



# School Newsletter

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

15.11.24

**Dear parents and carers,**

Next Week is UK Parliament Week. The children will be learning about the UK Parliament to develop their understanding of democracy and our political system. Mr Cahalin, our UK Parliament Ambassador, and the teachers have planned an action-packed week ahead.

Chorley is one of the top constituencies in the UK engaged with the campaign and our school was picked out to help showcase how engaged younger audiences are in the democratic process.

Today, our very own St Mary's Pupil Parliament was in session and the children were joined in their debate by Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons. Cameras from Sky TV and Granada North West were on hand to capture the proceedings. Our MPs were thrilled to spend time with him and they enjoyed a most memorable experience.

The Granada NW news report is expected to be aired on Monday; the Sky News report on Friday next week, with a piece in the Sky News FYI programme on Saturday. So keep your eyes out for what should be a great bit of exposure for the school.

There will also be activity on the Speaker's social media channels, so follow the Speaker on X (<https://x.com/CommonsSpeaker>) or Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/commons\\_speaker/](https://www.instagram.com/commons_speaker/)) to see where we feature.

Thank you to Alice in Y6 who made and presented Sir Lindsay with a gift from St Mary's; she made a St Mary's-themed crochet-knitted cat toy for the Speaker's famous pet cat, Attlee.

We will have plenty to share with you next week – keep a look out.

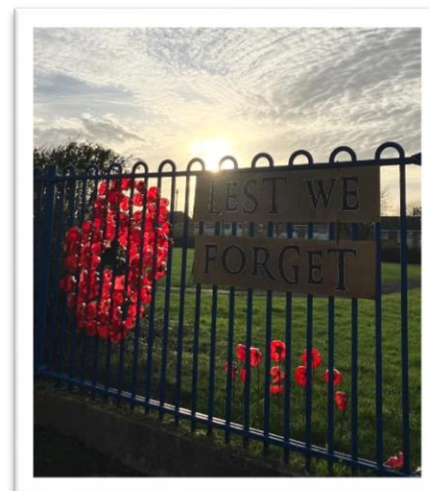
## **Poppy Appeal 2024**

Thank you to all the children, parents and staff for supporting the Poppy Appeal this year. It is very much appreciated.

## Y2 Remembrance Walk

On Monday, the Y2s went on their Remembrance walk around Chorley. It was very cold, so they had to keep on the move. They visited houses of soldiers who left Chorley to go to war and never returned. After that, they attended the 11am service at the Cenotaph in Astley Park.

Mrs Nicklin, class teacher/ deputy head and the parent helpers were mightily impressed with the children's excellent behaviour and super knowledge. We would like to say a big thank you to all the parent volunteers who came along and without whom it would be impossible to make these visits. Thank you.



There is some beautiful and powerful Remembrance artwork dotted around school, Mrs Houghton wanted to me to share this photo of the Y6 work that you may have seen near the front entrance.

## Y4 Tudor Expert Visit

Thank you to one of our Y4 parents, Mrs Heenan (a Tudor history expert!), for coming in to speak to our Y4s to support them in their studies. The children loved the session and learned lots. Thank you!

## Rhymicality - Free group aimed at under 5s.

One of our parents, Mrs Robinson, asked us to publicise this:

*Rhymicality - Free group aimed at under 5s.*

*Volunteer led with a target to combat parental loneliness, The Warm Space drop in is every Thursday Term Time until February. It includes refreshments, crafts and different themed toys each week. Open to parents, grandparents and foster carers.*

*Just turn up or go book go to - see flyer at the end of the newsletter.*

## Vacancy - Breakfast Club assistant

Are there any parents, carers interested in working for an hour, 0745 – 0845, each day in the Breakfast Club? If you are interested or you know of anybody else who is, please contact Mrs Wilson at the school office. [office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk) or 01257 262811.

## 2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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> \*\***

### Parentkind/ Asda Cashpot for Schools

Mrs Wilson registered the school a few weeks ago to the Parentkind/ Asda Cashpot for Schools initiative and we have so far accumulated **£188.60** in our rewards cashpot - free cash for school! (See screenshot right)

Parents can register on their app or if they haven't signed up yet - the link below gives more information:

<https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

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 St Mary's. 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.

### Tax-free childcare

One of our governors shared some information with me last year 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>

### Star of the Week 15.11.24

Class		Name	Star of the week for... Value of the week for showing value of 'mercy' Dojo Champion
Nursery	s	Ozias	Super work learning all his colours. Super learning
	v	Lily	Always willing to let others go first in the line.
R	s	Ellie	For trying really hard all week especially in Maths
	v	Maggie	For always helping others and sacrificing her time
	Dojo	Robert	
Y1	s	Laura M	A fantastic drawing of the Elizabeth Tower in our UK Parliament week work
	v	Joey	Making good choices to help his friends
	Dojo	Hallie G	
Y2	s	Harper	A wonderful recount of our Y2 Remembrance Walk
	v	Rose	Sacrificing her time to help Mrs Nicklin tidy up the classroom when she was in after school club. Thank you!
	Dojo	Jesse	
Y3	s	Nevaeh	Growing in confidence in Maths and English
	v	Holly	Happy to sacrifice time and effort for others.
Y4	s	Austin	For his wonderful times table knowledge!
	v	Arlo	For always putting others first.
Y5	s	Patrick	For giving brilliant answers and sharing interesting points with the class.
	v	James E	For always being respectful and putting others first.
Y6	s	Logan	A superb webpage biography of pioneering palaeontologist and fossil collector, Mary Anning
	v	Alice	Giving up her time to make a present for Sir Lindsay Hoyle's cat, Attlee.



## Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2024/2025 w/e 15.11.24



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 6	98.90
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 4	97.80
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 2	97.66
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	97.55
5 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	97.37
6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 3	97.36
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	97.27

Congratulations to Year 1 on their fantastic **100%** attendance this week!

### 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.

### PTFA future dates

**PTFA Non-Uniform day** - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November - Chocolates & New Toys

**PTFA Non-Uniform day** - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December - bottles

**Christmas Fair** - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 5.30-7.30

**PTFA Meeting** - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February - time to be confirmed

**PTFA Meeting** - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - time to be confirmed

**Ladies Party Night** - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June - St Mary's Parish Centre

Best wishes, Patrick Smyth 15.11.24

**rhythmicality**<sup>TM</sup>

bonding families and promoting wellbeing through music, dance, crafts and play

## FREE DROP IN Brew, Chat & Play

Join us every Thursday (Term Time)

From 7th November 2024

10.45am-11.45am @Tatton Gardens

Community Centre Chorley (Off Eaves Lane)

Children 0-4 Years  
Parents, Grandparents &  
Foster Parents Welcome

- Free Refreshments
- Stories
- Crafts
- Parenting Support



Book or just turn up



07738659598

or Email

Joanna@rhythmicality.co.uk



**Chorley**  
Council



