



# School Newsletter

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

17.04.26

**Dear parents and carers,**

Welcome back to final term in the school year; this year seems to have flown by so far. I hope you all enjoyed a happy and holy Easter. The children returned to school refreshed and raring to go again and I am sure they are looking forward to the warmer weather ahead over the next few weeks and months.

**NHS Drop-in Session – Thursday 23.04.26 at 0930**



Parents and carers are invited to come into school meet and meet a member of the NHS Chorley School Nursing Team and talk to them in complete confidence about various health topics including, but not limited to, emotional health, diet, healthy lifestyles, sleep, bedwetting, constipation, head lice and behaviour.

No appointment is necessary – just come in and sign in at the school's front entrance next **Thursday 23.04.26 at 0900 – 1000**. NB Information is not shared with school unless you want it to be.

**Y4 Class Trip to Brockholes**

Our Y4 class had an enjoyable day of outdoor learning at Brockholes Nature Reserve supporting their studies in geography and science. Many thanks to the volunteers who came along to support the visit.

**Y3 trip to Deva (Chester)**

Next week our Y3s will be heading down to Chester to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Britain in the time of the Romans.

**Nursery Read Write Inc. phonics meeting for parents and carers.**

Thank you to the parents and carers that were able to attend this week's session on phonics in the nursery class. Thank you to Mrs Cahalin for arranging and leading the session.

## **Mrs Nicklin visit**

Mrs Nicklin paid a surprise visit to school on Wednesday to introduce us to her baby son. The children (and staff!) were very excited and thrilled to meet them both.

## **Sports News**

### ***CSSP Netball league***

Seven members of the St Mary's netball squad went to Holy Cross High School to take part in the first of four afternoons of a netball league. The squad, made up mainly of Y5 players, came up against three teams from across Chorley. They got off to a difficult start coming up against a very experienced and talented team from Heskin school. That said, they didn't allow their heads to drop and put in improving performances against both Brinscall and St Gregory's. Thank you to the CSSP for organising so well and to one of our parents, Ms Simcock, for providing some expertise and on the spot coaching. Well done to our squad and we wish them all the best over the remaining three weeks.

### ***Football - Ollerton Cup Quarter Finals***

The St Mary's football team were in action tonight in the quarter-finals of the Ollerton Cup. They were drawn against the Christ Church school team from Charnock Richard. In a very entertaining game of football, much closer than the 4-0 score line suggests, St Mary's played some great football but were ultimately knocked out of the competition by a very talented Charnock side. We wish them all the very best in the semis. A big thank you to our former pupil, Alfie, who refereed the game for us. Well done St Mary's – you did us proud. Thanks, as always, to Mr Hodge for his time and his effort in arranging the matches and coaching the children.

## **PTFA News**

Work begins next week on the *Project Playground* improvements – repairs and improvements will be made to the play equipment around school.

## **Bags 2 School**

Thank you for your donations this week to the Bag 2 School collection. Funds raised from the collection will go towards the PTFA 'Project Playground' appeal



## **Fundraising opportunity**

**[easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)**

Booking a holiday? You can raise a huge £125 donation for Chorley, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery when you book with TUI via **[easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)**!

There's no extra cost and it will make a real difference to our school. If you're not supporting us on easyfundraising yet, now's the perfect time to get involved.

Hurry, this offer is only available until the end of March. Sign up today here:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/chorleystmaryscatholicprimaryschoolandnursery/40ZIOU/c2s/uc0KLOgX/CE072/facebook/>

### **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](mailto: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.



### **Free School Meals – Are you missing out?**

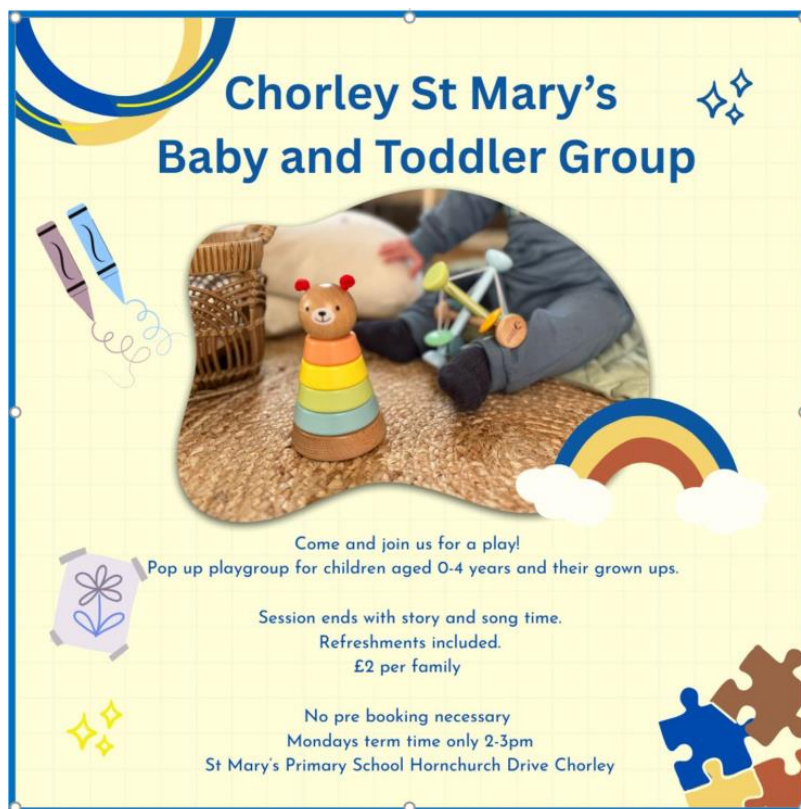
Find out if you are eligible and find out how to apply – follow this link.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

## Baby and Toddler Group

We host a fantastic parent/ grandparent, baby and toddler group at St Mary's in the school hall on Monday afternoons – it's a very friendly group and the children have lots of fun. If you are interested, then please do come along or if you know anyone who you know think might be interested please point them in our direction. Thank you so much to the volunteers who come along to run the sessions each week.

– it is a very enjoyable session – please spread the word!



## 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](mailto:jacqueline.malone@chorleyscouts.org.uk) for more information.

## Foodbank

Following on from the fabulous support shown for our Harvest Service back in October, 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>

**STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 17.04.26**

<b>Class</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Star of the week for... &amp; Value of the week of love</b>
Nursery	s	Skye	A super week in nursery
	v	Elsy	Caring for a friend who was upset showing her love for her friends
	Dojo	Petra	
R	s	Hallie	For being a super role model and always doing the right thing
	v	Zach	For being kind and caring to others
	Dojo	Olivia	
Y1	s	Avaeha	Her enthusiasm towards our new topics this week has been infectious and motivational to others.
	v	Collette	Shows love by seeing worth in all of her friends.
	Dojo	Olivia S	
Y2	s	Olivia W	For always showing a wonderful work ethic in all she does.
	v	Paisley	For showing love towards her friends.
	Dojo	Eleanor and Sophie	
Y3	s	Keeley	For asking for help and support in Maths when she needs it.
	v	Ralphi	Always shows love and kindness to others.
Y4	s	Hattie	Great Gulliver's Travels story using fronted adverbials for when and where.
	v	Leo	For giving up something he wanted to do for someone else at breakfast club.

Y5	s	Thomas I	Wonderful contributions in all lessons and being a fantastic role model
	v	Arlo	Always showing commitment, honesty and kindness towards others
Y6	s	Joseph P	For working hard on his handwriting and presentation
	v	William B	always creating a peaceful working environment in class.

### Love - values for this half term

- **Dignity** – Love recognizes the inherent worth of every person.
- **Faithfulness** – Love remains committed, loyal, and trustworthy over time.
- **Purity** – Love seeks what is good, honest, and life-giving rather than self-serving.
- **Forgiveness** – Love chooses mercy and restoration over retaliation.
- **Sacrifice** – Love is willing to give of itself for the sake of others.
- **Diversity** – Love embraces difference, seeing it as something to honor rather than fear.

### Smartphone Free Childhood

### Fact of the Week



#### FACT OF THE WEEK

Children may unknowingly share personal information, creating a lasting digital footprint.

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:



**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.'*

## Attendance



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2025/2026 w/e 17.04.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %	↑ OR ↓
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 3	97.63	↑
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 4	97.09	↑
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 2	96.93	↑
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 1	96.83	↑
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	96.71	↑
6 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	96.24	↓
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 6	94.15	↑

No **100%** attendance this week!

*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).*

### Lancashire Schools Attendance Data up to 09.04.26

**How does St Mary's compare?** (We have moved up five places since last update)

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	96.5%	You are ranked 83rd out of 481 schools
Overall absence	3.5%	You are ranked 83rd out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	3.1%	You are ranked 138th out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.4%	You are ranked 28th out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	5.7%	You are ranked 73rd out of 481 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 481 schools



## Some 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 use 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!**



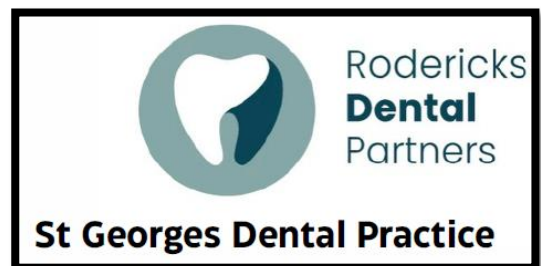
### Labelling Uniforms

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.

P Smyth  
17.04.26

### 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**



 Part of the SVP Nationally



**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
<p><b>Seated Yoga</b> Adlington Library 9:30-10:30am. <b>FREE to all.</b></p>	<p><b>St Joseph's Good Food Club</b> St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane, Chorley 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. <b>£5 to shop and donations for refreshments.</b></p>	<p><b>Coppull Good Food Club</b> St John the Divine Parish Hall, Coppull 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. <b>£5 to shop and donations for refreshments.</b></p>	<p><b>Buttermere Good Food Club</b> Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. <b>£5 to shop and donations for refreshments.</b></p>	<p><b>Clayton Brook Good Food Club</b> Clayton Brook Village Hall, Clayton-le-Woods 10:30-11:15am. <b>£5 to shop and refreshments available in the Café.</b></p>
<p><b>Knit and Natter</b> Primrose Gardens, Chorley 10am-12pm. <b>Donations welcome.</b></p>	<p><b>Seated Yoga</b> Adlington Library 11am-12pm. <b>FREE to all.</b></p>	<p><b>Gardening Club</b> Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 11:00am-12:00pm. <b>FREE to all.</b></p>	<p><b>Seated Exercise</b> Ravensthorpe Independent Living Accommodation, Astley Village 10:30am-11:30pm. <b>£3 suggested donation.</b></p>	<p><b>Aquarobics</b> All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. Term time only. <b>£5 suggested donation.</b></p>
<p><b>Kids Arts and Crafts</b> Coppull Library 3:30-4:30pm. <b>Term time only.</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Fit</b> Euxton Community Centre, 11:15am-12:15pm. <b>£3 suggested donation.</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch Social</b> 2nd Wednesday of the month St Chad's Parish Centre from 12-2pm <b>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</b> <b>Donations welcome.</b></p>		
	<p><b>Lunch Social</b> 4th Tuesday of the month Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley from 12-2pm. <b>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</b> <b>Donations welcome.</b></p>	<p><b>Buddies Café</b> Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 9am-3pm Affordable café with crafts running from 12:30-2pm <b>Everyone welcome</b></p>		
	<p><b>Seated Exercise</b> All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. <b>£5 suggested donation.</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Fit</b> Crosston Old School, Church Street, Crosston 1:30-2:30pm. <b>£3 suggested donation.</b></p>		



**SCAN TO DONATE**

## Chorley Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshops

See below leaflets about Chorley Sweet Chilli parenting workshops – the first one is in June/ July, the second in September/ October. I know some of our parents have attended these in the past and have found them very useful. See below for details.



**A down-to-earth workshop in a supportive setting**

Learn about brain development, parenting styles, attachment, the impact of stress on both adults and children and how a trauma informed and therapeutic approach to parenting can have a positive impact on the whole family

**No Jargon**  
We keep things simple and relatable

**No Judgement**  
Share your experiences without fear of criticism

**No Pressure**  
Join in the discussion as much or as little as you would like

### Chorley Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshop Dates

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm

The sessions will take place at the Home-Start Central Lancashire offices, 112a Market Street, Chorley PR7 2SL  
Access to the building is via the Fleet Street Car Park

If you would like to register for a place on the session, please call the office on 01257 241636 and ask to be added to the booking list.

Please be aware that **all sessions** must be completed, and we are unable to offer any childcare for the sessions.  
Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come first-served served

If you would like to hear about our future Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshops, please register via the QR code and we will then be able to send you the information when new sessions are released.



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Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm

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