



# School Newsletter

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

17<sup>h</sup> May 2024

Dear parents and carers,

## Changes to the school day from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024

In the March 2022 Schools White Paper, it was announced that the minimum expectation of a school week is 32.5 hours. Whilst not statutory, the deadline to meet this expectation is September 2024.

A core school week is the time from morning registration to the official end of the school day for all pupils (including breaks). In simple terms, to have a school week of 32.5 hours we need to have a school day of 6.5 hours. At the moment, we have a school day of 6 hours and 20 minutes. In order to meet the expectation, we needed find an additional 10 minutes each day.

We looked for solution which caused the minimum amount of disruption to both staff and parents and has the most positive impact on pupils.

When we put the survey out to parents/ carers, there was an excellent response with a 61% to 39% split in favour of our preferred option.

The consultation is complete and the new school week will be as below. Please note that registration at the start of the day will be **five minutes earlier** and that the end of the school day will be **five minutes later** than is the case currently.

## School Week from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

School hours	Doors open for children	Registration (start of school day)	End of school day	Opening Hours Daily Total	School Week Total hrs
Current	0845	0855	1515	6.33	31.67
<b>From Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>	<b>0845</b>	<b>0850</b>	<b>1520</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>32.5</b>

## Nursery Week

Please note that the nursery class start and end times will be unaffected in September. The nursery day will remain as start at 0845 and end at 151

## Health Week

Next week is our school's annual health week. Children often tell us that this is their favourite and most memorable week in the whole school year. Thank you Mr Hodge for putting together a fantastic menu of health and sports-related activities for the children to enjoy and thank you Mrs Wilson for organising the painting of the lines on the athletics track on the field!

I have attached the 'Health Week' timetable for parents/ carers again to remind you of some of the things that will be happening.

The 'sports day' element of health week is organised into three events: infants, lower juniors and upper junior. These are being run for us by the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership and will involve both track and field events.

The week ends with the now traditional 'Colour Run' around the daily mile track; a separate letter has gone out about this.

Parents and family members are warmly invited to attend. We will be signing people in and out of the school grounds by the front entrance, so that we know who is on site for security reasons. The weather forecast for next week, looks reasonable, so fingers-crossed we can get away without any postponements. If we do need to postpone, we will let parents and carers know as soon as we can via GroupCall.

## Walk to School Week

As part of Health Week, St Mary's is taking part in *Walk to School Week* (20-24 May). The nationwide event is organised by walking charity *Living Streets* and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. Children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates!



Not only will it set them up for a positive day in the classroom, but it will also help create healthy habits for life. This year's challenge, *The Magic of Walking*, encourages children to travel actively to school every day of the week. They'll learn about the important reasons to walk and the difference it can make for individuals, communities and the planet! Each pupil will be challenged to travel sustainably (walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or Park and Stride) to school every day for one week.

## What do I need to do as a parent/carer?

We would ask, if possible, to make arrangements so that your child/children can travel actively to school on week commencing 20th May, helping our school reduce congestion and pollution around the school gates. Walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling all count! We have plenty of spaces on the bike racks!

If you live far away from school and need to drive or take public transport, try parking the car or hopping off the bus ten minutes away and walking the rest of the journey.

Good luck!

### **New intake meeting for parents of children joining reception - Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup>**

This year we are having our new intake meeting for the parents of children joining us in the reception class in the autumn term in an afternoon session on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. This means that we are also going to be able to invite the children to attend too, and they will be able to spend the session in their new classroom.

### **Reception September 2024 places**

We still have some places for our reception class in September, so if you know of anyone moving into the area and looking for a place in a Catholic school for September, please let them know. Sometimes families move into the area and are surprised the school is here because it is tucked away.

### **Y4 Parent/ Carer Sacramental Meeting – Zoom – Monday 13 May**

Thank you to the parents and carers for attending in great number for the meeting with Mrs Grzeczynska to go through details and logistics for the First Holy Communion on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

### **First Confessions Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May (Afternoon)**

Mrs Grzeczynska has arranged for three priests including Fr Marsden to come into school on Monday afternoon (20 May) to give the sacrament of First Confession to the children in the Y4 sacramental programme. The children were prepared this week by Mrs Grzeczynska with clouds and rainbows.

### **We still have a vacancy for a site supervisor!**

We are looking for a part-time site-supervisor (caretaker) to work 15 hours a week, 0600 - 0900 each day, with some flexibility to work additional hours, if possible. If you are interested or if you know anyone else who is, please let the office know.

### **Road safety!**

In the absence of a site supervisor, we are struggling to put out those yellow 'No Parking' signs/ A-frames. Are there any parents or carers able to arrive a few minutes early and put them out for us – particularly the ones on Walgarth Drive? If you can, please let the office know – it would be greatly appreciated.

### **Sports News – Tri-Golf**

On Tuesday afternoon after school, the St Mary's golf squad went to Holy Cross to take part in the annual CSSP Tri- Golf competition. They had to negotiate a variety of skills-based challenges including putting and chipping the ball to earn points for the team. Mrs Cahalin said that they gave their best efforts and had a lot of fun.

She said that the secondary school sports leaders did a fantastic job in running the various challenges. Thank you to the CSSP for organising and well done to all the golfers for their great teamwork and thank you to Mrs Cahalin for managing the team and taking them along.

### **Free School Meals, Pupil Premium and School Budget (message also sent out separately)**

Our school budget, like most school budgets, is becoming increasingly stretched by the rising costs of goods and services. There is a source of funding that we think our school could be possibly missing out on. It is called **pupil premium** funding. Schools receive this money for each child that is entitled to the **free school meals** benefit (this is something different to infant free school meals).

The school may be missing out on this funding because it does not receive it automatically. It requires parents/ carers to apply for it and many of us may not even realise they we are entitled to this benefit.

To confuse matters further, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to universal infant free school meals but this is different to free school meals as it does not bring in pupil premium funding for school. Parents of children in the infants may be entitled to free school meals in addition to universal infant free school meals.

### **What can parents/ carers do to help?**

Therefore we would like to ask all of our parents/ carers from reception to Year 6 to consider whether they might meet the criteria for free school meals for their child(ren). This could help to ensure that the school does not miss additional pupil premium funding.

There is a simple way to check to see if your child(ren) may be entitled to free school meals. It is accessed through Lancashire County Council and it is a very quick, straightforward process. See link: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=2>

There is a very good article on the *Martin Lewis: Money Saving Expert* website which provides more information.

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/free-school-meals/>

### **Request for help from St Mary's Church**

We need some parental help, please!

We need volunteers for approximately one hour this Saturday 18th May at 13.30 to help clean the church before the Civic Service for the new Mayor and Mayoress on Sunday 19th May. Please bring your own dusters. It would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Kinga Grzeczynska

### **It's Mental *Family Wellbeing Festival* Sunday the 16th of June 2024**

One of our families is organising the Family Wellbeing Festival at Rivington this year; you may have seen the banners and posters dotted around Chorley. See leaflet attached to the newsletter for more details.


The Wellbeing Experience are organising the **Family Wellbeing Festival** which is taking over Rivington for the second year running, on Sunday the 16th of June 2024. We have a discounted family ticket for 2 adults and 2 junior tickets, and under 5s go free!

For more info and tickets please visit [www.itsmental.co.uk/familywellbeingfestival](http://www.itsmental.co.uk/familywellbeingfestival)

We'll have 10 zones featuring a range of activities, speakers and workshops where the whole family can take part in new activities, learn new skills, find new hobbies, learn more about volunteering and community projects, but most importantly to make sure they feel supported with their physical and mental health. We know that prevention is better than cure, meaning that helping people at the earliest opportunity means they are less likely to head for any crisis situations, even if they do not feel they need support in that moment they will have the knowledge and skills to access support if they should need it in the future.

We'll also be announcing **The Family Adventure Challenge** very soon! The challenge gives families the opportunity to work as a team and showcase their resilience whilst tackling the water, air and land activities, with 3 entry points to suit all ages. They are also able to use this challenge to raise money for a good cause, too!

#### Star of the Week 17.05.24

		Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Maggie W			always following the rules and trying her best.
YR	Eden			super speaking and listening and retelling his own story.
Y1	Coby			his determined effort and perseverance with his writing this week.
Y2	Ruby F			being a mathematical whizz!
Y3	Luke N			reached ULTIMATE on <i>Big Maths Learn Its</i> .
Y4	Thea			her wonderful story set in ancient Egypt.
Y5	Kyle			excellent contributions during our work on Oliver Twist in English and angles in mathematics.
Y6	All Year 6			their hard work during SATs week.

#### Messages from the school office:

##### **ParentPay**

Please can we settle ParentPay accounts as soon as possible. Thank you.

##### **School Uniform**

The school uniform order form has now been sent to parents electronically.

Please check the uniform requirements on the school website and complete the Groupcall form by 2nd June. Payments must be made in advance before 5th June. If you do not pay for your order in time, we will be unable to process your order before the deadline given by our suppliers and you will not receive your items by the end of the summer term.

We can submit late orders/payments to our suppliers by 12th July, but you will not receive items until September.

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/school-uniform>

## Attendance



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2023/2024 w/e 17.05.24



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 5	97.12
2nd	YEAR 6	97.08
3rd	YEAR 1	97.07
4th	YEAR 3	96.76
5th	YEAR 2	95.69
6th	RECEPTION	95.34
7th	YEAR 4	95.10

No 100% attendance this week.

## Blast In The Grass family festival at the Albany Academy on the 25th & 26th May

We received a letter from a family festival organiser to publicise the following event:



*Good Morning,*

*We hope you are all keeping well and holding up better than the weather! We just wanted to drop you an email as the organisers of the upcoming family festival, Blast In The Grass, which is taking place at the Albany Academy on the 25th & 26th May.*

*We wanted to make sure as many of the local parents with young children knew about the event as it will certainly offer them something to do over the bank holiday weekend and offers a cheap day out for the family.*

*The festival will be open to the public from 11am - 7pm on both days, and will feature a centre stage with performances from local bands, singers, and entertainers.*

We have a large fairground on-site as well as a huge inflatable zone, as well over 50 trade stalls made up of local crafters, traders and business, and multiple food vendors. Even a couple of bars for the parents!

I have attached a poster of the event for you to look at, please do feel free to share it amongst the pupils and parents if you think this is something they may enjoy, or if you would like some posters dropping in to send home with the parents please do just shout!

More information can be found at [www.blastinthegrass.co.uk](http://www.blastinthegrass.co.uk) and festival progress can be followed at <https://www.facebook.com/blastinthegrass/>.

Thank you, Mark, Dare 2 Event

### **Chorley Catholic Community Annual Festival - Sunday 8th September 1pm - 5pm, St Gregory's Church, Weldbank, Chorley**

Mr Paul McBeth the organiser of the *Chorley Catholic Community Annual Festival* has written to us to give advance notice of this year's event in September on Sunday 8th September 1pm - 5pm at St Gregory's Church, Weldbank, Chorley

He asked us to let you know about and offer you an official invitation to take part this year. It would be good to know if you want to take part. If interested, could you reply to [cnocl@hotmail.com](mailto:cnocl@hotmail.com) please? It's the same format as last year - you get a double gazebo but have to supply a table(s) and chairs.

### **Mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children. (Contacts below).**



P Smyth 17.05.24



Young People  
Scan this QR  
code to find  
support

SCAN ME

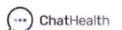
Text a school nurse directly to talk about health or emotional wellbeing:  
If you're 11-19 text our ChatHealth line on:  
**07507330510**  
or scan the QR code



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



care.think.do

