In the top left corner is the Chorley Marlins logo, which depicts a leaping marlin fish with the text 'CHORLEY MARLINS' in an arc above it. The main heading 'We are recruiting new members' is in white text in the top right. Below this, the club's name 'CHORLEY MARLINS AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. A section titled 'Benefits of joining a swimming club include:' lists ten bullet points. To the right of the text are two small inset photographs: one showing a group of children and an adult on a pool deck, and another showing a swimmer in action in a pool. At the bottom, contact information and a website URL are provided.

We are recruiting new members

CHORLEY MARLINS AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Benefits of joining a swimming club include:

- Learn valuable life skills
- Developing stroke technique
- A fun way to get exercise and improve fitness
- Develop confidence, team work and social skills
- Meet new people and make new friends
- Friendly competition among other members
- Opportunity to enter swimming galas
- The chance to represent the club in team competitions
- Swimming compliments a wide range of sports

Chorley Marlins ASC are looking for new members at all levels including beginners, pre-competition, training squads and Masters (18+).

Please email cmadmin@chorleymarlins.org.uk or visit our website for more information and to arrange a **free trial session**.

Mini Marlins groups are open to children aged 4+.

chorleymarlins.org.uk

Chorley Brownies – a number of our girls attend this Brownies group and I have been asked to publicise the group by a parent who says, *'it is the only Brownies group around this side of Chorley and is a great group.'*



This is what we like about
OUR Brownie pack

Fun - Friends - Make
things - Kind leaders -
Play games - Earn badges -
Make new Friends
Come and join us - everyone
is welcome

8th Chorley Trinity

Brownies

8th Chorley Trinity Brownies
We meet at Chorley Methodist Church on a Wednesday

**Girls have nonstop fun,
learning and adventure**

for ages 7 to 10

At Brownies, we welcome all girls to explore their creative side,
get out into the great outdoors and start to learn to look after
themselves, others and the world we live in.


girlguiding

To find out more phone, text or Whatsapp Liz on 07906 467089

CSSP Easter Holidays Sports Camp

EASTER SPORTS CAMP

7TH APRIL - 10TH APRIL



Two venues, twice the fun... UV football, archery, gymnastics, dodgeball, golf and more.

We can't wait to see you at our Easter holiday camp. If you require any help with bookings or simply have any questions please email, j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk.

For **HAF** bookings, a school issued code will be sent for you to book your place through 'Holiday Activities'. If you have any system issues please email, support@holidayactivities.com.



CALL: 01257 449278
WHATSAPP: 07306403255

BOOK ONLINE AT:
www.chorleyssp.co.uk

CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Ages
5-11

10AM
- 2PM

**EASTER
SPORTS CAMP**
7TH APRIL - 10TH APRIL
£15 A DAY OR £55 ALL FOUR DAYS

FOR **HAF** BOOKINGS, PLEASE USE
SCHOOL-ISSUED VOUCHERS AND LINK

LANCASTER LANE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hunters Road PR25 5TT

ST PETERS CE PRIMARY
SCHOOL
Eaves Lane PR6 0DX

FRIENDS OF ADLINGTON LIBRARY



EASTER CRAFTS



ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL

**9.45am to 10.45am or
11am to 12pm**

**EASTER BUNNIES TO
MAKE AND DECORATE
PLUS**

AN EASTER EGG HUNT

*****booking recommended*****

**BOOK YOUR PLACE ON LINE AT LCC OR
AT ADLINGTON LIBRARY OR RING**

07955507734

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK, X, AND
INSTAGRAM**



Compass Bloom Mental Health & Wellbeing for children – parent referral details below



PARENT/CARER CONSULTATIONS

We offer a free and confidential service supporting children and young people, aged 5-18, with mild to moderate emotional health and wellbeing needs. We work with schools and colleges throughout Chorley, South Ribble, Preston and West Lancs.

Are you the parent/carer of a young person who is experiencing mild to moderate anxiety or low mood?

This could look like:



FEELING
WORRIED



STRUGGLING
TO
SLEEP



WITHDRAWAL
FROM FAMILY,
FRIENDS
AND/OR USUAL
ACTIVITIES



STRUGGLING TO
CONCENTRATE



TEARFUL

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE SOUNDS LIKE YOUR CHILD/YOUNG PERSON WE CAN HELP!

If your young person attends one of our 63 schools we can offer a consultation with one of our friendly practitioners.

They can offer you advice, guidance and signposting to support you to support your child/young person.

To complete our consultation form Scan our QR Code or type in the web address below into your web browser.

<https://forms.office.com/e/x1asaVTeTL>



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