



School Newsletter

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

8th December 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Christmas Fair

Thank you very much for your wonderful donations of bottles for the tombola today. Thank you also to the army of volunteers who came in today to set up the various stalls. Thank you to all the members of the PTFA for all your hard work behind the scenes getting everything organised and ready



I was in Year 1 yesterday afternoon and I know there was a great deal of excitement about Fr Christmas's visit to St Mary's this evening. A special thank you to Father Christmas for coming to see us in what is an extremely busy time for him. Thank you to you all for your support of this event.

Christmas Performances: EYFS (nursery, reception), **KS1 (Ys 1 and 2)** and **KS2 (Ys 3, 4, 5 and 6)**

A reminder of times and dates:

Monday 18th December:

- 0930 **KS1 performance**
- 1400 EYFS performance.
- 1800 **KS2 Christmas Performance at St Mary's Church**

Tuesday 19th December:

- 0930 EYFS performance
- 1800 **KS1 performance**



Around the World in 80 Days, Octagon Theatre

As most of you will probably know by now, our KS2 classes endured an unfortunately curtailed visit to the theatre on Tuesday morning. Not to be deterred, Mrs Wilson did some swift negotiations with the theatre and the coach company and has arranged for the juniors to return to the Octagon on

Thursday 21st December at no extra cost. Thank you to all the volunteers who attended and to those who are able to go again on the 21st. We have to ask for your consent again because it is classed as a separate visit. Thank you!

Mass to celebrate the start of Advent and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Fr Marsden celebrated Mass with Y3- Y6 at St Mary's on Wednesday morning. He spoke to the children about the meaning of Advent and about St Bernadette and the use of the term, *Immaculate Conception*. The children listened well and sang beautifully. Thank you to the parent helpers who walked back to school with us.

Mass and Junior Christmas performance practice at St Mary's Church Wednesday 13th December

The junior children will return to St Mary's Church next Wednesday (13.12.23) to attend Mass and to stay behind afterwards to practise for their Christmas performance which will take place at Church the following Monday.

Please could you drop the children off from **0845** at Church. They will walk back to school after the practice, which will finish just after **11am**. If any parents or carers are available at 11am to accompany us on our walk back from Church, we would be extremely grateful. If you are able to help, please let your child's class teacher know.

Sir Lindsay Hoyle Visit to St Mary's

A big thank you to the Speaker of the House of Commons for taking time out of his busy schedule and coming to visit our school and the Pupil Parliament today. Thank you to Mrs Sumner for organising the visit with Mr Cahalin. Sir Lindsay Hoyle was very impressed with our own MPs and with the St Mary's Pupil Parliament Speaker, Faith in Y6.



He was so impressed with Faith that he gave her his very own lapel badge (pictured above) which he removed from his jacket and handed to her.

Our UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador, Mr Cahalin, said, *'Mr Speaker was very impressed with the Pupil Parliament and the intelligent questions asked by the children when he visited their classes. He told Year 1*

how much he loved representing Chorley in Parliament.'

The children were very excited to meet Sir Lindsay who sat in our meeting and explained about his role in the House of Commons.

Mrs Sumner, who works in Sir Lindsay's office, told us that the constituency of Chorley had won the prize for best engagement with UK Parliament Week for the third year running.

Year 5 Library Visit

The Year 5 class enjoyed a wonderful visit to Chorley Library. They were welcomed by the librarian team. They were allowed to take a book each. They went on a treasure hunt and were treated to a reading of Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol*.

Thank you to Miss Hesketh for organising the visit and also to Mrs Southern and Mrs Canavan and our volunteers for taking them along.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you parents and carers for your support of the Scholastic Book Fair over the last couple of days and to Miss Hesketh for organising and the staff for running it. We have earned £100 commission, which we will use to adding new titles to the school library.

EYFS/ KS1 - Nursery/ Reception/ Y1 and Y2 - Lancashire Teaching Hospitals – Give a Gift Campaign

Locally, we will be helping to support Lancashire Teaching Hospitals making sure everyone has a gift for Christmas, even if in hospital. EYFS and KS1 are asked to bring in a gift for Lancashire Teaching Hospital by Friday 15th December. See leaflet attached.

Please note we know this time of year can put a strain on everyone's finances so there is no obligation; this is entirely voluntary. Thank you, Mrs Nicklin

Letter from Dame Rachel De Souza, Children's Commissioner for England

I hope that you have had a good Autumn term and are all looking forward to the Christmas holidays.

Thank you so much for your incredible efforts in sharing 'The Big Ambition' survey with the children and parents at St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Chorley.

We have had an amazing response from nursery, primary and secondary schools across England and as a result I've decided **to extend the closing date to Friday 19th January 2024** to allow even more children the chance to have their say.

This will give schools, children and young people an extra month over the festive season to take part in 'The Big Ambition'.

Children and parents can complete the survey here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

It only takes 5-10 minutes and can be completed in this [flyer](#) with a link to the survey with parents and children to complete at home.

'The Big Ambition' provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell policy makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election.

Let's make sure that the children and young people of Lancashire are represented in the results.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas!

Very best,

Dame Rachel De Souza
Children's Commissioner for England



Glovers Swim School Free lesson offer to family in need. See information at end of newsletter on how to nominate.

2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY - Deadline 15th January 2024

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 **15th 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> ****


Letter from Fr Marsden to parents/ carers of children undertaking sacramental programme this year

Fr Marsden has written a letter to Y4 parents/ carers who are taking part in this year's sacramental programme.

Health and Safety

Pick-up and Drop-off. Please be very careful at pick up and drop off times particularly during these winter months where it is dark and where rain and ice impairs visibility for drivers. Drivers, please take great care near the school entrances. Many thank.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 08.12.23



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Eliza	growing confidence and more independent choices.
YR	Olivia	always having beautiful manners.
Y1	Seb	being kind and courteous to another child during our Christmas Nativity rehearsals.
Y2	Holly	super writing!
Y3	WHOLE CLASS	they have all been amazing all week in both Maths (x8) and English (planning our innovated stories).
Y4	Joseph Mc	his wonderful arithmetic skills.
Y5	Felix	his wonderful explanations in mathematics linked to fractions.
Y6	Teddy	incredible use of language in his new chapter for The Wizard of Oz.

LCC national wraparound childcare programme survey

From Sept 2024, the government have announced funding for a 'national wraparound childcare programme.' Lancashire County Council (LCC) have asked us to share information about a survey they are doing in preparation for this with you. The letter and poster attached contains this link <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/vt082j>

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2023/2024 W/E 08.12.23



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 1	98.65
2nd	YEAR 6	97.86
3rd	YEAR 3	96.83
4th	YEAR 5	96.44
5th	YEAR 4	96.29
6th	RECEPTION	95.30
7th	YEAR 2	95.16

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

P Smyth 08.12.23

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



GRANT A CHRISTMAS WISH

WITH
Glover's
swim school

Do you know a family who deserves a Christmas gift?
People who are in need, who deserve to catch a break,
or that should but never do put themselves first?

We want to Grant a Christmas Wish!

**WE ARE GIVING AWAY 6 MONTHS WORTH OF
CLASS LESSONS FOR ONE CHILD, TO OUR
CHOSEN FAMILY!**



All nominations must be sent to office@gloversswimschool.co.uk
by Sunday 17th December.



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

