



School Newsletter

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

17th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy St Patrick's Day!



Good Shepherd Appeal 2023

Next week is the fourth and final week for the 2023 Good Shepherd Appeal. The auditions for the Good Shepherd Talent Show are in full swing to celebrate the end of this year's appeal.



Thank you to all our children and families for your support in making and buying cakes, devising games and activities and for dancing away at the disco. The children have had a great time whilst raising money for such a good cause. Just a note, the disco is a **50p voluntary contribution** rather than 'no money, no admission!'

Day	Activity
Mondays	Cake sale – sell and buy cakes – max 1 per person – max price 50p
Tuesdays	Games and activities – guess how many sweets are in a jar/ spot the ball/ name the teddy/ lucky dip etc.
Wednesdays	Disco in the hall – 50p voluntary contribution

See web address below for further details:

<https://wearenugent.org/fundraising/good-shepherd-appeal-2023/>

St Mary's Loves Reading – Big Book Swap – 29.03.23

On the Wednesday of the last week of term (29.03.23), we are going to have a big book swap in the school hall during break time. Children can bring in books that they are finished with and are happy to give away. They can then browse books other children have brought in and take them home if they so wish. If there are any left over, we can put them in the various class libraries



Eco Schools Green Flag

Hopefully, by now you will have seen our new Eco-Schools Green Flag fluttering on its flagpole.



Mr Cahalin organised a special flag-raising ceremony for us on Tuesday morning. The children gathered waving their amazing homemade Eco flags. The Eco-Council read us a very thought-provoking poem. Mrs Nicklin, who leads the Eco Council with Mr Cahalin, brought her very well-behaved daughter, Elizabeth to watch proceedings, and gave us a few words. Cllr Stephen Holgate gave a short speech before Sea Cadet Leon in Y6 hoisted the flag to its prominent position. We finished with a beautiful Eco song the children have been learning in class. Sir Lindsay Hoyle was unable to attend but he sent us a special video message.

The flag ...

- is a way to acknowledge, reward and celebrate the ecological achievements of our children and that their hard work is appreciated
- it provides them with the confidence and motivation needed to continue actively engaging with environmental issues throughout their lifetimes
- tells our local community that St Mary's is a forward-thinking school and promotes child-led environmental education and action.

Attendance 2022/ 2023

The governors met this week and one of the topics for discussion was the school's attendance policy. The school has set itself a target of **97%** attendance and, at the moment, we are at about **96.4%**. Hopefully, in the summer term, with fewer germs spreading around we can get to or even surpass that 97% mark.



A reminder also that, as headteacher, I am unable to authorise leave of absence for holidays in term time. I am only able to authorise requests for leave of absence in term time if there are exceptional circumstances; and these are assessed on a case-by-case basis. If holidays are taken in term time, and the absence is five days or more, the school policy requires that the school will ask the local authority to issue a penalty charge notice. The penalty charge works out at approximately £60 per parent per child per week of absence.

On a more positive note, we want to reintroduce an end of year award for pupils whose attendance across the year has been very good to excellent. Keep an eye out for more details later in the year.

Y2 and Y6 Assessments (SATs) Meetings Monday 27th March

There will be meeting for parents of children in Year 2 who will be undertaking the end of KS1 assessments this summer and for the parents of children in Y6 who will be doing the national curriculum tests (SATs) in May. The Year 2 meeting will take place between 5.30pm – 6.00pm and the Y6 meeting will take place between 6.00 -6.30pm in order to accommodate parents who may have children in both classes. The Year 6 meeting will also give Mr Cahalin a chance to share some information about the upcoming Hothersall Lodge residential visit.

Wednesday Word



The Primary School *Wednesday Word* is an outreach which shares Sunday's Gospel with **all school families**, in a unique way.

- This is a weekly Gospel 'gift' from the school to the child to take home, which then becomes a 'gift' from the child to the whole family. It is downloadable from the school website here.

[Wednesday Word | St. Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk\)](https://www.stmaryschorley.lancs.sch.uk/wednesday-word)

It's Mental Family Wellbeing Festival - 24th June 2023 - A letter from Tom Halstead, Community Engagement Officer, Chorley Borough Council

Good Afternoon,

Huge Family Wellbeing Event at Rivington this summer!



“The Family Wellbeing Festival is a large-scale event, targeting families of all ages. The aim is to get families spending time together outdoors, taking part in activities and workshops to help them understand how they can better manage their wellbeing, to prevent them needing intervention from health services in the future. We hope to bring together a range of businesses, organisations, clubs and charities to provide information to attendees and to host tasks and activities for the families to take part in as taster sessions, whilst promoting their services and sessions and any volunteering opportunities they may have.”

Early bird tickets currently available - <https://www.itsmental.co.uk/familywellbeingfestival>

Kind Regards, Tom Halstead, Community Engagement Officer

What's Your Story Chorley? 2023

This year's ***What's Your Story Chorley?*** main event takes place on 25th March and Chorley Library will have presentations and activities for young people throughout the day. The full programme will be available very soon.

In addition to events on the day we have an event on Wednesday 22nd March from 4 – 5 in Chorley Library. The author Susan Brownrigg will be presenting her work, stories and ideas.

Step Back in Time for Stories with author Susan Brownrigg

Want to have a go at writing a story set in the past? Published children's author, Susan Brownrigg, will demonstrate how to dig into the past to find inspiration for terrific tales. Learn tricks for choosing a setting, naming and defining characters and working out what they want in a fun interactive workshop for ages 8 to 12.



Susan Brownrigg is the author of the Gracie Fairshaw mystery series set in 1930s Blackpool and Kintana and the Captain's Curse a treasure hunt adventure with lemurs set in Madagascar during the golden age of Piracy (all published by Uclan.) She is a Lancashire lass who also works as a library assistant and has had a varied career as a journalist & museum learning manager. Mrs Blackwell and Miss Hesketh took the St Mary's netball team to Albany Academy on Wednesday evening to compete in the first of three Hi-5 netball competitions. The team performed well against some very strong opposition winning two out of the four games they played. Once again, Miss Hesketh praised the children for their team spirit, and for their outstanding behaviour. Well done and good luck next week.

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>

Health & Safety Notices

Illness in school this week

Just for your information – we have had a high number of cases of vomiting and diarrhoea in school this week. In addition, we had two cases of COVID in Y5.

Sickness and/ or diarrhoea

If your child does become ill with **sickness or diarrhoea**, the guidance for schools from Public Health England gives a minimum recommended absence from school of 48 **hours**. This is to limit the spread of the bug around school. Thank you.





Chorley
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

EASTER SPORTS CAMP

Ages 5 – 11 years

Four days of sports, fun & games with a themed party day on the Thursday!

A packed lunch with lots of water will be needed.

www.chorleyssp.co.uk/holiday-events

£70 FOUR DAYS
£20 SINGLE DAY

APRIL
3rd – 6th

SACRED HEART
Brooke Street, PR6 0LB


CLAYTON LE WOODS
Back Lane, PR6 7EU

9.30AM–3.00PM

CONTACT US
camp@chorleyssp.co.uk
07306403255 /
01257449278

Chorley
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 17.03.23

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Katie R	trying very hard with her phonics this week.
	YR	Harper	trying very hard and fantastic enthusiasm
	Y1	Hattie	always being ready to learn.
	Y2	CiCi	working so hard on her writing and being more independent this week
	Y3	Emily R	brilliant presentation of work in all subjects.
	Y4	Winter-Rose	effort and determination in learning the times tables
	Y5	Feba	always setting a good example in all she does.
	Y6	Seb	hard work in mathematics and great explanations



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2022/2023 w/e 17/03/2023



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	RECEPTION	96.99
2nd	YEAR 4	96.86
3rd	YEAR 6	96.58
4th	YEAR 3	96.50
5th	YEAR 5	96.10
6th	YEAR 1	95.85
7th	YEAR 2	95.74

No 100% THIS WEEK!

P Smyth 17.03.23

Are you interested in training to become a primary school teacher?

Visit the YSA website

www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk

to find out more about what is on offer.

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