School Newsletter

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

06.11.26

Follow us on Instagram at: @stmaryschorley

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back after the half-term break.

All Saints/ All Souls Mass Monday 2 November

On Monday the junior classes attended Mass at St Mary's to mark All Souls day. Father Marsden spoke to the children of who and what Saints are. He also spoke about the importance of praying for those that have died and are on their way to heaven.

Fencing Club

There will be a fencing club for children in KS2 on Friday mornings during this half term. The club leader came in to school on Tuesday morning to give a demonstration of what the children can expect in the sessions. Information on how to apply for a place was sent out separately.

Let's Get Cooking Club

Mr Cahalin is doing a *Let's Get Cooking* cookery club with Y6s this year. The children, Mr Cahalin and Mrs Hands donned their chef outfits and prepared their first meals this week. They learned important food safety and safe cutting techniques in this week's session.

Sports Hall Athletics – Chorley Schools Sports Partnership CSSP

Athletes from Y5 and Y6 took part in the CSSP Sports Hall Athletics championships at Albany school last night. It was a great team effort with some fine individual performances.

Firework Safety

In assembly this week we looked at the Gunpowder Plot, reminded ourselves of the Remember, remember the 5th of November… rhyme and importantly spoke about safety around bonfires and fireworks, including sparklers, which many children will be enjoying this weekend.

Rail Safety

We also listened to a rail safety story written by a former train driver. It taught us how to be safe at train stations and on trains.

CAFOD Visitors

Representatives from CAFOD are coming in to do workshops with the children in the juniors about Catholic Social Teaching before doing an assembly with the infant classes on Monday.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Next Wednesday, the children will be having their nasal flu vaccinations. Separate information will have been sent out to parents and carers about this.

Anti-Bullying Week w/c 16th November

The week after next is anti-bullying week. I will be speaking to the children about what bullying is, what to do if we know it is happening and what steps we can take to prevent it happening. Click on this link: https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2026/parent-and-carer-pack to access an anti-bullying pack for parents and carers with lots of useful information should you wish to speak with your child about this subject.

Online safety newsletter

This month's online safety newsletter has now been published and contains important guidance for parents and carers on keeping children safe online. Topics include *Spotify* parental controls, *WhatsApp* Channels, online grooming, "rage bait" content, and the risks associated with COM Networks. We encourage all families to take a few minutes to read the newsletter and discuss online safety with their children. It has been sent out separately.

Pupil admissions September 2027

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 via appointment.

If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place online via the Lancashire County Council School Admissions Portal.

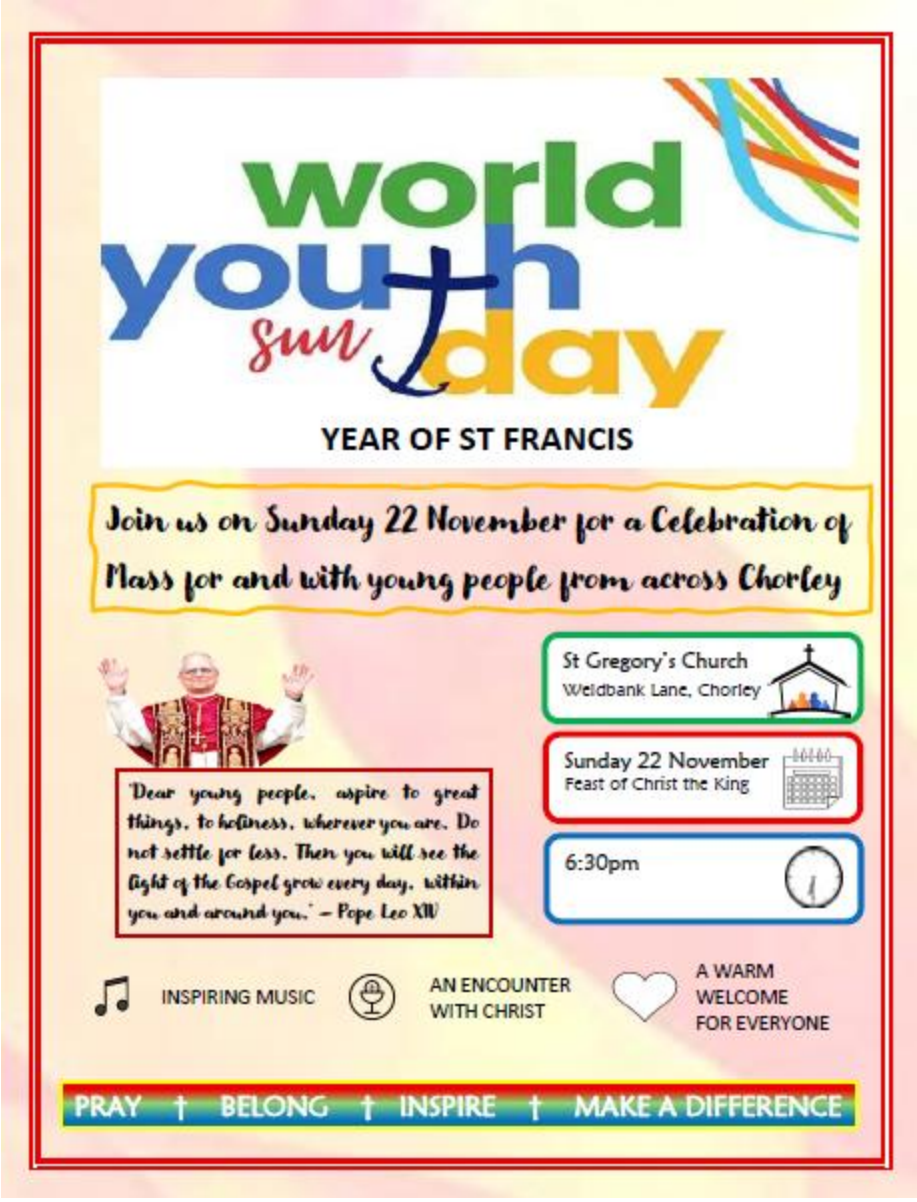
https://schooladmissions.lancashire.gov.uk/prefs.php

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 2027**. Between now and 15th January all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the school's published admissions policy for school year 2027 - 2028. https://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

Youth Mass at St Gregory's on Sunday 22 November.



Attendance

Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2026/2027 w/e 06.11.26



WEEKLY CLASS ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLE (ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027)

Week Number:	Week 8	Date/Period:	02/11/2026 - 06/11/2026	School Target:	97.0%

Rank	Class Name	This Week %	Last Week %	Change	Trend	Target Met? (97%+)
1	Year 3	98.65%	98.59%	0.06%	▲ Up	★ Target Met
2	Year 6	98.03%	97.87%	0.16%	▲ Up	★ Target Met
3	Year 1	97.11%	97.20%	-0.09%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
4	Year 4	96.99%	97.23%	-0.24%	▼ Down	Below Target
5	Year 2	96.98%	97.17%	-0.19%	▼ Down	Below Target
6	Year 5	96.90%	96.67%	0.23%	▲ Up	Below Target
7	Reception	94.59%	94.41%	0.18%	▲ Up	Below Target
	School Average	97.0%	97.0%	+0.0%	▲ Up	★ Target Met

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).

How does our attendance compare against other schools?

How do we rank against other Lancashire schools? In the last academic year, 2024/ 2025, we were ranked **4th out of 479 schools – the top 1% club**! Well done to you all on a fantastic achievement. Currently we sit in **40th** position. Given what we have achieved previously, I am sure that we can improve on that.

Attendance comparison up to 23.10.26

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ⓘ
Overall attendance	97.5%	You are ranked 40th out of 477 schools
Overall absence	2.5%	You are ranked 40th out of 477 schools
Authorised absence	2.0%	You are ranked 78th out of 477 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.5%	You are ranked 66th out of 477 schools
Persistently absent	5.7%	You are ranked 38th out of 477 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 477 schools

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 06.11.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of BELONGING
Nursery	s	George	Mastering a new skill
	v	Albie	Valuing all his peers in nursery
	Dojo	Sebastian B	
R	s	Poppy	For lots of enthusiasm mark making with wax crayons in art.
	v	Eli	For kindness, ensuring his friend received a dojo before himself
	Dojo	Elsey	
Y1	s	Lily	For always trying her best.
	v	Zach	For being gentle and thoughtful to others.
	Dojo	Ottillie	
Y2	s	Lilly	For a positive attitude
	v	Tillie	Kind & Thoughtful
	Dojo	Amaya, Rayne & Oscar	
Y3	s	Mila S	For consistently being a good role model for others
	v	Olivia W	Happy to give up her time to help others

Y4	s	Jesse	For going above and beyond with completing a lovely homework diary
	v	James M	Always puts other people first
Y5	s	Alice	A wonderful attitude towards learning and always applying herself
	v	Charlie A	Showing compassion in the classroom and always volunteering to help
Y6	s	Antoni	For his wonderful research and fact file about Miriam in RE.
	v	Lawson	For always being a kind friend

06.11.26

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.