



School Newsletter

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

11.10.24

Dear parents/ carers,

Parents' Evenings

Information about the forthcoming parents' evening has already been sent out. Below is a reminder:

During the course of the school year, we have two opportunities for parents/ carers to meet with teachers: one in the autumn term and one in the spring term. The autumn term meetings are offered online and are 5 minutes in duration and held over one evening. The spring term meetings are face-to-face and are 10 minutes in duration and are held over two evenings.

The autumn meetings are shorter because, although the class teacher has worked with your child for seven weeks and is building up an understanding of his/her learning needs, they will not yet have the level of detailed knowledge that one would expect by the time that it comes to the February parents' evening. In the past, both parents and teachers have told me that there is often little to report in the autumn term meeting.

Additionally, with the use of *Class Dojo* and *Tapestry*, there is often a dialogue between class teachers and parents and if there are any issues regarding your child settling-in or issues regarding progress or learning, these have already been addressed. If not, of course, they can be addressed at the forthcoming parents' evening or by appointment with the class teacher.

Therefore, we are offering an optional 5-minute consultation with your child's teacher on Tuesday 22 October between 3.45pm and 7pm. However, if you do not wish to take up this offer because you do not need to speak with your child's teacher at this stage, please do not feel obliged to do so.

In summary, the options are as follows:

- Book a 5-minute online appointment with class teacher Tuesday 22 October between 3.45pm and 7pm
- Do not meet with teacher on this occasion, wait until the February parents' evening and contact school/ teacher, as and when the need arises.

Please note that the 5-minute period of consultation is the maximum time allowed to avoid long waiting times on the evening.

Fashion hairstyles

We have noticed a number of children have had fashionable hair styles e.g. short hair cuts with designs cut into them, please can I remind children and parents/ carers that we aim to keep school a fashion-free zone. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Your children may pester you and tell you that other children may have them but please resist. Please keep the school a fashion- free zone! Thank you!

PTFA Spooky Disco

Mrs Wilson asked me to pass on the thanks of the PTFA to all the parents/ carers who have booked places for the PTFA Spooky Disco, which takes place in the last week of the half-term. You can still book on if you are interested and Mrs Wilson has asked me to remind parents/ carers to make payments as soon as possible. Thank you!

Y6 Isle of Man residential visit

Last week, the Y6 class travelled to the Venture Centre, near Ramsey on the Isle of Man. They enjoyed a fantastic, action-packed week full of outdoor and adventurous activities including: high ropes, zip-lines, gorge walking, archery, climbing, abseiling, crate-stacking, problem-solving games, campfire, kayaking, raft-building and air-rifle shooting amongst other things. They enjoyed hearty meals to fuel their adventures and enjoyed a good night's sleep each night in their bunk-house dormitories.

The children were an absolute credit to their parents/ carers and to the school. Fellow passengers on both the outbound and inbound ferry journeys complimented them on their excellent manners and behaviour. They were also praised by the staff at the Venture Centre for the way they cooperated with each other, encouraged each other and took part so enthusiastically in all the activities.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all the staff who helped organise the visit, to Mr Cahalin for planning and leading the visit so professionally and ensuring the children had such a wonderful time. Thank you to Mrs Blackwell, Mrs Bradley and to Mr Greenwell (who came as a parent volunteer) for accompanying the children and looking after them so well during the stay. I should also add a big thank you to the staff of the Venture Centre who hosted our visit and made sure it was such an amazing and memorable experience for the children.

Harvest Mass & Food donations



Fr Marsden celebrated Mass with us the week before last to give thanks for the harvest. Mrs Nicklin said it was a lovely Mass and the children joined in beautifully. Thank you to Fr Marsden for coming into school to celebrate with us.



I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and carers for your kind donations of food items. And thank you to Mr Hodge who took the donations up to the Living Waters Food Bank where they were very gratefully received and will be distributed in the local community.

CAFOD Brighten Up the Harvest Appeal

Today the children wore an item of bright clothing in exchange for a donation to the CAFOD *Brighten Up the Harvest* Appeal. The children took their offerings to the our altar area in school and took part in a small prayer and liturgy session. Thank you to you all for your kind donations and thank you to Mr Hodge for organising the appeal in school.

Sports News

CSSP Football League

Over the last few weeks, Mr Hodge has taken the St Mary's football team to take part in the CSSP football league at Westway. Mr Hodge has been very impressed with the quality on display and the wonderful sporting behaviour of his teams. Last week, in the absence of our Y6 players, a Y5 only team took on Y6 opposition from local schools drawing two matches and losing one. This will give them great experience for the competition next year. The team are playing again this afternoon in the competition. Thank you very much to Mr Hodge for organising he team and taking them to the matches.

2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY



St Mary's Prospective Parents Open Evening Thursday 7th November at 6pm.

There will be an open evening event on **Thursday 7th November** 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 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> ****

Year 6 Pupils moving to Year 7

Applying for a place at high school

The window to apply for a secondary school place is now open. To apply for a place in a Lancashire secondary school please check the following link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/>

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 2025 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable. The deadline for applications is **Thursday 31st October**, which is during our half term break.

Parentkind

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 our Primary school. 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.

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 11.10.24

		
Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Rosie	Working hard at her phonics this week
YR	Amaya	finding lots of patterns in Maths work
Y1	Tommy D	excellent work in science comparing two animals.
Y2	Robert	beautiful effort with handwriting
Y3	Charlie A	not giving up with his maths.
Y4	Violet	her wonderful work in mathematics during our addition and subtraction unit.
Y5	Billy	showing enthusiasm and determination when solving problems in mathematics.
Y6	Felix	great work in Maths on Prime Numbers

ATTENDANCE NEWS



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League
2024/2025 11.10.24



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	RECEPTION	98.93
2nd	YEAR 6	98.83
3rd	YEAR 1	98.57
4th	YEAR 2	98.45
5th	YEAR 3	98.28
6th	YEAR 4	98.04
7th	YEAR 5	96.88

Congratulations to Reception who had **100%** attendance again this week – well done!

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.

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth
Headteacher
11.10.24