School Newsletter

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

16.10.26

Follow us on Instagram at: @stmaryschorley

Dear parents and carers,

We have come to the end of a very busy and successful first half-term of the academic year. The past six and a half weeks have flown by and we have packed a lot into a short space of time. Well done to all our boys and girls for their hard work, enthusiasm and positive attitude as they have settled into their new classes. We are very proud of all that you have achieved already this year.

We would also like to thank our parents, carers and staff for their continued support during what has been a busy start to the school year. We hope the children enjoy a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back, safe and sound, on **Monday 2 November.**

All Saints/ All Souls Mass Monday 2 November

This year, children in KS2 Y3 toY6 will be going to St Mary's Church for All Saints/ All Souls Mass on the first day back on Monday 2 November. We ask that children are dropped off at Church door on that morning from 8.45am. They will be registered by their class teacher in Church. After Mass, they will walk back down to school. Please ensure children have suitable clothing in case of rain showers for the walk back. Thank you.

CAFOD Fundraising 2026

Thank you to you all for supporting **CAFOD's Brighten Up the Harvest** fundraising day. You raised an incredible **£350** which has been banked and sent off to CAFOD.

Poppy Appeal

We will be supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal when we return next month – more details have been sent out by the school office.

Cuddly Toys and Children's Book Collection Donation Day

On behalf of local volunteer, Pauline Barnes, I would like to say a big thank-you to you all for your contributions to the pre-owned *Cuddly Toy and Children's books* donation day this week. We had a porch-ful! Pauline was overwhelmed by your generosity.



As we said in previous newsletters, the donations will be split between children's wards and A&E wards in Chorley and Preston as well as some going to children in Ukraine.

Open Days

We had the last of our October open days this week. It was great to be able to show off our school to prospective parents.



If you know of anyone looking for a place at St Mary's for September 2027, please let them know that they can come in and take a look at the school in action via appointment.

Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all the parents and carers who took part in our Parents' Evenings this week. It was an opportunity for families and teachers to connect, if required, at this stage and discuss pupils' learning so far this term.

A thank you also goes to our teachers for giving their time and effort to support these meetings.

Please note that Mr Hodge's Parents' Evening appointments are planned to take place after the half-term break.

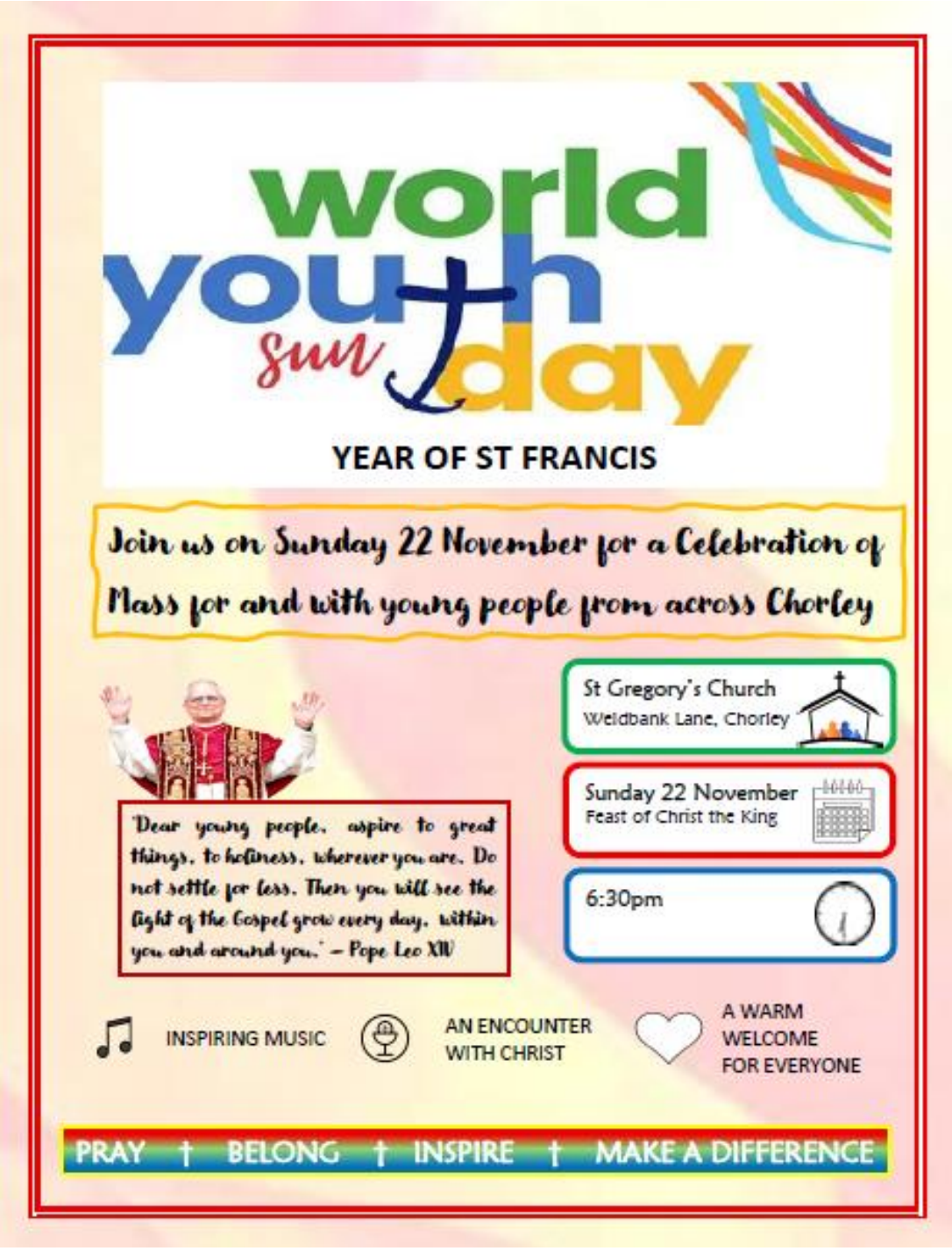
Sports News ***-St Mary's Football Team Reach Finals Night***

Well done to our St Mary's football team, who represented the school superbly at the finals night at Westway yesterday. The team faced a very strong side from St Chad's in their opening match. Despite a series of heroic saves from our goalkeeper, Finn, St Mary's were narrowly beaten 1-0 in a closely contested game.

In their second match, the team again gave an excellent account of themselves but suffered another narrow 1-0 defeat against Christ Church Charnock Richard. Although their journey in this year's competition came to an end, the players showed great determination, teamwork and resilience throughout the evening and can exit the competition with their heads held high. They were a credit to themselves, their families and our school.

A huge well done to all of the players, and thank you to Mr Hodge for his dedication in preparing and supporting the team. We would also like to thank all the parents and carers whose encouragement and support from the sidelines was greatly appreciated. Finally, a big thank you to the CSSP and the high school sports leaders (including former St Mary's pupils) for their excellent organisation of the event, which, as always, was a fantastic experience for all involved.

Youth Mass at St Gregory's on Sunday 22 November.



CSSP Half Term Holiday Club – see leaflets at the end of newsletter

Attendance

Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2026/2027 w/e 16.10.26



Congratulations to **reception class** on their 100% attendance this week – they have received one of Mrs Hargreaves' newly designed 100% attendance certificates to put up in their classroom.

At primary school, children who have high attendance (95-100% attendance) in Year 6 are 30% more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who miss just 2-4 weeks of school (90-95% attendance).

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEEKLY CLASS ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLE (ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027)

Week Number:	Week 7	Date/Period:	12/10/2026 - 16/10/2026	School Target:	97.0%

Rank	Class Name	This Week %	Last Week %	Change	Trend	Target Met? (97%+)
1	Year 3	98.59%	99.34%	-0.75%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
2	Year 6	97.87%	98.03%	-0.16%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
3	Year 4	97.23%	97.37%	-0.14%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
4	Year 1	97.20%	98.15%	-0.95%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
5	Year 2	97.17%	97.62%	-0.45%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
6	Year 5	96.67%	97.07%	-0.40%	▼ Down	Below Target
7	Reception	94.41%	93.37%	1.04%	▲ Up	Below Target
	School Average	97.0%	97.3%	-0.3%	▼ Down	★ Target Met

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

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 16.10.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Freyja	Always trying hard and following nursery rules
	v	Oliver	Looking after a friend who had an injury from home.
	Dojo	Matilda	
R	s	Libby	For super pattern work in Maths
	v	Aria T	For being kind and caring to her friends
	Dojo	Joseph	
Y1	s	Corey	For his excellent attitude to learning this week.
	v	Logan	For showing gentleness and patience in group work.
	Dojo	Rosie	
Y2	s	Gloria	For super work in her animal adventure story.
	v	Robert	For showing compassion when a friend needed help.
	Dojo	Rayne and Maggie	
Y3	s	Joshua	His wonderful and accurate work in mathematics.
	v	Joey	Showing kindness and consideration to those on his table
Y4	s	Jacob	Great reading with Mrs Ash
	v	Zara	Being a kind and thoughtful member of the class
Y5	s	Lucas	Thoughtful and considerate contributions in our work on virtues and the common good
	v	Holly	Displaying service and gentleness during group work and putting the needs of others before her own
Y6	s	Nathaniel	His wonderful work in science linked to adaptation.
	v	Ella	For always showing compassion.

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See Tippy Toes Baby Bank baby clothes appeal below



CSSP School Holiday Clubs





Yarrow Schools Alliance – for teacher trainees

St Mary's is proud to have been a member of the Yarrow Schools Teaching School Alliance (YSA) for over a decade now. Over those years, we have welcomed a number of trainee teachers on placement here at school. Many of these teachers have gone on to work in schools in Chorley and the local area and have forged successful teaching careers. It is an excellent way into primary teaching. There are a number of routes into teaching but those who have taken this particular path speak very highly of it.

The teacher-training programme provided by the YSA is for those who want a career in teaching and already have a degree level qualification. The programme lasts for one year and involves two long-term placements in Chorley area primary schools alongside high quality training and support provided by the YSA. At the end of the programme, participants emerge as qualified teachers.

If you are interested, or you know anyone else who might be, please contact Rob Horne at r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can call me for a brief chat and I can tell you a little bit about.