



# School Newsletter

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

15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear parents and carers,

There is great excitement about the Christmas performances this year. The children have put in plenty of practice and are looking forward to performing in front of their families. You will know the times and dates but there is a reminder below.

**Christmas Performances:** EYFS (nursery, reception), **KS1 (Ys 1 and 2)** and **KS2 (Ys 3, 4, 5 and 6)**

*times and dates:*

Monday 18th December:

- 0930 **KS1 performance**
- 1400 EYFS performance.
- 1800 **KS2 Christmas Performance at St Mary's Church**

Tuesday 19th December:

- 0930 EYFS performance
- 1800 **KS1 performance**



**Junior Christmas Concert Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm**

The children in the juniors (Y3 to Y6) will be performing their Christmas concert and tableau in Church on the evening of **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm.**



Prior to that, they will have one final practice at Church **on Monday morning**. Please could you drop the children off from 0845 at Church. They will walk back to school after the practice, which will finish just after 11am. If any parents or carers are available at 11am to accompany us on our walk back from Church, we would be extremely grateful. If you are able to help, please let your child's class teacher know.

**On Monday evening**, we would like all the children to meet in the Church. We would ask children to arrive no earlier than **5.45pm** and no later than **5.50pm**. We would like the Y4s to arrive wearing their costumes to save time on getting changed in Church and to allow for a prompt start at 6pm.

Parents/ carers can come into Church with their children when they arrive; they do not need to wait outside.

**Children must wear full uniform and look smart please - and can coats and other belongings to be left with parents, please.**

The performance will start at 6.00pm and will last between 40 minutes and an hour at the most. There will be a collection at the end to contribute to the Church's heating costs for the evening. Father Marsden estimates the cost of heating the Church is about £10 an hour and to get it warmed up for 6pm, the heating has to be switched on at 1pm!

### **Christmas Fair**

Thank you all for your terrific support of the Christmas Fair, last week. The money has been counted and the total raised is near enough £1800. That is a fantastic amount and will be put to good use throughout the year, to enhance the children's learning and experiences at school. Thank you very much! And a big thank you to all the helpers on the night – much appreciated. And another big thank you to the organisers for your time and effort to bring about the event and making it run so smoothly.



### **Around the World in 80 Days, Octagon Theatre**

A reminder that our KS2 classes will visit the Octagon on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December to watch the production *Around the World in 80 Days*.

### **Mass at Christmas at St Mary's Church – taken from parish newsletter**

Sun 24<sup>th</sup>                    FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Mbook p.90)  
10.00                        Mass – Parishioners

CHRISTMAS EVE  
18.00                        Carols  
18.30                        Night Mass –  
                                  Samuel Round (A)

Mon 25<sup>th</sup>                    THE NATIVITY OF  
                                  THE LORD  
10.00                        Day Mass – Fr Mayne and sick and housebound of the parish and those who care for them.



### **EYFS/ KS1 - Nursery/ Reception/ Y1 and Y2 - Lancashire Teaching Hospitals – Give a Gift Campaign**

Thank you for your very generous contributions to all of our Christmas collections this year. They are greatly appreciated – thank you.

## Letter from Dame Rachel De Souza, Children's Commissioner for England

I hope that you have had a good Autumn term and are all looking forward to the Christmas holidays.

Thank you so much for your incredible efforts in sharing 'The Big Ambition' survey with the children and parents at St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Chorley.

We have had an amazing response from nursery, primary and secondary schools across England and as a result I've decided **to extend the closing date to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024** to allow even more children the chance to have their say.

This will give schools, children and young people an extra month over the festive season to take part in 'The Big Ambition'.

Children and parents can complete the survey  
here: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

It only takes 5-10 minutes and can be completed in this [flyer](#) with a link to the survey with parents and children to complete at home.

'The Big Ambition' provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell policy makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election.

Let's make sure that the children and young people of Lancashire are represented in the results.

Thank you again and Merry Christmas!

Very best,

**Dame Rachel De Souza**  
**Children's Commissioner for England**



**Glovers Swim School Free lesson offer to family in need.** See information at end of newsletter on how to nominate.

**2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY - [Deadline 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.](#)**

The deadline is the Monday of the second week back after Christmas. If anybody, you know of, has a child who they wish to have a place at St Mary's, please could you make them aware that this deadline is looming and to get their applications in. Every now and then people do miss this deadline and then potentially miss out on a place of their choice.

**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<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. 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> \*\***

### Health and Safety

Pick-up and Drop-off. Please be very careful at pick up and drop off times particularly during these winter months where it is dark and where rain and ice impairs visibility for drivers. Drivers, please take great care near the school entrances. Many thank.

### STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 15.12.23



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Anais	trying hard with her maths all week.
YR	Paisley	helping others do their buttons after our dress rehearsal
Y1	Ralphi	his courage and performance in the Christmas Nativity.
Y2	Theo	super writing!
Y3	Arthur	quietly working hard, just getting on, and doing his best in all lessons.
Y4	Hannah	her wonderful explanation text.
Y5	Joseph	his wonderful effort and dedication to transforming his handwriting.
Y6	Evan	great writing using cohesive devices and description.

### LCC national wraparound childcare programme survey

From Sept 2024, the government have announced funding for a 'national wraparound childcare programme.' Lancashire County Council (LCC) have asked us to share information about a survey they are doing in preparation for this with you. The letter and poster attached contains this link <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/vt082j>

Attendance



**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League**  
**2023/2024 W/E 15.12.23**



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 1	98.63
=2nd	YEAR 6	96.86
=2nd	YEAR 3	96.86
4th	YEAR 5	96.51
5th	YEAR 4	96.20
6th	RECEPTION	95.57
7th	YEAR 2	95.27

No **100%** class attendance award this week.

P Smyth 15.12.23

**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](mailto:r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk) for more information



# GRANT A CHRISTMAS WISH

WITH **Glover's** swim school

Do you know a family who deserves a Christmas gift? People who are in need, who deserve to catch a break, or that should but never do put themselves first?

**We want to Grant a Christmas Wish!**

**WE ARE GIVING AWAY 6 MONTHS WORTH OF CLASS LESSONS FOR ONE CHILD, TO OUR CHOSEN FAMILY!**



All nominations must be sent to [office@gloversswimschool.co.uk](mailto:office@gloversswimschool.co.uk) by Sunday 17th December.



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

