



School Newsletter

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

11.09.26

Dear parents and carers,

We have enjoyed our first full week back in school. It has been lovely to see the children settling into their learning and getting used to new routines. Thank you to all the staff for helping make the start of term so smooth and positive.

Governor News

Mr Jenner finished his time as foundation governor at St Mary's in the summer term. We are very grateful for all he did, working with the Governing Board to support the school ensuring the children get the best education possible.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Marsh as a new foundation governor; she has been appointed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool from the 1st September.

Start of New School Year Mass Wednesday 16 September

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be attending 9.00am Mass at St Mary's **on Wednesday 16 September at 9am** to celebrate the start of the new school year. **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.

Democracy in action ... the election of the House Captains, Vice-Captains and Sports Captains

KS2 pupils at St Mary's headed to the polls yesterday afternoon to cast their votes for this year's House Captains, Vice-Captains and Sports Captains.

During assembly today, we took the opportunity to thank all the children who put themselves forward for election. Standing in front of peers to prepare and deliver a speech takes real courage and confidence, and every candidate should be extremely proud of themselves for taking part.

We would also like to congratulate those who were successfully elected. We are excited to see these leaders begin their work and play an active role in school life throughout the year.

Congratulations to our newly elected leaders:

House Captains: Niamh, Thomas I, Antoni and Violet

Vice-Captains: Tommy K, Luke N, Freddy and Luke S

Sports Captains: James M, Finn, Nathaniel and Austin

Well done to everyone who took part and thank you for demonstrating such enthusiasm, confidence and commitment to our school community.

Toddler group

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

Sports News - Football

Football trials and football matches

Earlier in the week children in school were invited to trial for the St Mary's football team. It is always a very difficult task for Mr Hodge to choose a squad. Thank you to the children for taking part and thanks to Mr Hodge for organising it. Yesterday afternoon, a team represented St Mary's in the first tournament night of the CSSP Football League. They played two matches winning the first and drawing the second. Mr Hodge was impressed with the good behaviour, effort and team work but was less impressed with the heavy downpour!

EYFS Breakfast Stay & Play - Wednesday 9 September

Thank you to all the parents that came along to the first of our EYFS Stay and Play sessions this year on Wednesday afternoon. We hope you gained a good insight into how your children learn in the reception and nursery classes. Thank you to all the staff for organising the session.

Education Mass with Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, and the Archbishop of Liverpool

The Pope's personal representative (ambassador), Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, from the Holy See to the UK Government and the Court of St James's celebrated Mass with the Archbishop of Liverpool, John Sherrington at St Mary's Church in Leyland on Wednesday morning. Children from Catholic schools across Lancashire attended. Our school was represented by four of our Y6 children together with Kinga Grzeczynska, one of our foundation governors and myself. It was a lovely occasion and it was great to get together with our family of Lancashire Catholic schools.

Weeds

The hot weather over the summer break followed by the rain in recent weeks meant that our school grounds were inundated with weeds. You may have noticed this evening that the weeds have been tackled by the grounds contractor today; so the place looks a lot tidier. I would also like to say a big

thank you to Maureen, Maggie's (Y2) grandma who came in earlier in the week to make a start on that job and pulled out a huge bucket load of weeds. Thank you!

New St Mary's Instagram account

St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery is now on Instagram!



It's rapidly gaining followers. Thank you to Mr Cahalin for his work on this.

Our page gives a wonderful insight into daily life at school, including learning activities, special events, celebrations, and the many achievements of our pupils. It's a great way to stay connected and see all the fantastic things happening at St Mary's.

Follow us on Instagram at: @stmaryschorley

PTFA Project Playground

Fundraising opportunity

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

One of our governors, Mrs Chester has been using and she sent me the following:

I just wanted to let you know how simple it was to set up the "easy fundraising" app on my phone. When I am shopping online now and I am on a participating store, it automatically lets me know that it qualifies for cashback to St Mary's.

And it took less than 30 seconds to link my bank card which means school also benefits when using my card in participating stores e.g. when doing the weekly Tesco shop!

It's also great that you can track both your own donations and the total that's been raised overall for St Mary's and I look forward to seeing what the school spends these donations on to benefit the children.

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.

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.



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>

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 for more information.

Baby and Toddler Group

We host a fantastic parent/ grandparent, baby and toddler group at St Mary's in the school hall on **Monday mornings** – 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!



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 11.09.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Otilie and Oliver	Super sharing and problem solving – sharing the last bag of raisins
	v	Petra	Complimenting her friends
	Dojo	Ava	Most Dojos for good work and good behaviour!
R	s	All of Reception class	For all having a super first week at St. Mary's
	v	Elsie	For being kind and caring towards her friends
	Dojo	Aria K	Most Dojos for good work and good behaviour!
Y1	s	Luca	Settling in well and working hard.
	v	Otilie	Treating her friends in a caring way.
	Dojo	Olivia	Most Dojos for good work and good behaviour!
Y2	s	Oscar	For showing 100% effort in all, he does.
	v	Amaya	For showing love and kindness to her peers.
	Dojo	George B	Most Dojos for good work and good behaviour!
Y3	s	Eleanor I	Brilliant answering of questions and quick work in maths
	v	Paisley P	Very quick to help others
Y4	s	Sophia	A fantastic <i>Nessie</i> diary
	v	Evie Wi	For giving up her time to help in class for the good of others
Y5	s	Reuben	An amazing start to Year 5 with dedication and 100% effort in every task
	v	Zendaya	For showing patience and gentleness throughout to week to those working around her.
Y6	s	Mickey	For his wonderful writing in role as Daniel
	v	CiCi	For showing compassion and kindness towards her new friend.

Smartphone Free Childhood

Fact of the Week



FACT OF THE WEEK

Children's brains are still developing, and excessive screen time can interfere with attention and emotional regulation.

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
2026/2027 w/e 11.09.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	LAST WEEK	CURRENT %	↑ OR ↓
1 st	YEAR 6		99.13	
2 nd	YEAR 3		99.08	
3 rd	YEAR 4		97.93	
4 th	YEAR 2		97.62	
5 th	YEAR 1		96.80	
6 th	YEAR 5		96.54	
7 th	RECEPTION		90.23	

Two classes got **100%** attendance this week; congratulations **Y3** and **Y6**.

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).



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!

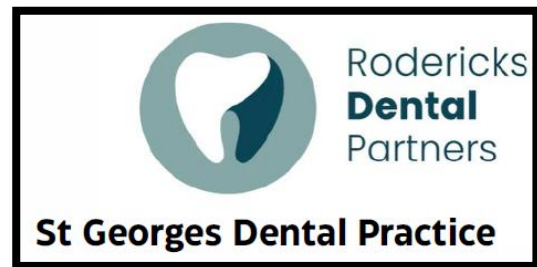
Labelling Uniforms



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.

NHS Dentist for Children

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



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



SCAN TO DONATE

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

Thursday 17th September 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Thursday 24th September 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Thursday 1st October 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Thursday 8th October 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.

