



School Newsletter

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

06.02.26

Dear parents and carers,

Congratulations Mrs Nicklin!

Congratulations to Mrs Nicklin and family on the birth of their baby son, this morning. We wish them all the very best and every happiness in the years ahead!

Parents' Evenings – spring term

Spring term parents' evenings have been planned for the evenings of **Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th February** next week. The meetings will be up to ten minutes in duration and will be face-to-face. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to come in and look at the children's work too. Louise from Compass Bloom, our mental health and wellbeing partner will be here in school to speak to any parents/ carers who would like to find out more about what the service has to offer.

Welcome to St Mary's, Mrs Critchley

We welcome Mrs Critchley, who will be teaching our Y5 class with Mrs Cassidy from next week. She is very excited to work with our Y5 class and to get to know the children and families.

Safer Internet Day (SID) Tuesday 10th February

Next Tuesday is Safer Internet Day. We will explore online safety issues in assembly on Wednesday morning especially on the theme of artificial intelligence. Look out for a special edition of the online safety newsletter next week to mark SID 2026.

Unavoidable School Closures

We are about midway through the winter months now and have escaped heavy snow so far, but in the event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

Future Date – Compass Bloom Sleep Assembly – First Week back after half-term break Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 9am. Parents/ carers of children in Yrs 3-6 are invited.

Good Shepherd Appeal 2026

Immediately after the spring half-term break, week beginning 23rd February, we will begin the annual Nugent Care *Good Shepherd Appeal*. The table below lets you know what happens on each day. Thank you in advance, parents, carers and children for your donations and for the cakes, games and activities! We will do this for four weeks and in the last week of the half-term before the Easter break we will have the Good Shepherd Talent Show.



Day	Activity
Mondays	Cake sale – sell and buy cakes – max 1 per person – 50p each
Tuesdays	Games and activities – guess how many sweets are in a jar/ spot the ball/ name the teddy/ lucky dip etc.
Fridays	Disco in the hall – 50p voluntary contribution

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.

A colorful poster for the Chorley St Mary's Baby and Toddler Group. The title is in large blue letters. Below the title is a photo of a baby playing with toys. The poster includes text about the group, session details, and location. There are decorative elements like a rainbow, puzzle pieces, and a flower.

**Chorley St Mary's
Baby and Toddler Group**

Come and join us for a play!
Pop up playgroup for children aged 0-4 years and their grown ups.

Session ends with story and song time.
Refreshments included.
£2 per family

No pre booking necessary
Mondays term time only 2-3pm
St Mary's Primary School Hornchurch Drive Chorley

Fantastic Fundraising Effort!

As part of the Junior Duke Award, Platinum Level, children in Y6 are tasked with devising a business. Just before Christmas, India in Y6 did just that. Her business was designing, making and then selling beautiful bracelets. She earned £250, all of which, she donated to Derian House.

India was invited to visit Derian House and gave a short presentation about her visit to her class. I asked her if she would like to write a few words about the experience for the school newsletter and she did...

Before Christmas, I made bracelets to sell for a school project but I chose that any money I would make would go to Derian House. I



raised £250! [The week before last] I was very lucky to go to visit with my family, where I was presented with a medal and certificate, we had a lovely tour and I learnt so much, it really touched my heart. It made me realise what some families go through and I am lucky to be happy and healthy. I hope the money I raised can help a few special families to make memories. The staff work so hard and make the time there, special for the brave children.



You did an amazing job – thank you, India and congratulations on your achievement!

What's Your Story, Chorley? - Message from Aimee Broughton, Cultural Education and Engagement Officer. Chorley Borough Council

Hello all,

The amazing What's Your Story, Chorley? event is BACK for 2026!

Taking place throughout March, What's Your Story, Chorley? is a month-long celebration of storytelling and the people and places that make Chorley special.

As part of the programme, we're excited to launch a children's comic book competition.

Please see the attached poster for full details and the comic strip template. In brief, entrants are asked to:

- Create their own superhero
- Tell their story using a five-frame comic strip (they can use the template provided)

Winning entries will be displayed across Chorley Town Centre during the ComiCon weekend of What's Your Story, Chorley?

To enter, participants can either email their completed comic strip to event@chorley.gov.uk or post/drop it off at Chorley Town Hall (Market Street, Chorley, PR7 1DP) by Saturday 28th February. We can't wait to see all the children's amazing comic book creations!

Thank you

Aimee Broughton Cultural Education and Engagement Officer

See leaflet attached

Great Books Guide

Message from our English lead, Miss Hesketh:

Great Books Guide - Here are 100 books from 2025–26 that we think are great – and so will children.

Our priority is to get children excited about books, stories and rhymes because if reading is fun, children will want to do it. That's why we've put together this guide full of books we think are absolutely brilliant, carefully chosen to engage and excite children from 4 to 11. We believe that the 'right' book is always the book a child wants to read – and we hope this guide inspires you to find that book.

Bookfinder: Search thousands of hand-picked book recommendations to find a child's next favourite read – from astonishing adventures to fantastic facts, our Bookfinder tool will help you discover the very best kids' books

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/bookfinder/>

Winter Olympics Message from Mr Hodge, PE and Sports Lead

Dear all,

The Winter Olympics starts in just over a week! 🏂🏈🏊🌸

Italy will be hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics for the third time, with Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo as the official hosts of the event. The opening ceremony will be at the San Siro Stadium on Friday 6th February. 🇮🇹🏅🏅🏅🏅🏅

For any interested pupils, I am giving the children the opportunity to get some extra housepoints and dojos by completing some extra homework based on the games. Pupils can research, colour pictures, find out the events, make a competitor profiles - whatever they like. They just need to bring the work to Year 3, I will mark it and award the extra points and then deliver it back to the child's class! Work can arrive from now until the day after the end of the Olympic Games (23rd February 2026 - The first day back after half-term).

I look forward to seeing what the pupils produce. 😊😊

Mr Hodge (PE Subject Leader).

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.

Foodbank

Following on from the fabulous support shown for our Harvest Service, we are reinstating the drop-off box in the main entrance for donations for the **Living Waters - Storehouse** food bank. You can use this for further donations of tinned/packed goods or other items such as toiletries (shampoos/bubble bath) or even gift sets as the Christmas season approaches. Thank you.

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>

Smartphone Free Childhood



Fact of the Week

FACT OF THE WEEK

Constant digital stimulation prevents children from learning how to entertain themselves.

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:



Chorley St Mary's Primary
WhatsApp group

Scan this QR code using the WhatsApp camera to join this group

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KfaEkjXuUxcD45oTX1IFel>

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 06.02.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 3	97.56
2nd	YEAR 4	97.21
=3rd	YEAR 2	96.81
=3rd	YEAR 1	96.81
5th	RECEPTION	96.25
6th	YEAR 5	96.23
7th	YEAR 6	94.18

No **100%** attendance this week.

How does our attendance compare against other schools in Lancashire? 29.01.26

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking 
Overall attendance	96.5%	You are ranked 87th out of 479 schools
Overall absence	3.5%	You are ranked 87th out of 479 schools
Authorised absence	3.0%	You are ranked 142nd out of 479 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.5%	You are ranked 44th out of 479 schools
Persistently absent	5.7%	You are ranked 52nd out of 479 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 479 schools

In the Lancashire league table, we have moved up six places in the last two weeks – it's going in the right direction!

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 06.02.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of PEACE
Nursery	s	Joe	Always following rules and being a star in phonics
	v	Coby	Being a gentle and caring friend
	Dojo	Nova	
R	s	Hallie	Super effort in phonics all week
	v	Teddie	For being a kind and gentle friend
	Dojo	Tristan	
Y1	s	Lilly	Trying really hard with handwriting and presentation.
	v	Maggie	Showing understanding when others find things difficult.
	Dojo	Oscar	
Y2	s	Jemima	For excellent effort during our RE lessons discussing Jesus' Baptism and some of the miracles of Jesus.
	v	Wolf & Matilda	For acting with kindness and for being trustworthy members of our class.
	Dojo	William, Scarlett and Mila S	
Y3	s	Thomas B	For neat and detailed written work in all subjects.
	v	Noah C	Always shows empathy to others in class.
Y4	s	Tess	Great painting of an apple using washes, stipling and pointilism
	v	Theo	Multiple examples of kindness, including making sure someone didn't bang their head when swimming backstroke.
Y5	s	CiCi	For working hard with fractions in Maths

	v	Alexia	For showing empathy to her friends when resolving a problem.
Y6	s	Archie H	For his hard work and determination when completing mathematics assessments this week.
	v	Charles	For always showing empathy and kindness to others.



Some New Year 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.

CSSP Holiday Clubs – February half-term break

Please see leaflets below for CSSP holiday clubs for February half-term break –

St Peter's

CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

**FEBRUARY
SPORTS CAMP**
16TH- 18TH FEBRUARY

Ages 5-11

BOOK ONLINE AT:
www.chorleyssp.co.uk

£22 A DAY OR
£60 ALL THREE DAYS

10AM
-2PM
PAID

10AM-
2PM
HAF

Making it happen in Chorley

CHORLEY ST PETER'S
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Eaves Lane PR8 0DX

01257 824798
j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES
PLEASE USE SCHOOL ISSUED CODE ON BOOKING

Lancaster Lane

CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

**FEBRUARY
SPORTS CAMP**
16TH- 19TH FEBRUARY

Ages 5-11

BOOK ONLINE AT:
www.chorleyssp.co.uk

£22 A DAY OR
£80 ALL FOUR DAYS

10AM
-2PM
PAID

10AM-
2PM
HAF

Making it happen in Chorley

LANCASTER LANE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hunters Road PR25 5TT

01257 824798
j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES
PLEASE USE SCHOOL ISSUED CODE ON BOOKING

Future Date – Compass Bloom Sleep Assembly Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 9am. Parents/ carers of children in Yrs 3-6 are invited.



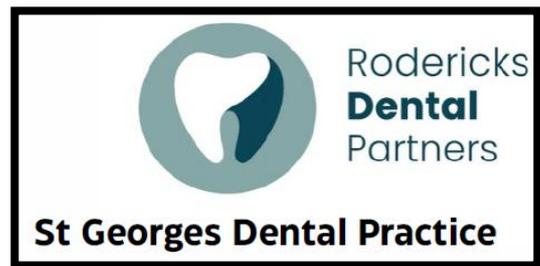
Sleep is essential for a child's physical and mental development, helping with growth, brain function, immunity, mood, and learning. Lack of sleep can cause issues like inattentiveness, irritability, poor problem-solving and hyperactivity. We spend about a third of our lives asleep! Yet sleep is often one of the first things we compromise on when things become busy or overwhelming.

We invite parents and carers to Join us for a short assembly to learn more about how important sleep is and what you can do to improve sleeping habits. We will be At St Marys Primary School on **Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 9am**. At the end of the assembly, there will be an opportunity to refer your child onto our 2 week sleep workshop taking place in school on 17th and 24th March 2026. We look forward to seeing you there. See attached leaflet for details.

P Smyth
06.02.26

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 Activies

Part of the SVP Nationally

The banner features a dark blue header with the SVP logo (two stylized figures) on the left. The main text 'SVP Chorley Buddies' is in large white font, with 'We're Helping' in a smaller, italicized white font below it. The phone number '01257 542 367' is in orange. The Chorley Council logo is in the bottom right. Below the header is a grid of five categories: Activity Classes, Good Food Clubs, Community Café, Craft Club, and Children's Activies. Each category has a corresponding photo showing people engaged in the activity. At the bottom, there is a small SVP logo and the text '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 Croston Old School, Church Street, Croston 1:30-2:30pm. £3 suggested donation.</p>		



SCAN TO DONATE