



School Newsletter

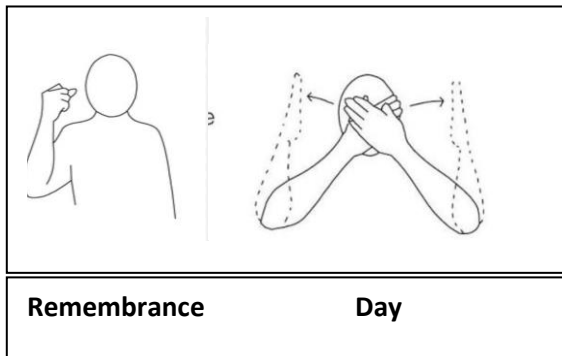
With Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

14.11.25

Dear parents and carers,

Sign Language - Sign of the Week

This week's sign is 'Remembrance Day.' Ask your child to demonstrate it to you!



Remembrance Day 2025

We marked Remembrance Day in school on Tuesday 11th November at 1100. We rang the school bell and stood in silence for one minute. Meanwhile, our Y2 class and Y5 class went to the Cenotaph at Astley Park to join with children from other schools, veterans and members of the public to lay wreaths and pay their respects to those that lost their lives and those that have lost loved ones in conflicts and wars over the decades. Mrs Nicklin said that the children behaved beautifully and respectfully.

Year 2 had spent the morning visiting the Chorley Pals memorial near Marks and Spencer and they visited streets and houses where young men who fought in WW1 had lived and never returned to. Miss Hesketh said that the children were fully engaged and found the experience fascinating.

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, thank you for all the kind donations to this year's Poppy Appeal.

Anti-Bullying Week w/c 10th November

This week is anti-bullying week. We had an assembly where I talked to the children about what bullying is, what to do if they know it is happening and what steps we can take to prevent it happening deal with it if it has happened.

Click on this link: <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2025/parents-and-carers> to access an anti-bullying pack for parents and carers with lots of useful information should you wish to speak with your child about this subject (scroll to bottom of the page on the link).

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Charity Fun Run at Chorley Fire Station Sunday 14 December

We have been asked to publicise the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Charity Fun Run at Chorley Fire Station on Sunday 14 December. Please see the leaflet attached.

- 1000 1km children's (up to 14yo) race
- 1100 5km adult race

Primary School Admissions September 2026

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 2026**. Between now and 15th January all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the school's published admissions policy for school year 2026 - 2027.

<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> ****

Primary School Admissions 2027-2028

Every seven years the school is required to have a consultation about its proposed admissions policy. You will have received information separately about this and, if interested, everything you need to

know is on the school website. <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions/admissions-consultation-2027-28>

Health and Safety

Play equipment

Please do not let your children use the play equipment at the start and end of the school day; we don't want any injuries – thank you

Foodbank

Following on from the fabulous support shown for our Harvest Service, 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.

ParentPay

ParentPay - please ensure accounts are up to date for the half term break. 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>

Christmas Theatre Trip Details

Keep your eye out for details of this year's theatre visits at Christmas which have been sent out separately.

Nativity Productions 2025

Also, keep your eye out for details of this year's infant Nativities and the ticketing details for each.

Holiday term dates - 2026/ 2027 and 2027/ 2028.

The governors have agreed the term dates for the school years 2026/ 2027 and 2027/ 2028. We will share these with you next week.

Chorley Youth Mass

There will be a Chorley Youth Mass on Sunday 23 November, Youth Sunday. The pupils in the local Faith in Action group are planning a display using photographs illustrating how young people demonstrate their faith in the community. Please see the separate leaflet attached.

Smartphone Free Childhood meeting at school on Wednesday 26th November at 6pm



FACT OF THE WEEK

Smartphones are **designed** to be addictive, leading to compulsive use in young users.

All parents and carers, who are interested and want to find out more about **Smartphone Free Childhood**, are welcome to attend a meeting here at school on **Wednesday 26th November at 6pm** where we can discuss and share plans for children and families of St Mary's.

For more information about this parent-led grassroots movement visit:

<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.'

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.

Meeting for Y4 parents whose children are receiving Sacraments this academic year - Monday 17 November at 6pm

There is a meeting on Monday 17 November at 6pm for parents and carers of children who are due to receive sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion this academic year. Parents and carers have been notified in a separate message.

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 14.11.25

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of mercy for... PEACE
Nursery	s	Nova	Always being willing to help her teachers in class
	v	Harry (Holiness)	Retelling the story of Mary's visit from Angel Gabriel in lovely detail
	Dojo	Austin	
R	s	Tristan	For hearing initial sounds in words and trying hard all week
	v	Olivia	For always joining in collective worship and making the sign of the cross
	Dojo	Ozias	
Y1	s	Robert	Lovely independent writing in English this week.
	v	Amara	Helping others on her table.
	Dojo	George W	
Y2	s	Seb B	For working so hard during all lessons to produce his best work.
	v	Scarlett M	For sacrificing her time to help tidy the classroom without being asked.
	Dojo	Brooklyn C	
Y3	s	James R	Consistent hard work in all subjects all week!
	v	Ewan	Always ready to be at service when required
Y4	s	Willow	Great diary of a citizen from Hamlin
	v	Caitlin F	Has a peaceful way of dealing with conflict
Y5	s	Agustina	Facing her fears in Bikeability this week
	v	Luke S	Showing sacrifice and taking a step back to allow others to have a turn in Bikeability.
Y6	s	Evie	For her wonderful writing in role as Dorathy, using devices to build cohesion and informal language.
	v	Erin	For always offering her services to others by helping them.

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2025/2026 w/e 14.11.25



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
= 1st	YEAR 2	98.52
=1st	YEAR 4	98.52
3rd	RECEPTION	98.22
4th	YEAR 3	97.80
5th	YEAR 5	97.46
6th	YEAR 1	97.26
7th	YEAR 6	94.48

Well done Reception class who achieved **100%** attendance this week.

How does our attendance compare against other schools?

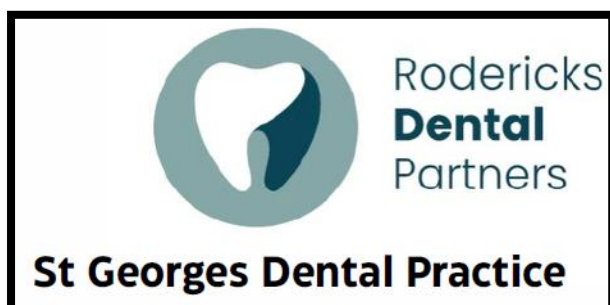
How do we rank against other Lancashire schools? In the last academic year, 2024/ 2025, we were ranked **4th out of 479 schools – the top 1% club!** Well done to you all on a fantastic achievement. Currently we sit in 16th position. Given last year's effort, I am sure that we can improved on that.

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>

NHS Dentist for Children



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

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth
Headteacher
14.11.25

**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
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.	Buddies Café Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 9am-3pm Affordable café with crafts running from 12:30-2pm Everyone welcome	
	Lunch Social 4th Tuesday of the month Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley from 12-2pm. BOOKING ESSENTIAL Donations welcome.	Chair Fit Croston Old School, Church Street, Croston 1:30-2:30pm. £3 suggested donation.		
	Seated Exercise All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. £5 suggested donation.			



SCAN TO DONATE