



# School Newsletter

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

08.05.26

Dear parents and carers,

## ***PTFA Project Playground***

A big thank you to Mrs Wilson, Mrs Owsianska, Miss Bowler and the whole team in the Early Years and thank you to the PTFA for your support. They have all worked hard and enthusiastically in making improvements to the outdoor area near the nursery class this week. They have painted the container, put up new trellises, have been shopping for plants and other bits and pieces. They installed a new mud kitchen and workbench areas. Mrs Owsianska and the children have even created magical fairy garden and Miss was telling me the children were very excited to see that a spider has appeared to have moved in to the garden today.

Thanks to everyone for their efforts; the place looks fantastic and the children absolutely love it.



A big thank you, once again, to our PTFA for allowing us to fund this playground refresh for the children and a big thank you to our parents and carers for supporting our PTFA events.

### **Fundraising opportunity**

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/chorleystmaryscatholicprimaryschoolandnursery/40ZIOU/c2s/uc0KLOgX/CE072/facebook/>

### **Y4 Sacramental Class**

Our Year 4 children marked an important milestone in their faith journey this week as they made their First Confessions on Wednesday in school. Earlier in the week, they attended the 9:00am Mass at St Mary's Church as part of their preparation, helping them to reflect and practise for this special occasion.

We would like to a special thanks to Fr Marsden and Fr Dunne, who kindly came into school on Wednesday afternoon to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the children and to Kinga Grzeczynska for coordinating things. Their support and guidance made the experience both meaningful and memorable for all involved.

This Sunday, the children will take the next exciting step as they receive their First Holy Communion at St Mary's Church. We wish each and every one of them a special, happy, and holy day as they celebrate with their families and the parish community.

To continue the celebrations, we will be hosting a tea party in school on Monday afternoon, where the children will enjoy squash, biscuits, and cakes together. Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for this joyful occasion as we celebrate this important moment in the children's lives.

We are very proud of all our Year 4 pupils and the commitment they have shown throughout their preparation. A big thank you to parish lead catechist, Kinga Grzeczynska for her enthusiasm, time and commitment to preparing the children for their special day.

### **Competitions**

#### ***Netball***

The St Mary's netball team have shown tremendous improvement over the past four weeks. They have regularly come up against older and taller opponents but have never given up, showing great resilience and determination throughout the league. The team saved their best performance until their very last game, securing their first win of the competition yesterday afternoon with an excellent 3–1 victory against Ecclestone, St Mary's.

Our squad this year was: Tommy, Nathaniel, Arthur, Lawson, Myka, Ella, Evie, Princess and Rebecca, with special congratulations to Lawson and Myka, who both made their debuts yesterday.

Thank you to the parents who came along to support the team and a special thank you to Tommy's mum for helping to coach the squad over the last few weeks. Well done to everyone involved, and thank you to Mr Hodge for organising and coaching the team and to Mrs Hargreaves for making sure everyone knew what was going on and when.

### Competition Winners!



We are delighted to share some fantastic news following a competition announced back in March by Chorley Borough Council and publicised in this newsletter.

The council invited young people across the area to help name their brand-new fleet of food waste collection wagons—and incredibly, three of our very own pupils have emerged as winners!

Sibling duo Holly and Joseph impressed the judges with their creativity and humour as did William B who submitted two winning names.

Holly came up with the imaginative name: *How to Train Your Wagon*

Joseph delivered a fun and catchy title: *Rot and Roll*

William devised the excellent names: *Rot it Ralph*, and *Buzz dirty*

All three winners will be contacted again soon with details of the next steps once the designs have been finalised and Chorley Borough Council confirms when the names will be fitted onto the trucks. As part of the celebration, there are plans to invite the pupils along at that stage so they can see their winning names displayed and even take photos with the wagons themselves.

We are incredibly proud of Holly, Joseph, and William for their creativity and success.

Keep an eye out—you might spot these brilliantly named food waste wagons with their designs on their rounds across Chorley very soon!

### Parent/Carer online safety information session

**Wednesday 6th May 2026 – 4pm – 4.45pm**

**Focus: Guide to social media and livestreaming** - this will include latest trends and emerging threats and will focus on developing your understanding of social media and livestreaming, the associated risks and steps we can take to support our children.

Please find below the link to the **recording and presentation** of the Parent/Carer session that took place yesterday:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12UgzMQhBnYjiCF9m0pD6lv05MU7tCTz4>

They also have embedded a copy of the video on their website for those who would prefer to watch it via a browser:

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-parent-carer-session-may-2026/>

### **Foodbank**


The Living Waters container is back in the school entrance to collect further donations. A big thank you to you all, for your generous support.

### **Lancashire Schools Music Service – a message from its district music lead, Mark Waltho**

We would like to let you know about the Jazz Day that is running on Saturday May 16th, and would be very grateful if you would share this information with any musicians at your school with the appropriate skills and interests.

Young musicians, 18 and under, are invited to come and join us for our Jazz Day 2026! The Day will consist of workshops, masterclasses and performances with an emphasis on creativity and improvisation, featuring Yamaha artist, Craig Wild.

Musicians should be able to play their instruments at a Grade 1 level of proficiency or above. If they are not sure they can ask their LMS music teacher if they think Jazz day would be appropriate for them.

 16th May 2026, 10am – 3.30pm (arrivals from 9.45am)

 Lancaster Royal Grammar School, East Rd, Lancaster, LA1 3EF

Click here to sign up:

<https://UKLANCASHIRE.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=2092#/Course/918/0/7313/2092>

### **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](mailto: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.



## 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>

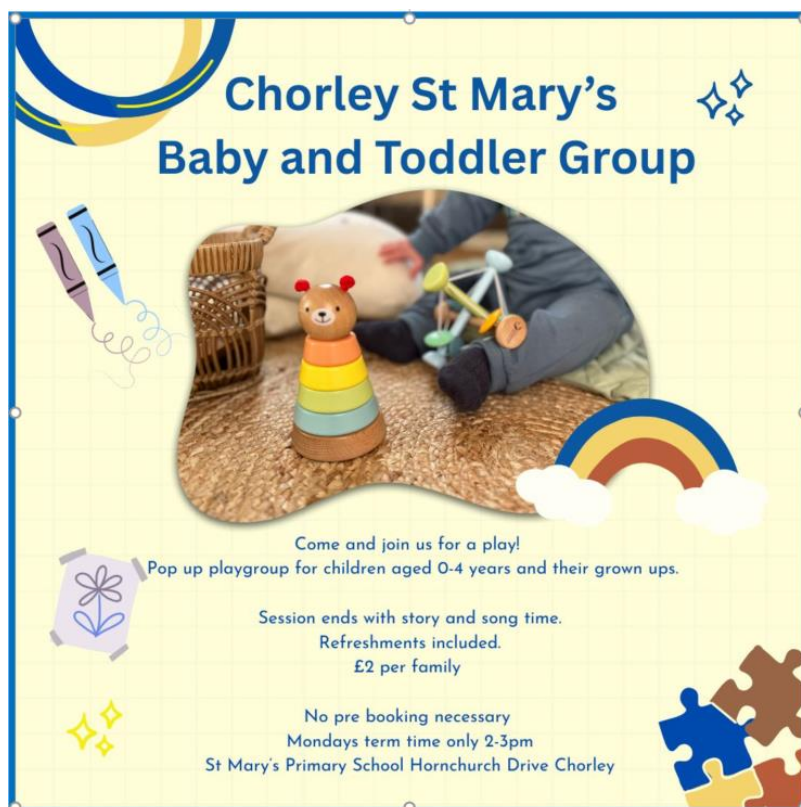
## Half term holiday activities

Please see flyer below for details of Chorley FC's half term holiday club for children.

## Baby and Toddler Group

We host a fantastic parent/ grandparent, baby and toddler group at St Mary's in the school hall on Monday afternoons – it's a very friendly group and the children have lots of fun. If you are interested, then please do come along or if you know anyone who you know think might be interested please point them in our direction. Thank you so much to the volunteers who come along to run the sessions each week.

– it is a very enjoyable session – please spread the word!



## 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](mailto:jacqueline.malone@chorleyscouts.org.uk) for more information.

## 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>

**STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 08.05.26**

<b>Class</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Star of the week for... &amp; Value of the week of love</b>
Nursery	s	Karl	For making healthy food choices at home
	v	George	For always showing love and caring for all of his friends
	Dojo		
R	s	Corey	For trying very hard with writing
	v	Arthur	For being a good friend
	Dojo	Ozias	
Y1	s	Amara	Joining in enthusiastically in class.
	v	Olivia	Being a good and gentle friend.
	Dojo	George B	
Y2	s	Scarlett	For creating a super poem based on 'Dreamer' by Brian Moses.
	v	Thomas	For showing forgiveness by saying sorry when needed and showing forgiveness to peers.
	Dojo	Archie G	
Y3	s	Jude E	For showing super knowledge and understanding in Maths with money
	v	Penelope	For showing consideration of others feelings
Y4	s	Harmony	A great time slip story.
	v	Josh W	For looking after another member of our class
Y5	s	Nathaniel	For showing enthusiasm in all lessons, excellent participation, and being a great role model.
	v	Violet	For recognising if anybody needs support, showing kindness and always making the right choices.
Y6	s	Veronica	Her hard work and determination in every area of mathematics.
	v	India	For helping her friend and always looking out for others.

## Love - values for this half term

- **Dignity** – Love recognizes the inherent worth of every person.
- **Faithfulness** – Love remains committed, loyal, and trustworthy over time.
- **Purity** – Love seeks what is good, honest, and life-giving rather than self-serving.
- **Forgiveness** – Love chooses mercy and restoration over retaliation.
- **Sacrifice** – Love is willing to give of itself for the sake of others.
- **Diversity** – Love embraces difference, seeing it as something to honor rather than fear.

## Smartphone Free Childhood

## Fact of the Week



### FACT OF THE WEEK

Smartphone use in children is linked to increased anxiety, depression, and sleep disturbances.

You will notice around school a QR code inviting parents and carers to the St Mary's Smartphone Free childhood Whatsapp group. Here is the link again:



**You are not alone in wanting to create a childhood free from smartphones and social media.**

**Join the St Mary's Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp community for tips and support because screens can wait - childhood cannot!**

<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.'*

## Attendance



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2025/2026 w/e 08.05.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %	↑ OR ↓
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 3	97.57	↓
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 4	97.01	↑
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 2	97.00	↑
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	96.91	↑
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	96.65	↓
6 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	96.06	↓
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	94.47	↑

Congratulations to Y4 on their **100%** attendance this week!

*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).*

### Lancashire Schools Attendance Data up to 24.04.26 (updated 7<sup>th</sup> May)

**How does St Mary's compare?** (We have remained in 81<sup>st</sup> place, since last update).

Attendance measure ▲	Percentage	Ranking ⓘ
Overall attendance	96.5%	You are ranked 81st out of 481 schools
Overall absence	3.5%	You are ranked 81st out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	3.0%	You are ranked 136th out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.4%	You are ranked 23rd out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	5.1%	You are ranked 65th out of 481 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 481 schools

## Some reminders

**Earrings and Jewellery** - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If

### Hair styles

We expect pupils to have sensible hair styles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school and nursery a fashion-free zone!

### Hair tied-up to prevent head lice infection, please!

As we all know, head lice do not fly or jump from head of hair to head of hair, they just walk! Therefore, to prevent the spread of head lice in school we ask that hair, longer than shoulder length, be tied back. Many thanks.



**Shoes** Pupils are expected to wear plain black shoes.



Again, we want school to remain a fashion-free zone. Some sports companies make black trainers for children. We ask you not to use these for school. They are trainers and not shoes and of course, the children will prefer to wear them! However, once one has them, this puts pressure on the other children to ask their parents for them. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

### **No boots please!**



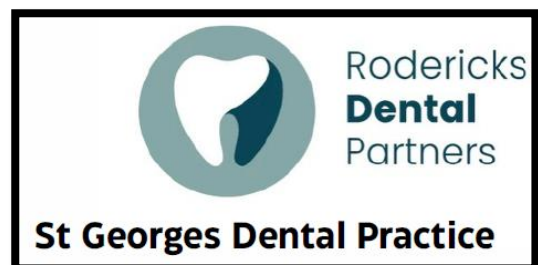
### Labelling Uniforms

The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing, please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing, we will be putting the lost property box in the newly available space in the main entrance.

P Smyth  
08.05.26

### NHS Dentist for Children

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



Half term holiday activities



**MAY  
HALF TERM  
2026**

# CHORLEY FC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SOCCER CAMP



**£21.50 per day**

- ✓ 26<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- ✓ 09:30 - 16:30 Monday - Friday
- ✓ Qualified & DBS checked Coaches
- ✓ All skill levels welcome
- ✓ Boys and Girls aged 5-12 years

- CERTIFICATES AND TROPHIES
- 1 BALL PER CHILD
- GUARANTEED FUN
- MEET AND BE COACHED BY CFC FIRST TEAM PLAYERS AND MANAGER

[HTTPS://CHORLEYFCFOUNDATION.CO.UK/SOCCERSCHOOLBOOKINGPAGE](https://chorleyfcfoundation.co.uk/soccerschoolbookingpage)  
For more info call  
07523 952149

## Message from SVP Chorley Buddies



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



**SCAN TO DONATE**

## **Badminton Sessions at Clayton Green Sports Centre**

We have been asked to share the following:

*Dear sir/madam*

*I hope you are well.*

*I'm getting in touch to share news of our :*

***'New badminton session aimed at Age 6+ delivered by 2 Badminton England L2 Coaches'.***

*We would be grateful for your help in promoting it to within your communities.*

*These are fun, friendly sessions designed to introduce young children to badminton in an engaging and supportive environment.*

### *Details*

*Sessions begin:*

*The Venue: Clayton Green Sports Centre.*

*Cost: £6 on arrival*

*The sessions are run on a "pay and play" basis, so there is no need to book in advance—children can simply turn up and join in.*

*If you would like any further information, posters, or social media content, please don't hesitate to get in touch.*

*Thank you very much for your support.*

*Kind regards,*

*Derek and Lynette*

*Beyond Badminton Chorley*

*Tel : 07942361912 (Derek)*

*Email : [Tidyl.BB@gmail.com](mailto:Tidyl.BB@gmail.com)*

## Chorley Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshops

See below leaflets about Chorley Sweet Chilli parenting workshops – the first one is in June/ July, the second in September/ October. I know some of our parents have attended these in the past and have found them very useful. See below for details.



**A down-to-earth workshop in a supportive setting**

Learn about brain development, parenting styles, attachment, the impact of stress on both adults and children and how a trauma informed and therapeutic approach to parenting can have a positive impact on the whole family

**No Jargon**  
We keep things simple and relatable

**No Judgement**  
Share your experiences without fear of criticism

**No Pressure**  
Join in the discussion as much or as little as you would like

### Chorley Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshop Dates

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm

The sessions will take place at the Home-Start Central Lancashire offices, 112a Market Street, Chorley PR7 2SL  
Access to the building is via the Fleet Street Car Park

If you would like to register for a place on the session, please call the office on 01257 241636 and ask to be added to the booking list.

Please be aware that **all sessions** must be completed, and we are unable to offer any childcare for the sessions.  
Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served served

If you would like to hear about our future Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshops, please register via the QR code and we will then be able to send you the information when new sessions are released.



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### Chorley Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshop Dates

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm

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