



School Newsletter

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

09.10.26

Follow us on Instagram at: *@stmaryschorley*

Dear parents and carers,

Toddler group

Toddler group is on Monday mornings in the school hall – please spread the word!

Harvest Mass 12th October

Children in KS2: Y3 to Y6 will be going to St Mary's Church for the Harvest Mass on Monday on the 12th October at 9am. We ask that children are dropped off at Church door on that morning from 8.45am. They will be registered by their class teacher in Church. After Mass, they will walk back down to school. Please ensure children have suitable clothing in case of rain showers for the walk back. Thank you.

Harvest Food Collection and CAFOD Fundraising 2026

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our children and their parents and carers for your overwhelming generosity in supporting our Harvest collections. Thanks to your kindness, we received more than twenty shopping bags full of food donations, which were taken to the *Living Waters Storehouse* Food Bank this morning. The volunteers there were extremely grateful for the donations and asked that their sincere thanks be passed on to our school community. We know that these contributions will help to support local families who may be finding things difficult at the moment.

We would also like to thank everyone who supported **CAFOD's Brighten Up the Harvest** fundraising day. It was wonderful to see so many children taking part, brightening our school up and showing their support for those in need around the world. Through your generosity, we have been able to support both local and global communities, living out our school values of compassion, kindness and service to others. Thank you once again for your fantastic support and generosity.

Cuddly Toys and Children's Book Collection Donation Day Wednesday 14 October

We are having our pre-owned *Cuddly Toy and Children's books* donation day on **Wednesday 14 October**. If you are able to donate anything, please bring items to the school's front porch from where they will be collected.



The donations will be split between children's wards, A&E wards in Chorley and Preston as well as some going to children in Ukraine.

Open Day 15th October



We showed a group of prospective parents around school yesterday morning and all our children were engaged and well-behaved as usual. They were a credit to the school and to their families and really showed our school off.

If you know of anyone looking for a place at St Mary's for September 2027, please let them know that they can come in and take a look at the school in action next Thursday 15th October or can come and look around via appointment.

Online Safety Newsletter (sent separately)

This month's Online Safety Newsletter highlights several current online trends and apps that parents should be aware of:

- **CapCut (13+)** is a popular video editing app, but user-generated templates and music may contain content that is not suitable for children.
- **AI Companions and Chatbots** are becoming increasingly popular with young people. Parents are encouraged to discuss online relationships, privacy, and the importance of seeking advice from trusted adults rather than AI services.
- Some games and online content, such as **Doki Doki Literature Club** and **Happy Tree Friends**, may appear child-friendly but contain disturbing themes including violence, horror, self-harm, and death.
- **Discord** is widely used by young people for messaging, voice and video chat. While it can be a positive space, parents should be aware that children may encounter adult content, inappropriate language, or contact from strangers.

I would encourage all parents and carers to read the full Online Safety Newsletter for more detailed guidance, age ratings, safety tips, and parental control advice.

Sacramental Class Cheese & Wine Evening

Thank you to Fr Marsden and Kinga Grzeczynska for coming along this week to speak to Y4 parents and carers about this year's Sacramental programme. A big thank you to all the parents and carers for coming along too.

Author Visit – Sean Perkins to visit our Reception, Y1 and Y2 classes



The nursery, reception, Y1 and Y2 thoroughly enjoyed the visit of Sean Perkins this week. He read one of his *Oscar and Ben* books. He brought his guitar and sang songs with the children too.

Tickle Pink Adventure Bear Making with Reception Class

Our Reception children enjoyed a very special afternoon yesterday with *Tickle Pink*, creating their very own Adventure Bears to take home and treasure. The children loved bringing their new furry friends to life through songs, dancing, storytelling and lots of fun activities.

Each child carefully dressed their bear and was delighted to receive a special T-shirt for their bear featuring their name on the back. The excitement on the children's faces throughout the afternoon was wonderful to see, and their new bears have quickly become treasured companions.

A huge thank you to the PTFA for funding this fantastic experience and to the *Tickle Pink* team for delivering such a memorable event. We are sure these special bears will be treasured for many years to come and one day shared with future Reception children.

Parents' Evenings

Our Parents' Evenings will take place next week. Please note the appointments for Mr Hodge's class will have to take place after the half-term break.

Appointments will be held online and will last five minutes. Information on how to book has been sent out.

In order to make the best use of both parents'/ carers' and teachers' time, please do not feel obliged to book a slot. At this stage of the autumn term, children have only been in their new classes for around five to six weeks and parents, carers and teachers often tell us that there is little to discuss beyond the positive news that children have settled in well and are enjoying their learning.

If your child's teacher has wanted to discuss a particular concern or celebrate something significant, they will usually have contacted you already, and likewise many parents will have already been in touch if they have something specific they wish to raise.

That said, these meetings are available for any parent or carer who would like an opportunity to speak with their child's teacher. We are always happy to answer questions, discuss how your child has settled into their new class, and work together to support their continued success.

Please also remember that there will be a further opportunity in the spring term for a longer, 10-minute face-to-face meeting with your child's teacher when there will be much more to share.

CSSP Half Term Holiday Club – see leaflets at the end of newsletter

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2026/2027 w/e 09.10.26



Congratulations to Y3 on their **100%** attendance this week – they are the first recipients of Mrs Hargreaves' newly designed 100% attendance certificates. After 5 weeks their attendance is an incredible 99.34% - amazing!

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).

WEEKLY CLASS ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLE (ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027)

Week Number:	Week 6	Date/Period:	05/10/2026 - 09/10/2026		School Target:	97.0%
Rank	Class Name	This Week %	Last Week %	Change	Trend	Target Met? (97%+)
1	Year 3	99.34%	99.19%	0.15%	▲ Up	★ Target Met
2	Year 1	98.15%	97.81%	0.34%	▲ Up	★ Target Met
3	Year 6	98.03%	98.90%	-0.87%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
4	Year 2	97.62%	97.73%	-0.11%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
5	Year 4	97.37%	97.87%	-0.50%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
6	Year 5	97.07%	97.36%	-0.29%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
7	Reception	93.37%	92.22%	1.15%	▲ Up	Below Target
School Average		97.3%	97.3%	-0.0%	▼ Down	★ Target Met

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>

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 09.10.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Ava	Being Miss Bowler's star helper
	v	Caleb	holding the door for the Reception girls moving the lunch trolley
	Dojo	Freyja	
R	s	Oliver	For his super answers about our new class text 'Amazing'
	v	Poppy	For being a kind friend to others
	Dojo	Harry and Thomas	
Y1	s	Elodie	For her amazing penguin fact file.
	v	Beck	For watching out for his friends.
	Dojo	Ella	
Y2	s	George B	For a superb effort creating his 3D structure – a chair for baby bear.
	v	Ellie	For showing kindness and understanding to her peers in class.
	Dojo	Darcey	
Y3	s	Tommy	Great focus on all his work this week.
	v	Laura	Always being kind and gentle
Y4	s	Rory TJ	A great diary using a range of sentence openers and vocabulary
	v	Cleo	Always taking care of her peers
Y5	s	An	Fantastic writing in English and always pushing herself to achieve more
	v	Willow	For being kind and gentle towards others
Y6	s	Huzaifa	For a great start to his biography and working hard on his handwriting.
	v	Agustina	For always being a kind friend and helping others.

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See Tippy Toes Baby Bank baby clothes appeal below



Winter Warmer Event

Help us keep little ones warm this winter!

We are collecting clean, good condition children's items for 0-5 years.

A safe warm bed, warm clothes and cosy essentials can make a huge difference to a child's health, wellbeing and future.



Children's coats
(0-5yrs)



Hats, scarves
& gloves



Wellies



Pyjamas
& cosy socks



Blankets
& sleepbags



Puddle suits



Pram cosy toes



Drop off points

Last day: Friday 23rd October

A

3 Eagleton Way
PR1 9SL

B

294 Tag lane
PR2 3UY

C

3 Hillpark avenue
PR5 0AS



Message us here or text us on

07852304225

if you can help

Thank you for your kindness and support!

CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

OCTOBER SPORTS CAMP

26TH - 29TH OCTOBER

Ages 5-11

BOOK ONLINE AT:
www.chorleyssp.co.uk

**E22 A DAY OR
£80 ALL FOUR DAYS**

10AM - 2PM

LANCASTER LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hunters Road PR25 5TT

CHORLEY ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Eaves Lane PR6 0DX

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

01257 824798
j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk

Making it happen in Chorley

CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

LEARN TO RIDE

26TH OCTOBER

CHORLEY ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Eaves Lane PR6 0DX

SESSION ONE

2:30PM - 4:00PM

BOOK ONLINE AT:
www.chorleyssp.co.uk

Chorley
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP
Bikeability Instructor

Ages 4-12

£27 PER SESSION

01257 824798
j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk

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. Alternatively, you can call me for a brief chat and I can tell you a little bit about.