



School Newsletter

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

07.03.25

Dear parents and carers,

World Book Day – message from Miss Hesketh

Children across school and nursery enjoyed a fantastic World Book Day, yesterday. They loved dressing up, many of them in their pyjamas or dressing gowns. They enjoyed taking part in the various reading and book-themed activities.

All the children were involved, for example in the Y5 class, the children took part in a live quiz yesterday morning with thousands of other schools called, '*The Great Big Footy and Booky Quiz.*' They went down to see the Nursery children and read stories to them. They also shared lots of reading recommendations as a class and popped these in their reading corner. Finally, they finished the day off with their own World Book Day Raps.

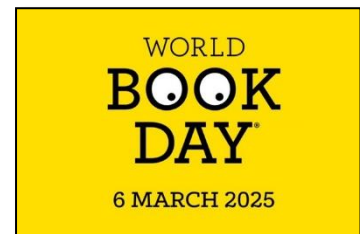
Mr Hodge discovered on the social media from Holy Cross that there were four past pupils who won prizes as WBD top readers and for reading the most books. Millie R and Owen R (Year 7), Harriet W and Emily A (Year 8). It is great to learn that former St Mary's pupils carried their 'Love of Reading' carried on to high school.

Noah and Evie were interviewed on Lancashire Hits Radio about what they thought of World Book Day. We will find a way of sharing the recording of that with you – they were brilliant!

I have attached a link from the Book Trust which is a really useful age appropriate guide of reading recommendations which are current and trending - a great resource to have a look at.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/great-books-guide/2024/great-books-guide-2024.pdf>

Thanks to everyone as always for your continued support with World Book Day. Miss Hesketh



Ash Wednesday

Children from Y3 to Y6 went St Mary's Church on Wednesday morning for the 9am Ash Wednesday Mass to mark the start of Lent. Fr Marsden spoke to them about Lent and how it is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter Sunday. He said we can prepare by saying prayers, giving something up (or doing something positive) and by giving donations to charity. The children received the ashes on their foreheads.

Later in the afternoon, Kinga Grzeczynska visited reception, Y1 and Y2 to distribute the ashes to the younger children.

Prayer for Pope Francis

Archbishop Malcolm shares this prayer for Pope Francis with us all:

Dear brothers and sisters,

We hold the Holy Father very close in prayer tonight as he continues to suffer - as the psalmist says - may the Lord help him on his bed of pain. May Our Lady, Mother of the Church, intercede for him. With my prayers for you and those you love,

+Malcolm

Good Shepherd Appeal 2025

This week we started the annual Nugent Care *Good Shepherd Appeal*. The table below lets you know what happens on each day. Thank you, parents, carers and children for your donations and for the cakes, games and activities! We will carry on for the next three weeks.



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

See web address below for further details: <https://wearenugent.org/good-shepherd-appeal-primary-resources/>

Ebb & Flo Bookshop Chorley

St Mary's has a longstanding relationship with Ebb & Flo Bookshop in Chorley. We receive new books for our classes every month and are lucky to be involved in many author visits arranged by Ebb & Flo. The bookshop moves to its new premises on St Thomas's Road in Chorley and has its grand opening on 15th March. There is currently a sale on at its current shop on Gillibrand St. Miss Hesketh



Sports News

CSSP Pantathlon

Last Friday, Mr Hodge took a team of St Mary's athletes to compete in a curling competition without the ice! The competitors had to use skill and accuracy to aim to get their stones nearest to the target mark. Mr Hodge reported that the St Mary's squad were enthusiastic, well-behaved and supported one another very well indeed. They each received a beautiful medal which they were presented with in the Friday awards assembly. Thank you to Mr Hodge and to our parent volunteers who came along.

Y6 Dodgeball

Last night, Mr Hodge took the Y6 dodgeball team to take part in the CSSP Dodgeball championship. Our squad had a fantastic time, playing superbly well only narrowly missing out on the finals. Once again, the St Mary's competitors were praised for their excellent sporting behaviour. A big thank you, once again to Mr Hodge and well done, St Mary's.

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>



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2024/2025 w/e 07.03.25



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 6	98.34
2nd	YEAR 1	97.71
3rd	YEAR 3	97.52
4th	YEAR 2	97.38
5th	YEAR 4	97.37
6th	YEAR 5	97.31
7th	RECEPTION	96.37

Well done **Y3** and **Y5** on your **100%** attendance this week!

And well done to all the pupils and families at St Mary's – with our current attendance of 97.5%, the school is still ranked **fifth** out of all the schools in Lancashire! (data is from 06.03.25)

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	97.5%	You are ranked 5th out of 481 schools

Star of the Week 07.03.25

Class	Name	Star of the week for... Value of the week for showing value of peace Dojo Champion
Nursery	s Olsen	Super effort in phonics
	v Martha and Eliza	Always contributing in our R.E. sessions each week
R	Dojo Lily	
	s Amaya	Excellent sorting for data handling
	v Joey	For knowing Jesus' new rule to love one another.
Y1	Dojo Edie	
	s Matilda	Sharing a book she had written herself on World Book Day.
	v Annie	Being prayerful and thinking about how she can treat others as Jesus would.
Y2	Dojo Olsen	
	s Alex	Bringing in an amazing maths game to play with the class
	v Noah	Always demonstrating reverence in prayer and liturgy.
Y3	Dojo Harper	
	s Willow	Much improved handwriting in English.
Y4	v Clara & Alice	Always ready to say prayers with reverence and respect.
	s James M	For his great reasoning and problem-solving skills during our fraction work this week.
Y5	v Nathaniel	Always showing respect and holiness during prayers and in church.
	s Arthur	For showing a wonderful attitude towards his learning in all areas of the curriculum throughout the week.
Y6	v Sam R	For always showing respect and holiness during our class prayer and liturgy.
	s Sophia T	An amazing improvement in her mathematics score
	v Sophia T, Joseph, Faith, Heidi, Victoria, Addison and Poppy	For volunteering to read bidding prayers in church and doing so very eloquently.

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, Patrick Smyth 07.03.25

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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