



School Newsletter

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

16.01.26

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school for the new term. I hope you all had a happy, holy and restful Christmas break. The children returned refreshed, looking very smart and ready to go. They have settled down quickly to hard work since their return. On behalf of all the staff, thank you very much for all the Christmas cards from the children and families and for all the gifts received.

OFSTED Inspection 6th and 7th January

As you will be well aware, we received a call from OFSTED last Monday morning to tell us that we were going to be inspected over the following couple of days. I am not permitted to tell you the outcome of the inspection just yet, because the inspectors' findings need to be quality assured by OFSTED. We were informed that the report would be published thirty days after they left. Based on that, I imagine it will come during the first couple of weeks in February. We will share it as soon as we have it.

I can tell you, however, that the children and staff did us proud. I would also like to say a big thank you to all our parents and carers for your kind feedback in person or via the online survey to the inspectors and for your messages of support to staff. They are all greatly appreciated.

Unavoidable School Closures

We are about midway through the winter months now and have escaped heavy snow so far, but in the event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

Parents' Evenings – spring term

Spring term parents' evenings have been planned for the evenings of **Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th February (Yr 5 will be 5th and 12th)**. The meetings will be up to ten minutes in duration and will be face-to-face. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to come in and look at the children's work too. Details on how to book will be released in the next week or so.

Sports News

SEND sports competitions autumn term

Towards the end of the autumn term, children from St Mary's were involved in a couple of CSSP competitions for those with special educational needs and/ or disability. Some took part in a festival of throwing activities. Here they needed to demonstrate both power and accuracy. They were delighted to come back to school with bronze medals of which they were immensely proud. Later on in the term, a crack bowling squad went to Middlebrook Retail Park in Horwich to participate in a 10-pin bowling festival. Once again, the children did themselves proud, competing well and behaving beautifully.

The children in both events had a fantastic time and represented the school with our PE and sports values of PRIDE (participate, respect, include, develop and encourage). A big thank you to the staff and volunteers who took them along to the events.

Y3-4 Sports Hall Athletics

At the end of a very busy week last week, Mr Hodge took a team of athletes from our Y3 and Y4 classes to participate in the CSSP Sports Hall Athletics competition last Friday night. Boys and girls took part in a variety of running, throwing and jumping events. Once again our young competitors demonstrated our PRIDE principles extremely well. The team were delighted to discover that on the night they finished in first place out of the seven teams. They now await the results of the other heats to find out if they have made it to the finals night. Well done to our Y3/ 4 athletes and a big thank you to Mr Hodge for taking them along.

KS2 Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord and start of the New Year

On Monday morning this week, our KS2 classes went to St Mary's Church to celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord and the start of a new year. This was in place of our planned visit the previous week to Feast of the Epiphany. Thank you to Fr Marsden and Mrs Grzezcynska for allowing us to change at short notice.

January Online Safety Newsletter

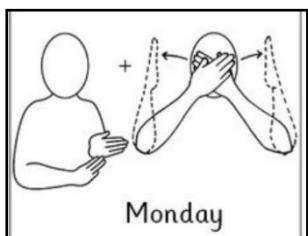
Please see the January online safety newsletter sent out separately. It is very good, as always, and contains information and advice around:

- Online game chat can expose children to strangers, inappropriate language, and grooming risks—use communication restrictions and ensure they know how to block/report others.
- Cyberbullying is common in gaming, including exclusion, criticism, and ganging up—teach respectful online behaviour.
- In-app purchases can be costly, so disable saved payment methods or require passwords for purchases.
- Set up parental controls both within the game and on the device/console to manage safety and access.
- Check age ratings (PEGI or App Store/Google Play) before allowing your child to play a game.

- Have regular conversations with your child about online risks and encourage them to speak to a trusted adult if anything worries them.
- Snapchat poses risks, including inappropriate content, location sharing, cyberbullying, strangers making contact, pressure to maintain streaks, and disappearing messages encouraging risky behaviour.
- Snapchat's Family Centre allows safety oversight, such as seeing friends lists, recent interactions, group members, restricting content and reporting concerns—ensure privacy settings and blocking/reporting tools are enabled.

Sign Language - Sign of the Week

We are learning days of the week and this week we have learned, '**Monday**'



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.

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>

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.

Smartphone Free Childhood



Fact of the Week

FACT OF THE WEEK

Children who spend more time outdoors show better concentration and emotional resilience.

You will notice around school a QR code inviting parents and carers to the St Mary's Smartphone Free childhood Whatsapp group. Here is the link again:



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KfaEkjXuUxcD45oTX1lFe1>

You are not alone in wanting to create a childhood free from smartphones and social media.

Join the St Mary's Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp community for tips and support because screens can wait - childhood cannot!

<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.’

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 09.01.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of PEACE
Nursery	s	Ruby	Super work during literacy talking about what makes us sad
	v		
	Dojo	Thomas	
R	s	Oliver	For fantastic weaving in DT
	v	Ottolie	For being a kind and thoughtful friend
	Dojo	Marabelle	

Y1	s	Amaya	For her positive attitude to all her work and her lovely manners.
	v	Avaeha	Learning quietly and calmly.
	Dojo	Maggie	
Y2	s	Rory	For an amazing effort all week across all of his learning.
	v		
	Dojo	Brooklyn	
Y3	s	Theo	For excellent answering of questions in class (especially in maths)
	v	Evie Wi	Always brings peace to our classroom
Y4	s	Theo Price	Great work in maths this week multiplying by ten and one hundred
	v		
Y5	s	Freddie	A fabulous week for learning all round – keep it up Freddie!
	v	George	A wonderful analogy used about family when speaking to visitors earlier this week
Y6	s	James	A wonderful letter written in role as Lady Macbeth.
	v		

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 16.01.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of PEACE
Nursery	s	Austin	A super week in nursery following all nursery rules
	v	George	Always being a kind and gentle friend
	Dojo	Karl	
R	s	Arthur	For enthusiasm with number work and working hard in RE
	v	Indie	For being a kind friend to others
	Dojo	Toby	
Y1	s	Amara	Lovely description of the Queen in our story writing.

	v	Olivia	Being gentle with her friends.
	Dojo	Ellie	
Y2	s	Archie A	For excellent work during mathematics group work drawing 2D shapes and listening to instructions given.
	v	Hallie	For showing gentleness towards her friends during class and play this week.
	Dojo	Ella	
Y3	s	Arthur	Great focus and answering questions well
	v	Zara	Being gentle with others in class
Y4	s	Ruby F	Great engagement in our science work
	v	Keira	Always being gentle with others
Y5	s	Violet	Fabulous contributions and listening in Mr Souter's Debt Aware session this morning.
	v	Finley	Brilliant and valuable contributions to support and help nurture others' learning.
Y6	s	Poppy	Her wonderful problem-solving skills during our algebra topic.
	v	Neave	For always showing empathy to others.

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2025/2026 w/e 19.12.25



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 1	97.44
2nd	YEAR 3	97.42
3rd	YEAR 4	97.11
4th	YEAR 2	97.05
5th	RECEPTION	96.87
6th	YEAR 5	95.97
7th	YEAR 6	93.88

No **100%** attendance this week.

How does our attendance compare against other schools? 15.01.26

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ⓘ
Overall attendance	96.4%	You are ranked 93rd out of 478 schools
Overall absence	3.6%	You are ranked 93rd out of 478 schools
Authorised absence	3.1%	You are ranked 144th out of 478 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.5%	You are ranked 47th out of 478 schools
Persistently absent	6.8%	You are ranked 62nd out of 478 schools
Severely absent	0.6%	You are ranked 280th out of 478 schools

Since the end of the autumn term, we have moved up 10 places from 103 to 93. I think we can still aim for a top ten finish; we were in 4th position at the end of 2024/ 2025.

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>



Some New Year reminders

Earrings and Jewellery - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If

Hair styles

We expect pupils to have sensible hair styles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school and nursery a fashion- free zone!

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.



Shoes Pupils are expected to wear plain black shoes. Again, we want school to remain a fashion-free zone. Some sports companies make black trainers for children. We ask you not to us these for school. They are trainers and not shoes and of course, the children will prefer to wear them! However, once one has them, this puts pressure on the other children to ask their parents for them. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter. No boots please!





Labelling Uniforms

The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing, please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing, we will be putting the lost property box in the newly available space in the main entrance.

Future Date – Compass Bloom Sleep Assembly Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 9am. Parents/ carers of children in Yrs 3-6 are invited.



Sleep is essential for a child's physical and mental development, helping with growth, brain function, immunity, mood, and learning. Lack of sleep can cause issues like inattentiveness, irritability, poor problem-solving and hyperactivity. We spend about a third of our lives asleep! Yet sleep is often one of the first things we compromise on when things become busy or overwhelming.

We invite parents and carers to Join us for a short assembly to learn more about how important sleep is and what you can do to improve sleeping habits. We will be At St Marys Primary School on Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 9am. At the end of the assembly, there will be an opportunity to refer your child onto our 2 week sleep workshop taking place in school on 17th and 24th March 2026. We look forward to seeing you there. See attached leaflet for details.

NHS Dentist for Children

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



**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





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.		



SCAN TO DONATE