



School Newsletter

With Christ we live, love, learn and we grow

15th September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Caretaker/ Site Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a site supervisor. The job advert and job specification is on the LCC website https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=62079. The site supervisor is a very important and very valued member of our team. The job mainly involves cleaning but also involves an amount of site maintenance, repairs and opening and locking up. It is 35 hours a week. If you or you know of anyone else who is interested please contact the school office on 01257 262811 or office@chorleystmarys.lanc.sch.uk .

Playground supervision

Please do not let the children play football or use the play equipment at the start and end of the school day. There are no staff to supervise at those times. In the mornings, children should arrive from 0845 to 0855 and not gather earlier to play games; they have plenty of opportunity for supervised play at breaks and lunchtime. Unfortunately, squabbles, incidents or accidents that occur during these times are often brought into the classroom. They then need resolving which of course eats into precious learning time. Thank you for your understanding.

Welcome Message from the Chair of Governors, Kath Smith

On behalf of St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery governors, I would like to welcome everyone to a new school year. We have proudly said our goodbyes to our previous Year 6 class and wish them all every success in the future. We are delighted to welcome the new children into the reception and nursery classes and look forward to seeing them, and all the other children in the school grow and fulfil their potential during their time with us.

The most important measure of our effectiveness as a school is pupils' progress (both academically, socially, and emotionally). Children's progress in any school is heavily influenced by the support and guidance they receive at home as well as at school. As parents and carers, you are very much part of our whole school community - and we look forward to working with you over the coming months and years.

If you need to know more about the governors please see:

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/governors/governors>

Kath Smith Chair of Governors

Governor Vacancy

In the coming weeks there will be a vacancy for a parent governor for the school. If you are interested in this role, please contact Kath Smith or myself via the school office at office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk.

Interest is welcomed from any parents/ carers right across the school. No experience is needed, just the desire to keep improving St Mary's School & Nursery. We have a very proactive, supportive and experienced group of governors who will help the new governor in their role. The term of office is four years. Find out more about the role of parent/ carer governor at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/become-a-school-governor/>

EYFS Breakfast Stay & Play - Wednesday 13th September 0830 -0930

The EYFS classes had their first breakfast stay and play session for reception and nursery children on Wednesday. Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to come along and take part. We hope you found it both interesting and useful; I am sure the children loved having you there. Thank you to the EYFS team for hosting the event and preparing for it.

Holy Cross Headteacher Mr Gaughan visit to St Mary's Monday September 18th at 6pm

On Monday 18th September at 6pm, Mr Gaughan, Headteacher of Holy Cross, will be visiting **St Mary's** school to speak to our Y5 and Y6 parents about all that Holy Cross has to offer. The presentation usually lasts about 30 minutes and has proved very popular and been very well received in the last few years.



Holy Cross High School Open Evening 12th October

Holy Cross will be holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents on the evening of Thursday 12th October.

Start of school year Mass at St Mary's - next Wednesday 20th September at 9am.

Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be attending 9.00am Mass at St Mary's **on Wednesday 20th September at 9am** to celebrate the start of the new school year. **We ask that children are dropped off at Church by the front door on that morning from 8.45am** where they will be registered by their class teacher. After Mass, they will walk back down to school.

Phonics meeting for parents of children in nursery, reception and Y1 - Wednesday, 20 September at 6pm

There will be a meeting for parents and carers of children in nursery, reception and Y1 on Wednesday 20 September at 6pm. Staff will share information with parents and carers about the phonics programme we use (*Read, Write, Inc.*) and how they can support the children with phonics at home. Gaining phonics knowledge and skills early is vitally important; it gives children the fundamentals in learning to read and therefore their learning overall. A similar meeting we held this time last year was very well received by parents and carers.

Tuesday 26th September - Y4 Sacramental Programme - Sacramental Cheese & Wine Evening



This year's Sacramental Programme will begin with a Cheese and Wine Evening at school for parents a week next Tuesday, on **26th September at 6.00pm**. Mrs Grzeczynska, will introduce the programme and explain the process of *Family Catechesis*. The meeting is intended for parents only but if families are struggling for childcare, then the school will do its best to accommodate them.

Little Church is open at St Mary's!

What is Little Church?

"Little Church" is the "Liturgy of the Word for Children". Our Parish welcomes families and the full participation of young children in the celebration of the Mass. Since 1987, children at St Mary's have enjoyed their own Liturgy of the Word through 'Little Church' at the 10.30am Sunday Mass. See information at the end of the newsletter.

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.



Y4 Swimming

Mrs Singleton has asked me to let you know that the Y4 class have been praised by members of the public for their excellent behaviour at the swimming pool. Well done, Y4!

Daily Mail/ Mail on Sunday Journalist Adele Cooke Visit

Today our Y5s were visited by *Daily Mail/ Mail on Sunday* finance journalist, Adele Cooke. She is writing a piece for the paper on finance education in primary school. Y5 and Y6 receive expert input each year from Brian Souter and his *Money Matters* programme. He asked the reporter to come and see him at work here. Adele was very impressed with the knowledge and enthusiasm of the pupils. I'll let you know when the article appears.

Blue Peter Book Club

As we all know, St Mary's loves reading and Miss Hesketh has asked me to share some exciting news about a new initiative by BBC's *Blue Peter* to engage and encourage readers from 7-11. Find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club>



PE Kit

Please ensure children wear the correct PE Kit. It is **white T-shirt and black or blue shorts**. Children should not be wearing other colours or team-branded football shorts. Please keep it simple. Thank you.

Main Entrance Improvements

There has been a little bit of a delay to the opening of our newly improved front entrance. It is now ready to use. We are awaiting the fitting of some cladding and new signage to finish it off. We still cannot use the path around the front entrance at the moment, as fence panels bordering the field need installing.

2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

St Mary's Prospective Parents Open Day/ Open Evening

There will be an open evening event on **Tuesday 3rd October** [not Tuesday 6 October as I wrote last week!] 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 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

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).

SPORTS NEWS

PE Steering Group Meeting for Weds 27th September 6-7pm in the school hall.

Mr Hodge has organised the annual meeting of the PE and Sports steering group for Wednesday 27th September at 6-7pm in the school hall. This is an opportunity for the school community to come together, celebrate successes and have an input into the direction of PE and sport in the school over the next twelve months.

Football trials

Thank you to all the children who tried out for the St Mary's football team this evening. Mr Hodge said the enthusiasm and standard were very high this evening. He has now got some very difficult decisions to make over the weekend. Good luck Mr Hodge and a big thank you to you too!

Chorley School Sports Partnership Annual Awards, Chorley Town Hall, 29 September 2023

St Mary's has been nominated for an award in the "The Spirit of the Games" category. The CSSP awards event takes place on Friday 29th September in the Lancastrian Suite at Chorley Town Hall. Fingers crossed!

Extra- Curricular Activities

Various clubs and activities will be starting over the next few weeks. We will also be hosting an archery club for the juniors this half term. More details of all the clubs will follow.

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.

Parking

By way of a reminder at the start of the school year, I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not park on the staff carpark, the yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. A neighbour has notified us just today that a parent/ carer blocked their driveway this morning. **Also just to make our new parents aware, please do not park in the turning zone at the top of Warton Place by the entrance to school. Thank you.**



School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. For the safety of the children **please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance**. This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2023/ 2024 15.09.23



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 2	99.44
2 nd	YEAR 4	99.28
3 rd	YEAR 6	99.07
4 th	RECEPTION	98.96
5 th	YEAR 3	98.89
6 th	YEAR 1	98.52
7 th	YEAR 5	96.95

No 100% this week.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 15.09.23

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Gloria	fantastic puzzles and maths work
YR	Matilda	always following the class rules and being a good role model to others
Y1	India	working confidently in English to produce a clear story map.
Y2	Keira	trying her best
Y3	Thomas	excellent work in maths on place value
Y4	Kristian	his wonderful work in maths and positive attitude
Y5	Heidi	superb work this week linked to our English unit on <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>
Y6	Phoebe C	taking great pride in her work in all subjects

P Smyth 15.09.23

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

St Mary's R.C. Church, Chorley

LITTLE CHURCH



‘Liturgy of the Word for Children’

What is Little Church?

"Little Church" is the "Liturgy of the Word for Children". Our Parish welcomes families and the full participation of young children in the celebration of the Mass. Since 1987, children at St Mary's have enjoyed their own Liturgy of the Word through 'Little Church' at the 10.30am Sunday Mass. There are two groups; 3-6 and 7-10 year olds.

We try to ensure that Children's Liturgy is an enjoyable experience for the children which helps develop their relationship with God. We discuss the Gospel of the day at a level the children can understand and enjoy. We enrich this with discussion, prayers, songs and readings. We also try to raise awareness of God's love, the humanity of Jesus, the Seasons of the Church, the understanding of symbols in the Mass and the context of the Bible.

The children gather in Church for the beginning of the Mass with their families and after a blessing from Father they go out to the activity rooms with the leaders and helpers. We return to lead the offertory procession and join our families for the rest of Holy Mass.

What do the children think about Little Church?



Is there a crèche?

There is a crèche/play area at the back of the church for families with babies and toddlers to use. Parents / carers remain with their babies / toddlers in the crèche area as this facility is not supervised.

Can I accompany my child?

Parents/carers are welcome to accompany their child until they are confident to attend alone. However, if a parent/carer attends on a regular basis (more than 3 or 4 times) they will be expected to complete a DBS check. This is in accordance with the advice and guidance given by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

What do parents/carers think about Little Church?



Can I get involved?

We are always keen to welcome new leaders and helpers. There is no previous experience needed and full guidance and support will be given. We meet two or three times a year to plan activities etc. Currently we ask for a commitment to lead or assist approximate once every 6 weeks. We would appreciate any help that is offered.

What about safeguarding and DBS checks?

St Mary's Parish is committed to the protection of children and vulnerable adults and complies fully with the guidance given by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. This means that all volunteers who come into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults must comply with the safeguarding procedures. A team of trained volunteers co-ordinates the administration of these procedures on behalf of the Parish. For further information contact the parish office or follow the link:

<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk>.

For further information please speak to one of the Little Church Leaders

or Alison on:

Tel: 01257 262537

email: stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk

Website: <http://www.stmarys-chorley.org>