



School Newsletter

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

07.11.25

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back after the half-term break.

Junior Duke



We are delighted to introduce the Junior Duke Award programme at our school; it is a fantastic initiative designed to help children develop essential life skills such as confidence, resilience, and independence.

To launch the programme, we were delighted yesterday to welcome back former pupil, Will Wright, who signed with Liverpool FC this summer. Will is joining us as our Junior Duke ambassador and will be supporting the programme throughout the year.

During his visit, Will spoke to the children about his journey in football, sharing how he faced setbacks, including rejections—even on his birthday. His story highlighted the importance of perseverance and resilience; qualities that have helped him reach his goals and will continue to be vital as he progresses in his career. These are characteristics that children will be helped to develop in the Junior Duke programme.

Will was incredibly impressive in addressing such a large audience and showed great generosity by taking time to answer questions from the children. His openness and encouragement made a lasting impact. There is no doubt that the children left the hall inspired by someone who not too long ago, was sitting in that school hall just like them. We are proud to have him as a role model for our pupils.

We realise that many more children will now wish to join the programme; information on how to do so, has been sent out separately by the office.

Cafod – Brighten Up the Harvest

Thank you for your generosity and kind donations. Together, we raised £270 for the CAFOD Harvest Appeal.

PTFA Fundraising

Recent PTFA fundraisers news: Tropic Pamper Night raised £492 and Spooktacular Dress Up raised £130. Thank you very much for your support and generosity.

Christmas Theatre Trips

We have booked visits for all our classes: Nursery to Y6 to the Lowry Theatre in Salford Quays for Christmas. We will be sending out more details very shortly.

Sign Language - Sign of the Week

Mrs Joyce, one of the teaching assistants on the school team, is teaching us a 'sign of the week.' This week's sign is 'fireworks.' Ask your child to demonstrate it to you!



Anti-Bullying Week w/c 10th November

Next week 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, in assembly next week. Click on this link: <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/parents-and-carers> 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 (scroll to bottom of the page on the link).

Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day Wednesday 12th November

To mark anti-bullying week, we will have an odd socks day on Wednesday 12 November, the day of the anti-bullying assembly.



Primary School Admissions September 2026

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 2025 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 2026. Between now and 15th January all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the school's published admissions policy for school year 2026 - 2027.

<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> **

Primary School Admissions 2027-2028

Every seven years the school is required to have a consultation about its proposed admissions policy. You will have received information separately about this and, if interested, everything you need to know is on the school website. <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions/admissions-consultation-2027-28>

Archdiocese of Liverpool Christmas Card Competition – Deadline TODAY November 7

Message from the Archdiocese education team – *'The autumn term is in full swing and the nights draw closer, we are looking forward to one of the biggest highlights in our calendar Advent and Christmas. We're pleased to announce that our annual Christmas Card Competition is back for 2025! We want our schools to put their creativity to the test and design a front cover for our official archdiocesan Christmas card which will be sent out to our parishes, clergy, schools, staff and stakeholders.'* See separate leaflet attached.

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.

Cafod – Brighten Up the Harvest We are still waiting for a total for the CAFOD harvest collection – we will let you know as soon as we have it.

ParentPay

ParentPay - please ensure accounts are up to date for the half term break. 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>

Online Safety Newsletter for Parents/ Carers

Please see the November online safety newsletter sent out separately. It is excellent.

Key online safety points for parents/ carers this month include:

- *Online Roasting:* A form of cyberbullying through mocking or insults. Talk to your child and report if needed. More help: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/techosaurus/>, <https://www.childline.org.uk>, <https://www.bark.us/blog/online-roasting-signs-cyberbullying/>
- *WhatsApp School Groups:*

Be respectful, avoid gossip, protect privacy, and think before posting.
- *WhatsApp Channels:*

Not age-rated, may show adult content. Monitor what your child sees.
- *Age Ratings:* Always check app/game ratings and review content yourself. Use parental controls and talk regularly with your child.
- *CapCut App:*

Rated 13+, includes user-generated content and music with explicit lyrics. Has in-app purchases.
- *CEOP Advice Poster:*

Covers online blackmail and other risks.

Smartphone Free Childhood meeting at school on Wednesday 26th November at 6pm



FACT OF THE WEEK

Face-to-face interaction is crucial for developing empathy and communication skills.

All parents and carers, who are interested and want to find out more about **Smartphone Free Childhood**, are welcome to attend a meeting here at school on **Wednesday 26th November at 6pm** where we can discuss and share plans for children and families of St Mary's.

For more information about this parent-led grassroots movement visit:

<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.'

Holiday term dates

Some parents have been asking about holiday term dates for 2026/ 2027 and when they will be released. These will be agreed at the next full governing board meeting this month. Thank you to the parents and staff who contributed to the recent consultations.

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.

Chorley Youth Mass

There will be a Chorley Youth Mass on Sunday 23 November, Youth Sunday. The pupils in the local Faith in Action group are planning a display using photographs illustrating how young people demonstrate their faith in the community. Please see the separate leaflet attached.

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 07.11.25

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of mercy for...
Nursery	s	Romee	Having a great week in nursery being very kind to her peers
	v	Millie	Showing kindness to her friends
	Dojo	Joe	
R	s	Lily	Super answering in phonics
	v	Toby	For showing kindness and being a supportive friend
	Dojo	Noah	
Y1	s	Joey	Helping others with their DT. He was a superstar with attaching a safety pin to two pieces of felt.
	v	Hannah	Always looking to help out her friends.
	Dojo	Olivia	

Y2	s	Brooklyn C	For amazing work during phonics with Mrs Bradley and applying this learning in English lessons.
	v	Edie G	Showing kindness to her peers.
	Dojo	Eleanor and Annie	
Y3	s	Coby Bird	For brilliant effort in Maths this week.
	v	Jacob G	For holding the door open for others.
Y4	s	Keira	Great contributions in mathematics lessons.
	v	Reuben	Always being a kind and thoughtful friend
Y5	s	Buddy	Impressive knowledge about Earth and Space in Science.
	v	Seb	Always being a kind and caring friend
Y6	s	Joshua B	For working hard on his handwriting and presentation.
	v	Thea	For always being a thoughtful and kind friend.

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2025/2026 w/e 07.11.25



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 2	98.77
2nd	YEAR 4	98.66
3rd	RECEPTION	98.01
4th	YEAR 3	97.66
5th	YEAR 1	97.39
6th	YEAR 5	97.31
7th	YEAR 6	95.68

No class achieved **100%** attendance this week.

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 16th position. Given last year's effort, I am sure that we can improved on that.

Attendance comparison up to 24.10.25

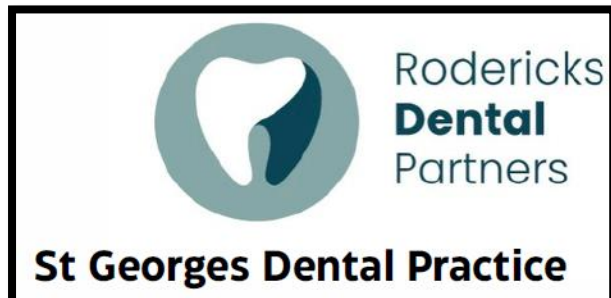
Attendance measure ▲	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	97.9%	You are ranked 16th out of 479 schools
Overall absence	2.1%	You are ranked 16th out of 479 schools
Authorised absence	1.6%	You are ranked 23rd out of 479 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.5%	You are ranked 88th out of 479 schools
Persistently absent	4.5%	You are ranked 18th out of 479 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 479 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>

NHS Dentist for Children



We have been contacted by the NHS to publicise NHS dentistry for children. Please see attached leaflet.

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth
Headteacher

**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 Activities



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
Seated Yoga Adlington Library 9:30-10:30am. FREE to all.	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.	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.	Buttermere Good Food Club Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.	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.
Knit and Natter Primrose Gardens, Chorley 10am-12pm. Donations welcome.	Seated Yoga Adlington Library 11am-12pm. FREE to all.	Gardening Club Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 11:00am-12:00pm. FREE to all.	Seated Exercise Ravensthorpe Independent Living Accommodation, Astley Village 10:30am-11:30pm. £3 suggested donation.	Aquarobics All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. Term time only. £5 suggested donation.
Kids Arts and Crafts Coppull Library 3:30-4:30pm. Term time only.	Chair Fit Euxton Community Centre, 11:15am-12:15pm. £3 suggested donation.	Lunch Social 2nd Wednesday of the month St Chad's Parish Centre from 12-2pm BOOKING ESSENTIAL Donations welcome.		
	Lunch Social 4th Tuesday of the month Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley from 12-2pm. BOOKING ESSENTIAL Donations welcome.	Buddies Café Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 9am-3pm Affordable café with crafts running from 12:30-2pm Everyone welcome		
	Seated Exercise All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. £5 suggested donation.	Chair Fit Croston Old School, Church Street, Croston 1:30-2:30pm. £3 suggested donation.		



SCAN TO DONATE