



# School Newsletter

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

05.06.26

**Dear parents and carers,**

We were delighted to have the children back in school this week for the final half-term of the school year. It was great that we managed to hold all of our sports days during the last week before the break, especially given the June weather forecast, it seems we were very fortunate. We hope the children enjoyed making the most of the sunshine over the holiday and we can now look ahead to a busy and productive final six weeks of the year.

**Hindu Visitor, Neetal Parekh**

On Tuesday, we were pleased to welcome Neetal Parekh, an expert in Hinduism, as part of our ongoing learning about world faiths. Visits like this are a fantastic way for the children to learn about different beliefs and traditions, helping to build understanding, respect and curiosity.

Neetal shared lots of interesting information about Hinduism, including its beliefs, practices and cultural traditions. The children really enjoyed wearing a *bindi*, a traditional decorative mark worn on the forehead, and took part enthusiastically in a range of activities, including a fun session of traditional Hindu dance.

It was a really enjoyable and enriching experience for everyone. Thank you to Neetal for coming in and sharing her knowledge, and well done to all the children for taking part so thoughtfully. Ask them about the visit; they'll have lots to tell you!

**New St Mary's Instagram account**



We are excited to announce that **St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery is now on Instagram!** Thank you to Mr Cahalin for his work on this.

Our page will give you a wonderful insight into daily life at school, including learning activities, special events, celebrations, and the many achievements of our pupils. It's a great way to stay connected and see all the fantastic things happening at St Mary's.

Follow us on Instagram at: **@stmaryschorley**

## **Phonics Screening Check and Multiplication Tables Check**

Next week, children in Year 1 will be completing their Phonics Screening Check with Mrs Cahalin. This will be carried out in such a calm and positive way that children are unlikely to even realise they are being assessed. We wish both the children and Mrs Cahalin the very best of luck; although with the excellent preparation provided by our phonics team, we are confident they will do brilliantly.

Over the same period, children in Year 4 will be undertaking the Multiplication Tables Check. They have worked extremely hard to develop their recall of times tables and have been very well prepared by Mr Cahalin and Mrs Root. We are sure they will approach the check with confidence and demonstrate their learning.

## **Chorley Big Sing at Town Hall**

Excitement is building for the choir as Mrs Cahalin prepares to take them to the highly anticipated *Chorley Big Sing* at Chorley Town Hall. Organised and led by Lancashire Music Service, this special event promises to be a wonderful celebration of music, bringing together young singers from across the area.

In the weeks leading up to the performance, the choir has been working incredibly hard during their practices. Mrs Cahalin has been full of praise for the children, regularly commenting on their dedication, confidence, and the beautiful sound they are developing together. Their enthusiasm and commitment have made a real impression.

Adding to the excitement, on the last day of last half-term, the choir took part in a special one-off coaching session led by a Lancashire Music Service teacher. The session provided valuable guidance and encouragement, with the visiting teacher also complimenting the children on their talent and progress. It was a fantastic opportunity to refine their performance and build even more confidence.

The choir is now eagerly looking forward to taking to the stage at Chorley Town Hall, where they will join other schools in what promises to be a wonderful festival of singing. It is sure to be a memorable experience for everyone involved. A big thank you to Mrs Cahalin and Mrs Bradley for their time, care and dedication in preparing the children.

## **Chorley District U11s in Lancashire FA County Final – St Mary’s representation!**

We are delighted to congratulate Jacob W, in Year 6 on his fantastic football achievements this year. Earlier this school year, Jacob was selected to represent the Chorley District team, an excellent accomplishment in itself. He has gone on to help the Chorley team reach the Lancashire County FA Final after having a successful season against other districts from across the county.

The team enjoyed an impressive run on their road to the final, with results including:

- Chorley 2–1 Hyndburn and Ribble Valley
- Chorley 5–0 Preston
- Chorley 2–1 West Lancashire
- Chorley 4–3 Pendle
- Blackburn with Darwen 3–1 Chorley
- South Ribble 2–1 Chorley
- Rossendale 2–1 Chorley

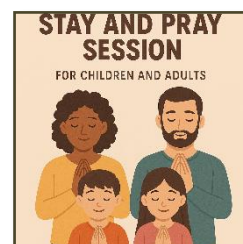
A standout moment came in the dramatic semi-final, where Chorley drew 3–3 with Rossendale before winning 8–7 on penalties, with Jacob confidently scoring the decisive spot-kick to secure their place in the final.

Although the team narrowly missed out on victory in the final, reaching this stage is a tremendous achievement. We are incredibly proud of how Jacob has represented both Chorley District and our school.

Well done, Jacob!

### **Year 2 Stay and Pray**

Miss Hesketh's class are inviting their parents and carers to the Y2 Stay and Pray session next Friday morning in school. We have been running these sessions over the last couple of years and they have proved to be very meaningful and special gatherings. Come and join us.



### **PTFA Project Playground**

#### **Fundraising opportunity**

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

One of our governors, Mrs Chester has been using and she sent me the following:

I just wanted to let you know how simple it was to set up the “easy fundraising” app on my phone. When I am shopping online now and I am on a participating store, it automatically lets me know that it qualifies for cashback to St Mary's.

And it took less than 30 seconds to link my bank card which means school also benefits when using my card in participating stores e.g. when doing the weekly Tesco shop!

It's also great that you can track both your own donations and the total that's been raised overall for St Mary's and I look forward to seeing what the school spends these donations on to benefit the children.

#### **Foodbank**

The Living Waters container is back in the school entrance to collect further donations. A big thank you to you all, for your generous support.

#### **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](mailto: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>

### 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](mailto:jacqueline.malone@chorleyscouts.org.uk) for more information.

## 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!



## 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 05.06.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Austin	A fabulous week in Nursery
	v	Romee	Compassion – looking after children on visits
	Dojo	George, Harry and Karl	

R	s	Ella	For super work investigating waterproof materials
	v	Tristan	For being kind and looking after his friend
	Dojo	Teddie	
Y1	s	Robert	His focus and eagerness to answer questions on our new topics.
	v	George B	Treating everyone fairly and with respect.
	Dojo	Colette	
Y2	s	Matilda	For excellent work during our science work on plants.
	v	Annie	For always being inclusive of everyone.
	Dojo	Eleanor	
Y3	s	James M Evie Wi & Cleo	For brilliant explanations in class & 12/12 in spellings today!
	v	Thomas B	Always tries to make things fair
Y4	s	George F	Great sentences with a variety of starters.
	v	Theo	Being a loyal friend and making sure everyone gets their turn.
Y5	s	Luke N	An excellent focused attitude in all subjects and always participating in class
	v	Agustina	Believing in herself more and showing great determination in maths
Y6	s	Lucy K	Her enthusiasm during our English lessons this week.
	v	Archie	For showing compassion towards a friend and helping him in class.

### Smartphone Free Childhood



### Fact of the Week

#### FACT OF THE WEEK

Face-to-face interaction is crucial for developing empathy and communication skills.

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 05.06.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %	↑ OR ↓
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 3	97.44	→
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 4	96.92	↑
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 2	96.90	→
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	96.84	↑
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	96.79	↑
6 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	95.78	↓
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	94.59	↑

Congratulations to **Y5** 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 08.05.26**

**Data shown:** Academic year start to 22 May 2026  
**Last updated:** 04 June 2026  
**Next update:** 18 June 2026

**How does St Mary's compare?** (We have gone from 96.6% to 96.5% but moved up one place to 77<sup>th</sup> place, since last update).

Attendance measure ▲	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	96.5%	You are ranked 77th out of 481 schools
Overall absence	3.5%	You are ranked 77th out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	3.0%	You are ranked 133rd out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.5%	You are ranked 32nd out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	4.5%	You are ranked 57th 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.

## 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**



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

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



**SCAN TO DONATE**

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> 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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Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm

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