



School Newsletter

With Christ we live, love, learn and we grow

8th September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the start of a brand-new school and nursery year at St Mary's. The children all look very smart in their uniforms. Children seem delighted to be back with their friends and meeting their new teachers and teaching assistants. They have all settled in very well over the last four days. There have been remarkably few tears in Nursery and Reception; in fact, both groups of children have settled in beautifully.

We welcome especially our new starters (and their mums and dads!) in Reception and Nursery. In addition, we welcome Augustina to Y3 and Archie to Y4. We hope that they all settle in well and have a happy and memorable time as part of the St Mary's community.

Y4 Swimming

The Year 4 class will be going to their first school swimming lesson on Monday 11th September.

Tempest School Photographs

We have booked Tempest Photography to come in on **Monday 11th September**. Children will be photographed individually and with their siblings from school/nursery. Parents will have the option to buy or refuse from the proof that is sent home with the child. In order to ease the process, all children will have his/her photograph taken unless requested otherwise by the parent.



Children in Year 4 will be photographed (individually and with their siblings) before they attend for their swimming lesson!

If you do not wish your child to have a photograph taken, please let the school know as soon as possible. You can do this by email through the school website.

EYFS Breakfast Stay & Play - Wednesday 13th September 0830 -0930

The EYFS classes are having a breakfast stay and play session for Reception and Nursery children on Wednesday 13th September, from 8.30am - 9.30am. The staff said that it will be lovely to meet all the parents and for them to get to see what their little ones get up to in school & nursery.

Congratulations Reuben and Rosie!

We are very proud to have two of our former pupils appointed to prestigious roles at Holy Cross High School this year. Now in Year 11, Rosie is senior prefect and Reuben is Head Boy. Well done to both of them; I am sure they will do a brilliant job!

Start of school year Mass at St Mary's - Wednesday 20th September at 9am.

Children in Years 3, 5 and 6 will be attending 9.00am Mass at St Mary's **on Wednesday 20th September at 9am** to celebrate the start of the new school year. **We ask that children are dropped off at Church on that morning from 8.45am** where they will be registered by their class teacher. After Mass they will walk back down to school.

Phonics meeting for parents of children in nursery, reception and Y1 Wednesday 20 September at 6pm

There will be a meeting for parents and carers of children in nursery, reception and Y1 on Wednesday 20 September at 6pm. Staff will share information with parents and carers about the phonics programme we use: *Read, Write, Inc.* and how they can support the children with phonics at home. Gaining phonics knowledge and skills early is vitally important; it gives children the fundamentals in learning to read and therefore their learning overall.

Tuesday 26th September - Y4 Sacramental Programme - Sacramental Cheese & Wine Evening



This year's Sacramental Programme will begin with a Cheese and Wine Evening at school for parents on **Tuesday 26th September at 6.00pm**. Mrs Grzeczynska, will introduce the programme and explain the process of *Family Catechesis*. The meeting is intended for parents only but if families are struggling for childcare, then the school will do its best to accommodate them.

2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

St Mary's Prospective Parents Open Day/ Open Evening

There will be an open evening event on **Tuesday 6th October** at 6pm for parents interested in a place for their child in our Reception class for September 2024. More details will follow.

Primary School Admissions September 2024: 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 2024 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 2024**. Between now and 15th January all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the school's published admissions policy for school year 2024 – 2025

<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> **

Year 6 Pupils moving to Year 7

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/> for a start in Year 7, in September 2024.

It's 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 school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The arrangements for the transfer of pupils to secondary schools in September 2024 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable.

1 September 2023 - Apply from this date

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.

31 October 2023 - National closing date for secondary applications (statutory).

SPORTS NEWS

Sainsbury's School Games Gold Award 2022/ 2023

Just before the summer break, Mr Hodge, our PE and Sports leader, received news that the school earned the prestigious **Sainsbury's School Games Mark Gold Award** by maintaining our high standards in sports and PE last year.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.



Our sporting achievements last year include sending teams to almost many of Chorley Schools Sports Partnership's (CSSP) competitions with lots of individual and team successes along the way.

Mr Hodge, our PE and sports leader said, *'Could I thank all those who have helped in any way, shape or form in terms of the PE delivery this year - Giving the opportunity to a broad range of children to participate in PE could not have been possible without that support.'*

We thank Mr Hodge for his leadership and passion for school sport and PE and for providing so many opportunities for children to take part in sporting activities. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who supported various activities during the course of the year especially the PE steering group. A big thank you to the wonderful, dedicated and talented team led by Gemma Stokes at the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership who facilitate such a wide range of high-quality competitions and high-quality coaching. And of course well done to all our pupils and keep it up this year. We look forward to applying once again in 2024!

Chorley School Sports Partnership Annual Awards, Chorley Town Hall, 29 September 2023

The success may not end there... St Mary's has been nominated for an award in the "**The Spirit of the Games**" category. The CSSP awards event takes place on Friday 29th September in the Lancastrian Suite at Chorley Town Hall. Fingers crossed!

Extra- Curricular Activities

Various clubs and activities will be starting over the next few weeks. We will also be hosting an archery club for the juniors this half term. More details of all the clubs will follow.

Volunteers



We really appreciate the help we receive from parents and grandparents who come in to help with reading, supporting children's learning, clubs etc. We have had a couple of parents in recent years who started off volunteering and then have decided to pursue a career in teaching! A big thank you to all our returning volunteers this year – you make a massive difference!

If you feel you can spare half an hour or more a week please get in touch with the school office. Many thanks.

No Mass on Sunday 10.09.23 at St Mary's Chorley

Sat 9th St Peter Claver
17.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday – Roland Anderton (A)

Sun 10th **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (p.122) NO MASS AT ST MARY'S CHORLEY TODAY OTHER THAN THE VIGIL MASS**

Holy Mass is at the following churches:

08.30 St Mary's Euxton
09.15 St Chad's South Hill
09.30 St Gregory's and St Joseph's Harpers Lane Chorley
10.30 St Mary's Euxton

11.00 Sacred Heart Chorley and St Oswald's Coppull
11.30 St Joseph's Anderton
18.30 St Gregory's

Summer Building Improvements



Over the summer break or on the return to school this week, you may have noticed that we have been having improvements made to our front entrance. We will be able to use the front entrance from Monday and also be able walk right around the school, although there is still a little bit finishing off to do. The new area will improve site security and will provide a much more welcoming space for visitors.

I would also like to say a big thank you to a couple of our parents, Mr and Mrs Rogers for fixing the hazel panels around the wooded area during the summer break.

Summer Clean

I'd like to say thanks to Mrs Macaulay for her hard work in giving the school a deep clean over the summer and to the team from Coxhead Cleaning Company. They have done a great job for us.

Music Lessons

Lancashire Music Service lessons will recommence next week for those children who have been signed up to take part in individual or group lessons.

Mrs Edwards will now teach woodwind lessons on a Tuesday instead of Friday.

Mrs Seager will continue to teach on Thursdays.

Mr Peets will not be in to teach drums until 27th September.

We have yet to receive confirmation from the guitar teachers regarding their days but as soon as we do, we will send a message out.



Some beginning of school year and nursery year reminders

Earrings and Jewellery - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If parents wish their children to have their ears pierced then please have them done at the beginning of the six-week break to allow ears to heal. The only form of jewellery children are permitted to wear is watches.

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!



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.



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.

Health and Safety notices

Friday Treat Day no more!

My apologies, this was something I wanted to begin at the very start of the year. We did a survey of parents/ carers just over a year ago in July 2022, where the outcome was a small majority wanted to retain the Friday treat. However, I have now taken the decision that we are no longer going to have Friday Treat Day for snacks. I know this will be disappointing news for some of the children and some parents/ carers but I know that equally many (mostly parents/ carers) will welcome this news.

For some time now, due to the promotion of oral health in the Early Years curriculum, children in nursery and reception have not had sugary snacks on a Friday. As you can imagine, this can cause some problems in some households where some family members are allowed a Friday treat and some are not! There has also been a wide range of snacks appearing on a Friday across school – some which are not really suitable. And unfortunately, there is also a risk of products containing nuts or traces of nuts coming into school.

So, from next week, just healthy break time snacks i.e. toast and/or fruit as a healthy snack during from Monday to Friday, please. I am sorry to be a spoilsport but I thank you for your understanding!

Nut allergies



We have a number of children in school who have an allergy to nuts and may experience a severe allergic reaction. We therefore make every effort to be as **nut-free** as possible in school. Therefore, we ask that you do not to send food products into school which may contain nuts. Thank you.

Grapes in lunch boxes

If your child brings grapes to school either as a snack or as part of their packed lunch, it is very important that they are halved first. This is because whole grapes present a significant risk of choking hazard to children.



Parking

By way of a reminder at the start of the school year, I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not park on the staff carpark**, the **yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. A neighbour has notified us just today that a parent/ carer blocked their driveway this morning. **Also just to make our new parents aware, please do not park in the turning zone at the top of Warton Place by the entrance to school. Thank you.**



School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. **Please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance.** This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.

Holy Cross Headteacher Mr Gaughan visit to St Mary's Monday September 18th at 6pm

On Monday 18th September at 6pm, Mr Gaughan, Headteacher of Holy Cross, will be visiting **St Mary's** to speak to our Y5 and Y6 parents about all that Holy Cross has to offer. It usually lasts about 30 minutes and has proved very popular and has been very well received in the last couple of years.



Holy Cross High School Open Evening 12th October

Holy Cross will be holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents on the evening of Thursday 12th October.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 08.09.23

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	All of nursery class	A great start to the new school year
YR	All of reception class	A super start to the new school year
Y1	Billey	A fantastic start to Year 1 – well done!
Y2	Charlie H	An amazing first week in Year 2
Y3	Alexia	Great question answering in class this week.
Y4	Archie	A great start to St Mary's and working hard in class.
Y5	William G	A wonderful start to Year 5 and working very well in all of his activities.
Y6	Brooke	An inspirational piece of writing.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2023/ 2024 08.09.23



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
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=1st	YEAR 1	100.00
=1st	YEAR 2	100.00
3rd	YEAR 4	99.19
4th	YEAR 6	99.17
5th	RECEPTION	98.90
6th	YEAR 3	98.33

Congratulations to Year 1 and Year 2 on their perfect start! Keep it up next week.

P Smyth 08.09.23

YSA
Yarrow School
Alliance

New Year, new challenge
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email
r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk for more information