



School Newsletter

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

13.03.26

Dear parents and carers,

New health initiative - School Nursing Team Monthly Drop-in here at school



Parents and carers are invited to come into school meet and meet a member of the NHS Chorley School Nursing Team and talk to them in complete confidence about various health topics including, but not limited to, emotional health, diet, healthy lifestyles, sleep, bedwetting, constipation, head lice and behaviour.

No appointment is necessary – just come in and sign in at the school's front entrance next **Wednesday 18th March from 0900 – 1000**. NB Information is not shared with school unless you want it to be. **See the leaflet at the end of the newsletter for more information.**

PTFA News!

The PTFA pot has built up over the last couple of years with money put aside for repairs and improvements to the outdoor play areas and equipment in *Project Playground*. We are having £9600 worth of works, which are planned to be carried out over the Easter holidays. In the first phase of improvements we are:

- going to have repairs made on the play equipment in the junior yard, making the apparatus safe and fun to use once more
- having repairs carried out in the KS1 playground with the balance beams tidied up and repaired
- removing the nursery playhouse and replacing it with a role play cabin (pictured right).



Coming Soon!

We want to:

- replace the popular playhouse in the infant playground with a like-for-like construction

- Repair and upgrade the Tellytubby Tunnel
- Add to the infant play equipment on the field.

Future PTFA events

- Tropic Pamper Night - Thursday 19th March - run by Jeni & Nicola Cassidy – unfortunately postponed but we are doing a Tropic Prize raffle instead
- Easter Disco - Wednesday 25th March run by Ice Queen Events - with PTFA support information sent out separately
- Bags2School collection - Wednesday 15th April – keep an eye out for information on this.

Another fundraising opportunity

easyfundraising.org.uk

Booking a holiday? You can raise a huge £125 donation for Chorley, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery when you book with TUI via **easyfundraising.org.uk!**

There's no extra cost and it will make a real difference to our school. If you're not supporting us on easyfundraising yet, now's the perfect time to get involved.

Hurry, this offer is only available until the end of March. Sign up today here:

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

So far Chorley, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery has 9 entries into easyfundraising's giveaway to win a £250 donation! You can help increase our chances of winning by signing up to support us before midnight 15th March:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/chorleystmaryscatholicprimaryschoolandnursery/40ZIOU/c2s/J1YccjD6/CE941/facebook/>

Finally...

We would like to say a big thank you to all those who contribute their time and effort into organising PTFA social events and fundraisers. Thanks also to all the parents and carers who support those events. Now you will be able to see the some of the improvements that can be made because of your efforts. Thank you all!

Sports News

Despite the cold weather, we have had a busy sporting week this week.

CSSP Easter Multi Skills Festival – Reception class

The CSSP team came in and held a virtual Easter-themed multi-skills competition with our reception class. It is a virtual competition because all the results get added up and compared to other school around Chorley – we should find out where we end up in a week or so.

Y6 Sports Stars Assessment

The CSSP team were in again this week to carry out a skills assessment of our Y6 pupils to identify gifted and talented individuals who could be invited to take part in training camps with pupils from other local schools later in the year.

Ollerton Cup

The long established Ollerton Cup football competition is up and running again this year. St Mary's were drawn against Duke Street primary school. Mr Hodge took the team along tonight. It was an end-to-end and competitive encounter with St Mary's emerging as 2-0 winners and going through to the next round. Congratulations to the team and thank you Mr Hodge for taking them along.

Good Shepherd Appeal 2026

We are **three** weeks into the annual Nugent Care *Good Shepherd Appeal*. **One more week of fundraising to go!** Then we can look forward to the Good Shepherd Talent Show.



Thank you to all the children and families who either donated cakes, bought cakes, created games and activities or supported them and to the children who danced at the disco. This week you have raised an amazing **£248**. This has now been banked. This is on top of the £658 raised so far, bringing a new grand total in the bank of **£873**. That is incredible after **three** weeks – thank you all, so much!

The table below lets you know what happens on each day.

We will do this for **ONE MORE WEEK** and in the final week of the half-term before the Easter break we will have the Good Shepherd Talent Show.

Day	Activity
Mondays	Cake sale – sell and buy cakes – max 1 per person – 50p each
Tuesdays	Games and activities –guess how many sweets are in a jar/ spot the ball/ name the teddy/ lucky dip etc.
Wednesdays	Disco in the hall – 50p voluntary contribution

Chorley FC Easter Holiday Club – message from Chorley FC

Chorley FC Community Foundation will be running our Kick, Play, Thrive Football & Activity Club during the upcoming Easter school holidays...

As the community foundation connected to Chorley Football Club, we are committed to providing positive opportunities for young people to stay active, build confidence and enjoy their school holidays in a safe and supportive environment.

We are also proud to be able to offer a limited number of funded places through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which includes activities and a nutritious lunch. **See poster at the end of this newsletter for further details.**

Book Bench Competition – message from Mrs Cassidy

Thank you to all the children who took part in the Book Bench Competition. We had so many fantastic entries!

Three winners were announced in last week's assembly, and every participant received a prize for taking part.

The winners are:

- KS2 – Hattie (Y4),
- KS1 & EYFS – Tillie (Y1) and Lucy C (YR)

Over the next few weeks we will be painting the winning designs onto the benches. If anyone has any spare emulsion paint or test pots at home, we would be very grateful if they could be brought into the school office. We need all colours of the rainbow – particularly green!

Many thanks for your support. 🌈

Winning designs below



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.



NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGE
TRAIN TO TEACH WITH YARROW SCHOOLS
ALLIANCE, STARTING SEPTEMBER 2026

INTERESTED
IN FINDING OUT MORE?
EMAIL
R.HORNE@ST-GEORGES.LANCS.SCH.UK
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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>

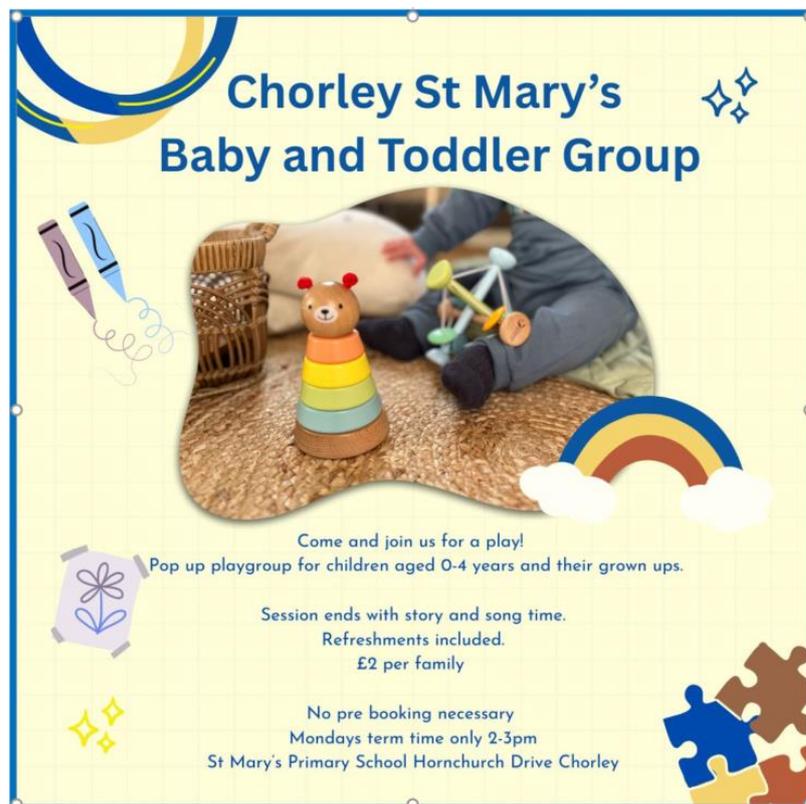
Unavoidable School Closures

We are almost through the winter months now and have escaped heavy snow so far, but in the event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

Baby and Toddler Group

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



Message from Lancashire Music Service

We are delighted to announce that this year we are holding a "Folk Day" open rehearsal, taking place on **Sat 21st March** at Lancaster Methodist Church.

Led by our fabulous Folk specialist Richard Moss, this FREE day is open to all:

Young players 18 and under, beginners to advanced on any Acoustic instrument

The day will consist of workshops and an informal performance at the end

📅 21st March 2026, 10.30am – 3.30pm (with arrivals from 10.15am)

📍 Lancaster Methodist Church, Scotforth Road, LA1 4TE

Sign up via the link below!

<https://UKLANCASHIRE.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=2226#/Course/918/0/7283/2226> See poster at the end of the newsletter.

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.

Foodbank

Following on from the fabulous support shown for our Harvest Service back in October, we are reinstating the drop-off box in the main entrance for donations for the **Living Waters - Storehouse** food bank.

You can use this for further donations of tinned/packed goods or other items such as toiletries (shampoos/bubble bath) or even gift sets as the Christmas season approaches. Thank you.

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>

Smartphone Free Childhood

Fact of the Week



FACT OF THE WEEK

Children may unknowingly share personal information, creating a lasting digital footprint.

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 2025/2026 w/e 13.03.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %	Last week	↑ or ↓
1st	YEAR 3	97.78	97.71	↑
2nd	YEAR 4	97.09	97.19	↓
3rd	YEAR 2	96.79	96.79	-
4th	YEAR 1	96.62	96.62	-
5th	YEAR 5	96.55	96.53	↑
6th	RECEPTION	96.18	96.20	↓
7th	YEAR 6	94.08	94.14	↓

No **100%** attendance this week but as you can see, well done to Y3 on extending their lead at the top again.

Lancashire Schools Attendance Data up to 12.03.26

How does St Mary's compare? (We have slipped two places in last fortnight)

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ⓘ
Overall attendance	96.4%	You are ranked 92nd out of 481 schools
Overall absence	3.6%	You are ranked 92nd out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	3.1%	You are ranked 148th out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.5%	You are ranked 40th out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	6.3%	You are ranked 77th out of 481 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 481 schools

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 13.03.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of harmony
Nursery	s	Jay	Writing his name remembering the letter order.
	v	Thomas	Following nursery rules .
	Dojo	George	
R	s	Ozias	For super listening all week.
	v	Martha	For celebrating other children's successes.
	Dojo	Oliver	
Y1	s	Oscar	Always trying hard and producing his best work.
	v	Mila	Always getting on with friends and playing fairly.
	Dojo	Rayne	
Y2	s	Wolf	Trying really hard to create a story map for his own version of Lila and the secret of the rain.
	v	William	Showing fairness when playing with his friends.
	Dojo	Eleanor, Annie	
Y3	s	Theo H	For much improved care and attention with the presentation of his work.
	v	Rob	Always keeps the peace in our classroom.
Y4	s	Layla C	Great work in RE.
	v	Keira	Being a kind and thoughtful friend which creates harmony in our class.
Y5	s	Finley N	Beautiful poetry including excellent vocabulary and figurative language .
	v	Niamh	For being a wonderful role model and bringing a calm, peaceful atmosphere to our class.
Y6	s	Alfie	For his wonderful work all week across all subjects.
	v	Billy	For always bringing calm, kindness, and cooperation to everyone around him.



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

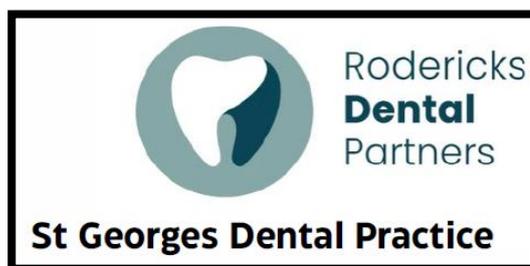
The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing, please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing, we will be putting the lost property box in the newly available space in the main entrance.

P Smyth

13.03.26

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

Supported by
**Chorley
Council**

**Activity
Classes**



**Good Food
Clubs**



**Community
Café**



**Craft
Club**



**Children's
Activities**



 Part of the SVP Nationally



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



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

Wednesday 10th June 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Wednesday 17th June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Wednesday 24th June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Wednesday 1st July 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.



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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

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School Nursing Monthly DROP-IN

Speak to a member of our school nursing team about various health topics including emotional health, diet, healthy lifestyles, sleep, bed-wetting & constipation, head lice and behaviour

When?

WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH

9AM TO 10 AM

Where?

In school—please enter via the main entrance, no need to book—all visits are in confidence, information is not shared with school unless you ask for it to be shared

For more information about our service scan the QR code to our website, for general enquires or to make a referral, please contact our Single Point of Access Tel: 0300 247 0040 Email: vcl.019.singlepointofaccess2@nhs.net





EASTER HALF TERM 2026

£21.50 per day
Optional lunch £3

KICK, PLAY, THRIVE FOOTBALL & ACTIVITY CLUB

Chorley
Council



- ✓ 30/3 -02/04 (HAF) & 07 - 10/04
- ✓ Boys and Girls aged 5-12 years
- ✓ All abilities welcome
- ✓ Full day Programme 09:30 - 16:30
- ✓ HAF Programme 09:30 - 13:30

- TRAIN WITH CHORLEY FC PLAYERS AND COACHING STAFF
- UEFA QUALIFIED COACHES
- FOOTBALL GAMES, SKILL CHALLENGES AND TOURNAMENTS
- FUN MULTI-SPORT ACTIVITIES AND TEAM GAMES
- CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS TO CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS

FULL DAY SPACES CAN BE BOOKED HERE

[CHORLEYFCFOUNDATION.CO.UK/CHORLEY-HOLIDAY-CLUB](https://www.chorleyfcfoundation.co.uk/chorley-holiday-club)

HAF SPACES CAN BE BOOKED HERE

[HTTPS://WWW.HOLIDAYACTIVITIES.COM/HOW-IT-WORKS/RECIPIENTS/](https://www.holidayactivities.com/how-it-works/recipient/)

For more info call 07523 952149 - Please book early as places are limited

LANCASTER YOUTH FOLK ENSEMBLE



FOLK DAY OPEN REHEARSAL

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

2026

10:30-3:30PM

VENUE:

LANCASTER METHODIST CHURCH
SCOTFORTH ROAD,
LANCASTER, LA1 4TE



#WHEREWILLMUSICTAKEYOU



Lancashire
County
Council

LANCASHIRE
MUSIC SERVICE