



School Newsletter

With Christ we live, love, learn and we grow

6th October 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Harvest Mass

Fr Marsden celebrated Harvest Mass with us on Monday afternoon as we gave thanks for this year's harvest. He spoke with the children about God's wonderful world, the gifts He has given us and the need for us to take care of our planet; a topic the children are both very well informed about and care deeply.



Thank you Mums, Dads and carers for your very generous donations of food items. I transported between 30-40 full shopping bags to *Living Waters* Food Bank in Chorley. The volunteers were busy collecting and sorting the various items into packages for families and individuals who need them. Thank you.

Parents' Evenins

We have arranged parents' evenings for the last week of half term. More information will be sent out to you at the start of next week about how to book appointments. As with last year, the autumn term appointments will be online and last five minutes. These sessions are really for teachers to share with you how your child has settled into their new year group and to share any helpful information with you to support your child's learning and progress. In the spring term, usually around the end of February, we will have face to face appointments in school, you will be able to look at the children's books and the meetings will last up to ten minutes.

CAFOD *Brighten up the harvest* collection

A big thank you to parents and carers for your contributions today for this year's *CAFOD Brighten Up the Harvest* appeal. The children clearly enjoyed wearing one bright item of clothing and all for a good cause. Each class took their donations to a central point in school and spent a short time in prayer. Thank you to Mr Hodge for organising.

International Aid trust KS2 assembly

Rev Bernard Cocker, the founder and CEO of the Chorley based International Aid Trust charity will be coming into school on Monday morning to speak to the KS2 children about the work of the charity, which supports projects in Ukraine, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, Moldova and India.

Year 6 Assembly

The Year 6s will be carrying out their class assembly and collective worship next Wednesday morning at 9am. The theme is taken from their *Come and See* topic this term: *Loving*. I have heard them practising and they are in good voice. Family members are warmly welcomed to attend what will be their last whole school assembly/ collective worship.

World Mental Health Day – Tuesday 10 October

Tuesday the 10th October is World Mental Health day and at school we are supporting the ‘Britain Get Talking ‘ campaign led by ITV and Young Minds.

https://www.itv.com/britaingettalking/schools.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI25KB4rnZgQMVA-TtCh0sqAusEAAYASAAEgl78vD_BwE

This World Mental Health Day, 10th October 2023, ITV's Britain Get Talking and YoungMinds' #HelloYellow are collaborating to help children across the country open up. Together with teachers and a clinical psychologist, we've created a piece of homework like no other. A conversation starter for children to take home, designed to help them talk about the hardest subjects on their minds with their parents or trusted adults. Because sharing worries can help ease stress and reduce anxiety.

Click here for homework task:

<https://www.itv.com/britaingettalking/pdf/ITV-BGT-homework-b&w.pdf>

Archdiocese of Liverpool School Christmas Card competition – open now - deadline November 1st

As the autumn term is in full swing and the nights draw closer, we are looking forward to some of the biggest highlights in our calendar – Advent and Christmas. This year, the Archdiocese of Liverpool would like to send out a digital Christmas card to all our parishes, clergy, schools, staff and stakeholders and we need your help... We want our children to put their creativity to the test and design a front cover for the Christmas card in our new competition. See leaflet attached.

St Mary's School Parliament

This week saw the first ever meeting of the St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery Parliament. The newly elected MPs from Y1-6 met to themselves elect a primary minister, a deputy primary minister and a speaker. They also voted on what working committees they thought our parliament needs. They decided upon four: Education, Catholic Life, Health & Wellbeing and Environment. Watch this space for further news. Thank you Mr Cahalin for helping the children in their important work.

St Mary's Reception Class September 2024, Prospective Parents/ Carers Open Evening



Thank you to the parents who came to look around school on Tuesday evening and thank you to the staff and children who stayed behind to show our prospective parents around.

Caretaker/ Site Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a site supervisor. The job advert and job specification is on the LCC website https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=62079. The site supervisor is a very important and very valued member of our team. The job mainly involves cleaning but also involves an amount of site maintenance, repairs and opening and locking up. It is 35 hours a week. If you or you know of anyone else who is interested please contact the school office on 01257 262811 or office@chorleystmarys.lanc.sch.uk.

Loom Bands



The return of loom bands! It looks like the loom band craze has returned. I am not against loom bands; they allow children to develop fine motor skills and get creative. However, when brought into school they can cause quite a few problems, which then often leach into lesson time - just like *Pokemon* cards and football cards can do. Some children have been asking me if loom bands are allowed in school - the short answer is **no, loom bands are not allowed**. Apologies for being a spoilsport again!

Parent Governor Vacancy

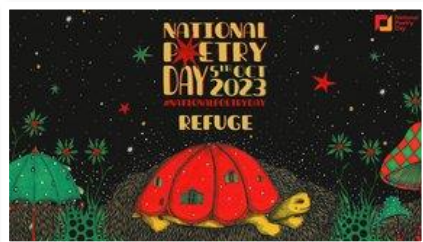
We did not receive any nominations for the role of parent governor this time around. If you were interested, but did not want to commit at this stage because you are not fully sure what the role entails, I am more than happy to have an informal chat with you and tell you more. I can also put you in touch with one of our governors to tell you first-hand what the role involves in a more informal way. School number is 01257 262811 or email office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk. Pop in the subject line '*Governor enquiry.*'

Below is the link to LCC's website which provides some very good information about the role. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/become-a-school-governor/>

St Mary's loves reading!

National Poetry Day 2023

On Thursday 5 October 2023, we celebrated National Poetry Day in school & nursery. The focus this year is the theme of refuge. To mark the occasion, the children took part in poetry-based activities that reflected on the theme of refuge, whilst encouraging a love of reading and writing poetry.



Blue Peter Book Club



As we all know, St Mary's loves reading and Miss Hesketh has asked me to share some exciting news about a new initiative by BBC's *Blue Peter* to engage and encourage readers from 7-11. Find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club>

**Chorley School Sports Partnership Annual Awards, Chorley Town Hall,
29 September 2023**

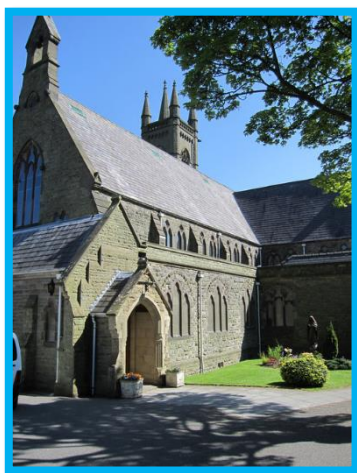


Mr Hodge took the St Mary's Sports Leaders to the annual CSSP awards ceremony at the Lancastrian Suite at Chorley Town Hall. St Mary's was nominated for an award in the "**The Spirit of the Games**" category. Although not this year's winners in the category, we were awarded the **runners-up** spot. The award celebrates how fairly and respectfully St Mary's children and staff take part in inter-school competition. Well done St Mary's and thank you to Mr Hodge for your time and effort and for taking the children along last Friday night.



A message from Kinga Grzeczynska, St Mary's Parish Lead Catechist

Hello to Yr 4 parents.



Your child has received the Mass attendance card. Please make sure that you keep this card safe. You will need it for the sacramental programme and your child's developing faith journey throughout the preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion. Please note that Mass attendance is very necessary in this preparation time. Sunday Mass times are available on the parish web page in the newsletter tab. There are Sunday afternoon and evening Masses in other churches in Chorley.

stmarys-chorley.org

Thank you. Kinga Grzeczynska.

Invitation PTFA Annual General Meeting on Thursday 12th October

Dear parents/ carers

You are warmly invited to attend the PTFA Annual General Meeting on Thursday 12th October, at school. As a parent, you are automatically a member of the PTFA. Come along and see what events we have planned for this academic year - maybe you have some ideas of how to raise funds.

The PTFA plays a vital part in the activities that can happen in school, from paying for visiting authors, Christmas gifts, leavers gifts, subsidising trips and so much more! Without your help, a lot of these activities wouldn't be able to go ahead. For those who are new to the school, the main events we hold are: Spooky Dress Up day, Christmas Fair, Ladies Night and the Summer Fair. We have also in the past held quiz nights, shopping nights etc and we would love to be able to revive some of these events (and new ones) with more help.

There will be refreshments available from 6.30 pm and the opportunity to speak to the current committee members and other parents, before the meeting starts at 7.00 p.m. It is all very informal and we would love to have some new faces join us.

Please could you indicate if you are able to attend, for refreshments purposes. If you are unable to attend this meeting but would like to be more involved - please do let us know.

Kind regards,

Mrs Wilson
School Business Manager/ Joint PTFA Chair

Volunteers



We really appreciate the help we receive from parents and grandparents who come in to help with reading, supporting children's learning, clubs etc. We have had a couple of parents in recent years who started off volunteering and then have decided to pursue a career in teaching! A big thank you to all our returning volunteers this year – you make a massive difference!

If you feel you can spare half an hour or more a week please get in touch with the school office. Many thanks.

2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

Primary School Admissions September 2024: If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-primary-school/> for a September 2024 start.

It is quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

VERY IMPORTANT: You must apply even if you already have siblings in a school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

School places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis. All applications received up to the closing date are given equal priority, but if you miss the deadline, a late application may reduce your chance of getting your preference of school. The national closing date for primary applications is **15 January 2024**. Between now and 15th January all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the school's published admissions policy for school year 2024 – 2025 <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions>

****Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF) - available at <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions> ****

Year 6 Pupils moving to Year 7 * 31 OCTOBER DEADLINE APPROACHING *****

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/> for a start in Year 7, in September 2024.

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

VERY IMPORTANT: You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The arrangements for the transfer of pupils to secondary schools in September 2024 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable.

1 September 2023 - Apply from this date

School places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis. All applications received up to the closing date are given equal priority, but if you miss the deadline, a late application may reduce your chance of getting your preference of school.

31 October 2023 - National closing date for secondary applications (statutory).

Holy Cross High School Open Evening 12th October

Holy Cross will be holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents on the evening of Thursday 12th October.



New messaging service launched for Parents of 5-19 year olds in Lancashire



HCRG Care Group has introduced a quick and easy way for parents/carers to get in touch with the School Nursing service.



From 18th September 2023 parents and carers of children aged 5-19 in our area can send a message, anonymously if they wish, to the **School Nursing Team** to get confidential help and advice about a range of health concerns, including health, sexual health, relationships, alcohol and drugs and bullying. This joins our ChatHealth text messaging service which is for young people aged 11-19 years.

Further information about the service can be found at <https://lancsyoungpeoplefamilyservice.co.uk/school-nursing/> or go to www.chathealth.nhs.uk to start a chat with the local messaging service.



The messaging service will be available Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays from 9am to 5pm) When a message is sent to the dedicated number (07312263554) an automated reply confirms the message has been received. A trained healthcare professional will reply to the message during office hours within 24 working hours at most. This is not an emergency service. Urgent help should be sought from an NHS walk-in centre or by calling NHS 111. In an emergency, dial 999 or go to A&E.

The Lancashire ParentLine messaging service will be run by HCRG Care Group and powered by the award-winning messaging platform, ChatHealth, which has been widely implemented at several NHS Trusts and healthcare organisations across the UK. It was developed by 2013 by an NHS Trust to offer more choice in how people can get help from local trained health staff in their area. In other areas where it is used young people say they feel more comfortable talking about their issues in a discreet message, whilst parents and carers say messaging is more convenient way to ask quick questions.

Please find attached the digital Leaflets for Chat Health for young people aged 11-19 years old and Lancashire ParentLine for parents of 5-19 years. [At the end of the newsletter].



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2023/ 2024 06.10.23



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 1	98.75
2nd	YEAR 6	97.78
3rd	RECEPTION	97.11
4th	YEAR 4	96.71
5th	YEAR 3	95.97
6th	YEAR 5	95.30
7th	YEAR 2	94.17

No **100%** attendance this week!

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 06.10.23

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Maggie	super exploration of her 5 senses.
YR	Sophie	fantastic 'Fred' fingers spelling and amazing work in phonics.
Y1	Theo K	working hard in his phonics and writing this week.
Y2	Josh W	being a superstar maths teacher.
Y3	Niamh	an amazing <i>Paddington</i> chaos story.
Y4	James	his enthusiasm towards our class novel and his love for reading.

Y5	Patch G	showing enthusiasm and answering well throughout our work on non-chronological reports.
Y6	William J	a fantastic survival story.

P Smyth 06.10.23



YSA
Yarrow School
Alliance

New Year, new challenge
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email
r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk for more information

**Parent or
carer**



**You can text a
school nurse on**

07312263554

We can help with all kinds of things like.....

Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Keeping Healthy Bedwetting

Sleep Bullying Dental Health

Growing Up Keeping Safe

Support with Medical Conditions

in School

Confidentiality

We might inform someone if we are concerned about the safety of you, your child or someone else but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be seen between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

If you need help before you hear back from us, contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. If it is an emergency call 999 or go to the emergency department (A&E). Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health professional from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number.

Messages are charged at your usual rates.





Young People
Scan this QR
code to find
support

SCAN ME

Text a school nurse directly to talk about
health or emotional wellbeing:
If you're 11-19 text our ChatHealth line on:

07507330510

or scan the QR code



Parents scan
this QR code to
find support

SCAN ME

If you're a parent of 5-19 year old text our
Lancashire ParentLine for support on:

07312263554

or scan the QR code



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WE CHANGE LIVES BY TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE.