



# School Newsletter

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

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**07.06.24**

**Dear parents and carers,**

Welcome back to the final half-term of the school year. The children enjoyed a great first week back in spite of the chilly and wet weather; they particularly enjoyed making pizzas this week in school with the *Fun Chef*.

**Kath O'Neill leaving us!**

Kath O'Neill, one of our lovely Breakfast Club staff, whom many of you will know and love, is hanging up her boots. She is heading off to pastures new. Kath has worked at St Mary's for over thirty years now, and none of us can imagine the place without her. Her last session in Breakfast Club before she departs, is next Thursday morning. On behalf of thirty years' worth of children, families, staff and governors, I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to Kath for her love, care and commitment to the children of St Mary's.

**It's Mental Family Wellbeing Festival Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Ticket News!!**

Mr Robinson from the *It's Mental: Family Wellbeing Festival* team informed us earlier in the week that St Mary's got the most Facebook comments in a recent competition and therefore the school has won 10 x family tickets to give away. Keep a look out for a separate GroupCall communication that has gone out to families to ask them to express an interest in the tickets. We will name those interested in a hat and draw out 10 winners. Thank you Mr Robinson for the very generous prize!

**Phonics Screening Check**

Next week, the Y1 class will be doing their phonics screening check with Mrs Cahalin. Mrs Cahalin is super proud of the children and their hard work this year in phonics, super proud of the phonics team for their teaching delivery and super proud of parents who have helped children with phonics at home all year – a great team effort. Good luck, Mrs Cahalin and all the Y1s.

**First Holy Communion**

Y4's special day has finally arrived. On Sunday, children from Y4 will be going to Mass at St Mary's Church to receive First Holy Communion and celebrating that special occasion with their families and friends. They have been prepared extremely well all year by our lead catechist and school governor,

Kinga Grzeczynska. We wish them all the very best. There will be celebratory tea party on Monday afternoon in school, with squash and cakes, where Deacon Norman will bless the gifts the children have received and make a special presentation of gifts to them from the Church.

### **Striking and Fielding Festival Y2s and Y4s**

Yesterday, two teams of children (Y2s and Y4s) walked to the West Way Sports Hub to take part in a festival of striking and fielding activities. The children had a superb time trying out various games and activities and practising new skills. They demonstrated wonderful behaviour throughout. Thank you to Mr Hodge, Mrs Singleton and Ms Barnes for taking the children along.

### **RNLI Water Safety Talks**

We are being visited by the RNLI next week to work with each class on water safety.

### **Vacancies**

We have an exciting vacancy for an apprentice to learn, develop and work in our nursery class. Ms Lang, who started as an apprentice with us a few years ago took this route with us and became a very skilled early years practitioner and is now moving on to bigger and better things. If you know of anyone who may be interested please ask to follow this link or contact Mrs Wilson at the school office for further details.

*Link for Nursery Apprentice* - [https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt\\_vacancyDetails.asp?id=63879](https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=63879)

As you know by now, we have a vacancy for a site supervisor (see link below).

*Link for Site Supervisor* - [https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt\\_vacancyDetails.asp?id=63834](https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=63834)

### ***REMINDERS from previous newsletters***

#### **Polling Day Thursday 4 July – School closed**

There is a general election taking place on **July 4th**. St Mary's is a polling station. The school and nursery will be closed on that day. We are sorry for any inconvenience that may cause you.

#### **Book Fair**

Miss Hesketh has also asked me to share news of the arrival of the Book Fair from **26<sup>th</sup> June until 3<sup>rd</sup> July**.

#### **School Week from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

A reminder that from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 the school day will have a new start and end time. We will register children at the earlier time of **0850** and school will finish at the slightly later time of **1520**. Please note that the nursery class start and end times will be unaffected in September. The **nursery** day will remain as start at **0845 and end at 1515**.

## Reception September 2024 places

We still have some places for our reception class in September, so if you know of anyone moving into the area and looking for a place in a Catholic school for September, please let them know. Sometimes families move into the area and are surprised the school is here because it is tucked away.

## Kooth Mental Health and Wellbeing support

Kooth is an 11-18 mental health & wellbeing support service. Their age band just about catches our Y6 children. That said there are some good resources which I think would support most parents in supporting their children and these can be accessed here:

<https://cloud.brandmaster.com/shared/assets/319b4803b82fecf307bc>

From the Kooth website: *We're Kooth Digital Health: the UK's largest and longest-serving digital mental health service. We've worked with the NHS for over 20 years and are the UK's only BACP accredited digital mental health service. We currently operate one service for children and young people (Kooth) and one for adults (Qwell). Learn more about us by watching our short video or visiting koothplc.com.*

## Free School Meals, Pupil Premium and School Budget

Our school budget, like most school budgets, is becoming increasingly stretched by the rising costs of goods and services. There is a source of funding that we think our school could be possibly missing out on. It is called **pupil premium** funding. Schools receive this money for each child that is entitled to the **free school meals** benefit (this is something different to infant free school meals).

The school may be missing out on this funding because it does not receive it automatically. It requires parents/ carers to apply for it and many of us may not even realise they we are entitled to this benefit.

To confuse matters further, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to universal infant free school meals but this is different to free school meals as it does not bring in pupil premium funding for school. Parents of children in the infants may be entitled to free school meals in addition to universal infant free school meals.

## What can parents/ carers do to help?

Therefore we would like to ask all of our parents/ carers from reception to Year 6 to consider whether they might meet the criteria for free school meals for their child(ren). This could help to ensure that the school does not miss additional pupil premium funding.

There is a simple way to check to see if your child(ren) may be entitled to free school meals. It is accessed through Lancashire County Council and it is a very quick, straightforward process. See link: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

There is a very good article on the *Martin Lewis: Money Saving Expert* website which provides more information. <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/free-school-meals/>

## Messages from the school office:

**ParentPay** Please can we settle ParentPay accounts as soon as possible. Thank you.

**School Uniform** Please check the uniform requirements on the school website and complete the Groupcall form by 2nd June. Payments must be made in advance before 5th June. If you do not pay for your order in time, we will be unable to process your order before the deadline given by our suppliers and you will not receive your items by the end of the summer term. The school uniform order form has now been sent to parents electronically.

We can submit late orders/payments to our suppliers by 12th July, but you will not receive items until September. <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/school-uniform>

### **Chorley Catholic Community Annual Festival - Sunday 8th September 1pm - 5pm, St Gregory's Church, Weldbank, Chorley**

Mr Paul McBeth the organiser of the *Chorley Catholic Community Annual Festival* has written to us to give advance notice of this year's event in September on Sunday 8th September 1pm - 5pm at St Gregory's Church, Weldbank, Chorley

He asked us to let you know about and offer you an official invitation to take part this year. It would be good to know if you want to take part. If interested, could you reply to [cnocl@hotmail.com](mailto:cnocl@hotmail.com) please? It's the same format as last year - you get a double gazebo but have to supply a table(s) and chairs.

### **Message from Kathryn Riley, UCLAN**

#### **[Participate in Free Health Testing for Early Diagnosis of Diseases and Cancers!](#)**

Are you part of the local community and interested in contributing to valuable research on firefighters' health? Join us in this groundbreaking project conducted by University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) and Lancashire Teaching Hospital (LHTR) Research Team.

Despite their general health and fitness, firefighters are experiencing alarming increases in the prevalence of diseases and cancers at much younger ages when compared to the general population. We aim to gain a better understanding of occupational factors affecting firefighters' health and to enhance the well-being of these courageous individuals.

#### **Participants will:**

- Fill in a questionnaire about lifestyle and general health.
- Provide blood and urine samples to test for cancer and disease markers, as well as the presence of persistent fire chemicals.
- Carry out a spirometry test to assess overall lung function.

#### **Free Health Checks are available for a limited time to any individuals:**

- ◆ Aged between 40 and 65;
  - ◆ With no history in firefighting or fire-related activities;
  - ◆ With no history of exposure to fire chemicals;
  - ◆ Who are able to understand verbal explanations or written information in English adequately.
- Appointments will be scheduled for one-hour sessions in July as the tests are more thorough than routine checks. Tests will be carried out by experienced nurses and other specialists from LHTR and UCLan.

Ready to take part? Reach out to us to register:

<https://redcap.link/firefighterstudy>

✉ Email: [FCDR@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:FCDR@uclan.ac.uk)

Join us in making a difference in firefighter health research! Together, let's ensure the well-being of those who dedicate their lives to keeping our communities safe.

### Star of the Week 07.06.24

| Class | Name     | Star of the Week for ...  |
|-------|----------|---|
| YN    | Rayne    | always giving 100% in all he does.                                    |
| YR    | Scarlett | trying really hard in phonics.  |
| Y1    | Ewan     | working hard in English and on his letter formation .                 |
| Y2    | Layla    | outstanding contributions and always doing the right thing.           |
| Y3    | Tommy    | great answers in maths doing telling the time.                        |
| Y4    | Princess | a wonderful start to St Mary's.                                       |
| Y5    | Hendrix  | working hard to achieve his targets set in his writing.               |
| Y6    | Jimmy    | a fantastic flashback story based on the poem, 'The Lion and Albert.' |

### Attendance



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2023/2024 w/e 07.06.24



| CURRENT POSITION | CLASS     | CURRENT % |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1st              | YEAR 5    | 97.24     |
| 2nd              | YEAR 6    | 97.06     |
| 3rd              | YEAR 1    | 96.85     |
| 4th              | YEAR 3    | 96.77     |
| 5th              | YEAR 2    | 95.42     |
| 6th              | RECEPTION | 95.07     |
| 7th              | YEAR 4    | 94.96     |

Congratulations to Year 5 on their **100%** attendance this week.

**Mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children. (Contacts below).**



P Smyth 07.06.24



**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



[care think do.](https://www.carethinkdo.com)