



School Newsletter

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

19th January 2024

Dear parents and carers,

A bit of good news to start the year ...

A letter to St Mary's from the Rt Hon Damian Hinds, MP, Minister for Schools arrived yesterday.

Well done to the Y2 children on their wonderful achievement last year, to the staff team for their excellent teaching of phonics and to Mrs Cahalin for her superb leadership of phonics at St Mary's. It is lovely to get recognition for a job well done!



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Minister for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Mr Patrick Smyth
St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Chorley
Lancashire
Hornchurch Drive
Chorley
PR7 2RJ

08 January 2024

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 97 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, Chorley meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 3 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

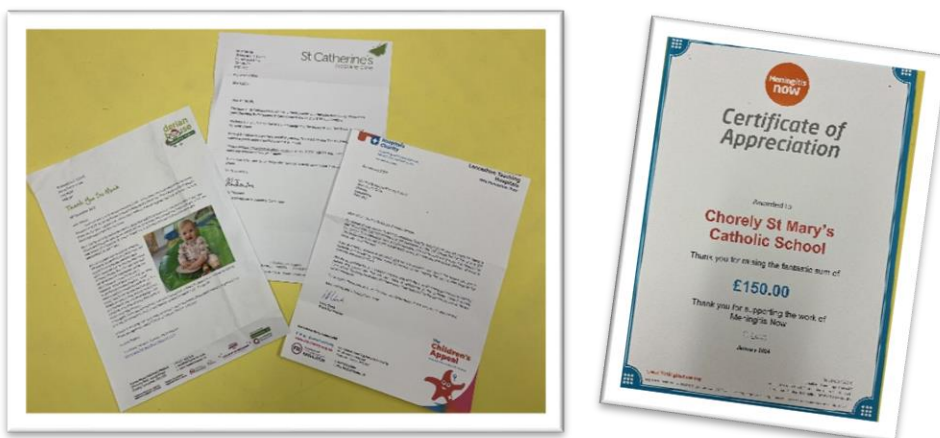
I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools

Christmas Performance Collections

Thank you once again for your kind donations at the end of the different Christmas performances. We have had certificates and notes of thanks from all the recipients. See below.



Good afternoon

Fr Marsden would like to thank you for the donation of £150.00 for the Ukraine Appeal and £200.00 towards the church heating costs, as a result of the Carol Concert collection. It is very much appreciated. Funds for the refugees and displaced Ukrainian people will be sent to Bishop Komar in Ukraine, in due course.

Kindest regards

Kinga Grzeczynska
Administrator
St Mary's RC Church, Chorley
Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Attendance – Moments Matter, Attendance Counts



On the 8th January, the Government launched a national campaign to remind parents and carers of the importance of attendance in school.

Let's make the spring term a fresh start for children and let's try and get as many children to attend for 100% of the time over this term.

We know that sometimes absences are unavoidable and sometimes even we send children home if they are unwell! But, are there times when a child is well enough to come in? To help you in making that decision there is a good guide from NHS: ***Is my child too ill for school?***

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

We ask you, parents and carers, to support good attendance for example by phoning the school office as soon as possible on the morning when your child is ill. *You should ring the school absence line (option 1) to report this to the school office by 9.00am.*

In return, we will support by monitoring attendance of each child and offer support if attendance drops. An absence of below 91% is regarded as ‘**persistent absence.**’ We have about 9% children in that category. I hope that, as we come out of the winter months, and those winter bugs take less of a toll, we can bring that figure right down.

Some parents may have been alarmed or concerned to have received letters before we broke up last term informing them of low attendance. My apologies if this is the case but we just want to support you and your child; we want to work with you to boost attendance.

In addition, we will also help reduce the spread of infection in our school by reminding our school community of the importance of regular and effective handwashing and by ensuring spaces are well-ventilated. We are also able to use our CO2monitors to manage good ventilation.



Attendance: the top facts to know & share



The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

- In 2018/19, **just 40% of persistently absent (PA) children in KS2 achieved expected KS2 standards**, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.
- And **36% of PA children in KS4 got 9 to 4 in their English and maths GCSEs**, also compared with 84% of regular attenders.¹

And it's never too late to benefit from good attendance:

- **More than half (54%) of pupils who were PA in Year 10 and then rarely absent in Year 11, passed at least 5 GCSEs**, compared to 36% of pupils who were persistently absent in both years.²

But attendance is important for more than just attainment:

- Regular school attendance can facilitate **positive peer relationships**, which is a **protective factor for mental health and wellbeing**.³



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2023/2024 W/E 19.01.24



| CURRENT POSITION | CLASS | CURRENT % |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1st | YEAR 1 | 97.79 |
| 2nd | YEAR 6 | 97.35 |
| 3rd | YEAR 5 | 96.93 |
| 4th | YEAR 3 | 96.79 |
| 5th | YEAR 4 | 95.86 |
| 6th | YEAR 2 | 95.44 |
| 7th | RECEPTION | 95.23 |

No **100%** class attendance award this week.

CAFOD Live Simply Award



St Mary's is working towards achieving the CAFOD Live Simply Award. *Inspired by Pope Francis's message? The LiveSimply award is an opportunity for Catholic communities ... schools... to answer the call for us to care for our common home and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world.* <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award>

Mr Hodge and the Catholic Life Committee of the Pupil Parliament gave a presentation to the children in assembly on Wednesday morning and asked them to make a pledge to do something to live more simply and *to care for our common home and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world.*

Ask your children what pledge they would like to make. Mr Hodge and the Catholic Life Committee were thrilled to receive a lovely piece of artwork on the topic which James R from Y1 produced when he came home from school on Wednesday evening. Mr Hodge said, *'We looked at it in Y3 yesterday and he received a lovely round of applause from us.'*

Extra- curricular activities – football coaching and Taekwon-Do

We have been asked to publicise Taekwon-Do lessons and a football coaching provider in the local are. Please see flyers attached.

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. The job advert, with full details is on the LCC website. https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_index.asp

Health and Safety

Pick-up and Drop-off. Please be very careful at pick up and drop off times particularly during these winter months where it is dark and where rain and ice impairs visibility for drivers. Drivers, please take great care near the school entrances. Many thank.

Messages from the school office

- Please can we ask that all outstanding payments on ParentPay for toast, uniform, extended day, nursery fees and lunches etc. are settled by 31st January. Many thanks.
- Please could we also remind parents/carers of all children from Nursery to Y6 that if your child is going to be absent because of illness, please ring the school absence line (option 1) to report this to the school office by 9.00am and tell us of your child's illness. We must record this information on the register. The office will then pass your message onto the class teacher.
- Finally, please could you ensure that any medical appointments are notified to the office prior to collecting your child from school (or before missing their morning registration mark) thank you.

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 19.01.24

| Class | Name | Star of the Week for ... |
|-------|-------------|---|
| YN | Noah | Super co-operative play with his new friends |
| YR | Tommy | fantastic weaving and concentration! |
| Y1 | Angela | an excellent effort with her writing this week. |
| Y2 | Clara | being a superstar all week. |
| Y3 | Nathaniel | consistently trying hard in Maths and English. |
| Y4 | Arthur | his wonderful writing, not just this week but since the start of Year 4. |
| Y5 | Winter-Rose | her excellent participation during mathematics where we have been converting mixed numbers to improper fractions. |
| Y6 | Harriet | her fantastic writing (film review). |

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

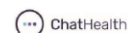
Mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children. Contacts (right).



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