



School Newsletter

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

13th October 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Parents' Evening

We have arranged parents' evenings for next week. As with last year, the autumn term appointments will be online and last five minutes. These sessions are really for teachers to share with you how your child has settled into their new year group and to share any helpful information with you to support your child's learning and progress over the next year.

Tax-free childcare

One of our governors shared some information with me to pass on:

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.*

Many of our parents/ carers may not know about this or may not be accessing this. We will write to you in more detail about in the near future but if you would like to find out more now, click on the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

Library Books (especially LCC ones!)



Miss Hesketh has asked me to ask you to check if the children have any LCC library books borrowed from school at home which have been finished with and not returned; there are quite a lot that have not come back. They are easy to recognise because they will have the LCC symbol on their spine. If the children have finished with,

please could they be returned as soon as possible. And the same goes for any St Mary's school library books; we would be very grateful if you could have a little check or search this weekend. Thank you!

Sports News

The St Mary's football team were in action on Friday after school. They played six back-to-back games. They won three, drew one and lost two. Mr Hodge said, *'They were all excellently behaved and played really well.'* A big thank you to Mr Hodge for taking the team to CSSP football league over the last few weeks and well done to all the players that have represented the school.

Break and lunch times

Just a reminder now that as we are moving into the cooler and wetter weather, please ensure children are coming into school with coats or jackets. We do our very best to get out, have a run around and get fresh air; this includes going out in light rain. If children do not have a jacket/ coat they may have to sit under one of the shelters rather than run about.

PTFA Update – messages from Mrs Wilson...

Thank you to all the parents who came along to the PTFA AGM on Thursday night and to all those who sent in their apologies. We did realise it clashed with the Holy Cross open evening, but we needed to fit a meeting in before the end of the half term.

We had some great fundraising ideas suggested, both on the night and via the recent Groupcall form we sent out. Watch out for some new events next year. Coming up, we have the ever-popular Christmas Fair taking place on Friday 8th December, information will be coming out after half term.

PTFA Spooktacular Dress Up Day

Advance notice that on Tuesday 31st October, children are invited to come to school in their spooky costumes (or own clothes/dress up clothes) in return for a suggested voluntary donation to the PTFA of £1

A reminder that either trainers/sensible or school shoes must be worn - suitable for the weather and being outside at lunchtime/breaktimes. No face paints please. Hair colour can be used as long as it can be washed out and be back to normal for school on Wednesday. Please ensure that any dress up outfit is comfortable and warm enough to sit in for the day and that they are able to wear a coat over the top.

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership CSSP– half term holiday activities

- October half term sports camp – see leaflet at the end of newsletter
- October half-term Bikeability 'Learn to ride' sessions

CSSP Bikeability Sessions Y6

Year 6 will be doing their Bikeability road safety sessions on Thursday and Friday next week in and around school.

CAFOD *Brighten up the harvest* collection

A big thank you to parents and carers for your contributions last week for this year's **CAFOD *Brighten Up the Harvest*** appeal. You contributed a very impressive **£343**. A big thank you to one of our longstanding governors, Mrs Rogerson, for counting every penny!

International Aid trust KS2 assembly

Rev Bernard Cocker, the founder and CEO of the Chorley based International Aid Trust charity came into school on Monday morning to speak to the KS2 children about the work of the charity, which supports projects in Ukraine, Sierra Leone, the Philippines, Moldova and India. He talked about the incredible work the charity does around the world. He talked about planting seeds of God's love and watching the fruits of that work. We look forward to linking up with the charity in months to come.

Year 6 Assembly

The Year 6s gave us their class collective worship/ assembly on Wednesday morning. The theme was taken from their *Come and See* topic this term: *Loving*. We enjoyed the drama, singing and very clear reading aloud. There were also some very powerful and moving letters read out to parents and carers, who I know must have been very proud. Well done and thank you Y6, Mr Cahalin and Mrs Blackwell.

World Mental Health Day – Tuesday 10 October

Tuesday the 10th October was World Mental Health day. Many of the children wore a splash of yellow to mark it.

https://www.itv.com/britaingettalking/schools.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI25KB4rnZgQMVA-TtCh0sqAusEAAYASAAEgl78vD_BwE

Click here for homework task:

<https://www.itv.com/britaingettalking/pdf/ITV-BGT-homework-b&w.pdf>

Archdiocese of Liverpool School Christmas Card competition – open now - deadline November 1st

As the autumn term is in full swing and the nights draw closer, we are looking forward to some of the biggest highlights in our calendar – Advent and Christmas. This year, the Archdiocese of Liverpool would like to send out a digital Christmas card to all our parishes, clergy, schools, staff and stakeholders and we need your help... We want our children to put their creativity to the test and design a front cover for the Christmas card in our new competition. See leaflet attached.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We did not receive any nominations for the role of parent governor this time around. If you were interested, but did not want to commit at this stage because you are not fully sure what the role entails, I am more than happy to have an informal chat with you and tell you more. I can also put you in touch with one of our governors to tell you first-hand what the role involves in a more informal way. School number is 01257 262811 or email office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk. Pop in the subject line 'Governor enquiry.'

Below is the link to LCC's website which provides some very good information about the role.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/become-a-school-governor/>

Volunteers



We really appreciate the help we receive from parents and grandparents who come in to help with reading, supporting children's learning, clubs etc. We have had a couple of parents in recent years who started off volunteering and then have decided to pursue a career in teaching! A big thank you to all our returning volunteers this year – you make a massive difference!

If you feel you can spare half an hour or more a week please get in touch with the school office. Many thanks.

2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

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 **15 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> ****

Year 6 Pupils moving to Year 7 ***** 31 OCTOBER DEADLINE APPROACHING *****

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/> for a start in Year 7, in September 2024.

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 2024 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable.

1 September 2023 - Apply from this date

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.

31 October 2023 - National closing date for secondary applications (statutory).




Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2023/ 2024 13.10.23



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 1	98.97
2nd	YEAR 6	97.87
3rd	YEAR 3	96.61
4th	RECEPTION	96.49
5th	YEAR 4	96.38
6th	YEAR 5	96.00
7th	YEAR 2	93.62

Three classes achieved 100% attendance this week: Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5!

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 13.10.23



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Amaya	A super first week in nursery
YR	Archie G	trying really hard in phonics all week
Y1	Noah C	his excellent writing about Emperor penguins.
Y2	Lucas	amazing discussion, enthusiasm and ideas about Lions in our non – fiction unit on chronological reports
Y3	Jessica	progress week on week with her learn Its in mathematics
Y4	Erin	her positive attitude to learning in all lessons.
Y5	Alice	showing great enthusiasm in our geography lesson on landmarks in the United Kingdom.
Y6	Betsy	Science work on inheritance and variation

P Smyth 13.10.23



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



OCTOBER SPORTS CAMP

Ages 5 - 11 years

Chorley
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

£70 THREE DAYS
£25 SINGLE DAY

From Tuesday to Thursday, with lots of fun games, sports, arts and crafts, and a Halloween Party (26th).

A packed lunch with lots of water will be needed.



TUESDAY 24TH
WEDNESDAY 25TH
& THURSDAY 26TH

CHORLEY ST PETERS
EAVES LANE, PR6 ODX

9AM-4.00PM

CONTACT US

camp@chorleyssp.co.uk
07306403255 / 01257449278

www.chorleyssp.co.uk/holiday-events

Chorley
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



**BACK BY
POPULAR
DEMAND**

BIKEABILITY LEARN TO RIDE



Ages 4 - 12 years



www.chorleyssp.co.uk/holiday-events

These sessions are for children of primary school age who cannot yet ride a bike without stabilisers.

Participants should bring their own bike and helmet, dress for the weather and bring a drink.

£25
per session

**Tuesday 24th
or
Wednesday 25th**

OCTOBER

Chorley St Peters

Eaves Lane, PR6 0DX

**10 - 11:30 OR
12.30-2PM**

CONTACT US

camp@chorleyssp.co.uk
**07306403255 /
01257449278**

Chorley
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP





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



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