



School Newsletter

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

08.11.24

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back after the half-term break. The children have got straight back down to work. Last night, we had our open evening for parents and carers looking for a reception place in September 2025. We told them a little bit about our school and our house captains and vice-captains took them on a tour of the school – some of you may remember being taken on something similar. The children did a fantastic job in showing us off and saying why they are so happy and proud to come here.

Y4 Visit to Astley Hall

Mrs Banwell reports...

Yesterday, Year 4 visited Astley Hall linked to their history topic, The Tudors. They learnt about Henry VIII, his divorce from Catherine of Aragon, the formation of the Church of England and the fact that the Charnock family who lived at Astley were staunch Catholics (one member of the family was hung, drawn and quartered for involvement in the *Babington Plot* to assassinate Elizabeth I and put Mary Queen of Scots on the Throne). They then examined genuine Tudor artefacts and did an art activity in the Great Hall. They also toured the house - learning about Tudor food in the kitchen, looking at four-poster beds in the bedrooms and studying the amazing shuffleboard table in the Long Gallery.



They rounded the session off all together in the Great Hall with an authentic Tudor dance!

Year 1 Forest School Activity

Yesterday the Y1 class spent some time outdoors with one of our parents Mrs Rodgers, a qualified forest school instructor. They had an amazing time, breathing fire just like Zog and making golden stars just like those in the story. Thank you, Mrs Rodgers.



Vacancy - Breakfast Club assistant

Are there any parents, carers interested in working for an hour, 0745 – 0845, each day in the Breakfast Club? If you are interested or you know of anybody else who is, please contact Mrs Wilson at the school office. office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk or 01257 262811.

Two items to look out for ...

1. *Online Safety newsletter*

I am sending out the November online newsletter in a separate mail, please keep an eye out for it.

2. *TEN:TEN prayer and liturgy resources*

Please see link below for information on the prayer and liturgy we are using during the month of November.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

NOTIFICATION FROM ST MARY'S RC CHURCH CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE

As from Sunday 3rd November 2024 the Sunday Mass will be as follows:

- Saturday Vigil at 17.00
- Sunday at 09.30 – with *Little Church* for children

Thank you.



2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

Primary School Admissions September 2025: 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 2025**. 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> ****

Parentkind/ Asda Cashpot for Schools

Mrs Wilson registered the school a few weeks ago to the Parentkind/ Asda Cashpot for Schools initiative and we have so far accumulated **£188.60** in our rewards cashpot - free cash for school! (See screenshot right)

Parents can register on their app or if they haven't signed up yet - the link below gives more information:

<https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024.

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to St Mary's. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage. Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.



Archdiocese of Liverpool School Christmas Card competition – open now - deadline today Friday, November 8th!

As the autumn term is in full swing and the nights draw closer, we are looking forward to some of the biggest highlights in our calendar – Advent and Christmas. This year, the Archdiocese of Liverpool would like to send out a digital Christmas card to all our parishes, clergy, schools, staff and stakeholders and we need your help... We want our children to put their creativity to the test and design a front cover for the Christmas card in our new competition. See leaflet attached.

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>

Star of the Week 08.11.24

Class		Name	Star of the week for... Value of the week for showing value of 'mercy' Dojo Champion
Nursery	s	Eliza	A super literacy hedgehog
	v	Zac	Always forgiving his friends
R	s	Anais	For super effort in phonics
	v	Avaeha	For being kind and forgiving to her friends
	Dojo	George B	
Y1	s	Annie	Excellent retelling of the story of the Annunciation in RE.
	v	Olivia	Helping a classmate with an answer when they were called on.
	Dojo	Katie	
Y2	s	Thomas	Fantastic contributions when called in class.
	v	Evie Wi	Showing kindness to a classmate.
	Dojo	Jude	
Y3	s	Reuben	Excellent answering in class all week
	v	Clara	Always treats others with kindness and compassion

Y4	s	Niamh	For her wonderful work during our history lessons.
	v	Luke S	For always being kind to others.
Y5	s	Lucy A	For always going above and beyond in her learning.
	v	Charlie W	For showing kindness and being helpful to others.
Y6	s	Eliza	Great work in geography about Mount St. Helens
	v	Freya	Showing kindness to everyone at all times

An update on Penalty Charge Notices issued for unauthorised absence

These changes came into effect on 19 August 2024.

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice **must** be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).
- Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

PTFA future dates

PTFA Non-Uniform day - Friday 29th November - Chocolates & New Toys

PTFA Non-Uniform day - Friday 6th December - bottles

Christmas Fair - Friday 6th December 5.30-7.30

PTFA Meeting - Tuesday 4th February - time to be confirmed

PTFA Meeting - Tuesday 29th April - time to be confirmed

Ladies Party Night - Friday 27th June - St Mary's Parish Centre

Best wishes, Patrick Smyth 08.11.24