



School Newsletter

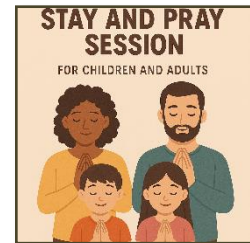
With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow.

19.06.26

Dear parents and carers,

Year 2 Stay and Pray

Well done to our Y2 class who shared their prayer and liturgy session with their parents and carers last Friday morning in the Y2 Stay and Pray session. Miss Hesketh told me that it was a very prayerful experience with the children's singing of 'Father We Adore You,' in parts, a particular highlight. Well done to Y2 and a big thank you to Miss Hesketh and Mrs Southern for preparing them. Thank you, too, parents and carers for your wonderful support.



Nursery Class – A Busy and Exciting Week Ahead

The Nursery class have a very busy and exciting week to look forward to next week. On Tuesday, they will be welcoming some special visitors from a local farm, giving the children a wonderful opportunity to learn more about animals and life on the farm.

Later in the week, on Thursday afternoon, the children will celebrate their graduation ceremony. This will be a special occasion to reflect on a wonderful year, filled with happy memories, friendships, and all they have achieved alongside the adults who care for and support them.

Reception Induction Afternoon

On Tuesday afternoon, we will welcome our new Reception parents for an induction meeting. Many of these families are already part of our Nursery community, and we are delighted to continue this journey with you. We look forward to meeting you and introducing you to the staff who will be working closely with your children next year.

Reading News – Scholastic Book Fair and Lancashire Libraries Summer Reading Challenge

The Scholastic Book Fair is back! We will once again be setting up the book fair in school from next Thursday, offering a wonderful opportunity to pick up some great summer reading materials for the children.

This week, the Lancashire Library Service visited us to speak to the children in assembly about this year's Summer Reading Challenge: **Reading Heroes**.

Join the adventure this summer and become a Reading Hero! Help Dr Paige Turner investigate the mysterious cases of wrecked robots appearing in libraries. Could there be something sinister behind it?

Children aged 4 to 12 are invited to take part. By keeping up with their reading over the summer, completing fun science activities, and taking on the challenge, they can earn exciting rewards along the way.

Now in its third year, *Reading Heroes* features a brand-new story, a new villain, and new prizes to enjoy.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/lancs-reading-heroes/>

Phonics Screening Check and Multiplication Tables Check

Phonics

The children in Year 1 completed their phonics screening checks and we think they have done very well. Well done to them all on working hard to learn and remember how to read and spell all those sounds.

A big thank you to Mrs Cahalin for leading the phonics teaching and to all the teachers and teaching assistants who work with the children on their phonics every day. Finally, a big thank you to the parents for all your hard work and support at home; we never underestimate the contribution you make. A great team effort!

Multiplications

Another well done, but this time to our Y4 class who have also been tested! They have done the Multiplication Tables Check where they have had to answer a series of rapid-fire times-table questions. We should find out how they got on next week. Thanks again to Mr Cahalin and Mrs Root for teaching them and having them so well-prepared for the check. Thank you, too, to Mums and Dads at home for supporting the children to learn these important facts.

Chorley Big Sing at Town Hall

The week before last, our choir went to St George's Church in Chorley to join with singers from across town in a joyful *Big Sing* event. The children got a soaking on the way there and on the way back but it did not dampen their spirits. Mrs Cahalin said the children sang beautifully and did us proud. Well done choir and thank you Mrs Cahalin and Mrs Bradley for practising with the children week in and week out and thank you to Mrs St John and Mrs Morgan for accompanying the children on the walk to and from St George's. Mr Cahalin has put a little snippet of the performance on social media.

Y6 retreat at St Joseph's

Next week, we are entering the final four weeks of our current Y6's time here at St Mary's. The children have a fun and memorable few weeks lined up. They are currently enjoying practising for their end of year performance and are sounding very good.

Next Thursday, they will be joining children from other Catholic schools in Chorley for a Retreat Day at St Joseph's. They will meet the inspirational Chris Lubbe. He was the former South African president, Nelson Mandela's, bodyguard. He has an amazing and unforgettable story to share with the children. Many of them will also get a chance to meet up with some of the pupils who they will be spending the next five years with at Holy Cross.

New St Mary's Instagram account



St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery is now on Instagram! It's rapidly gaining followers. Thank you to Mr Cahalin for his work on this.

Our page gives a wonderful insight into daily life at school, including learning activities, special events, celebrations, and the many achievements of our pupils. It's a great way to stay connected and see all the fantastic things happening at St Mary's.

Follow us on Instagram at: [@stmaryschorley](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschorley)

Health and Safety

Some health and safety notices

1. Warton Place. Parents and carers, please don't park cars at the top turning point area of Warton Place. If cars are parked there, it reduces the turning area for vehicles which in turn can be very dangerous when small children are walking up the ginnel and then the small path into the infant playground.
2. Please can I remind parents and carers that the staff car park is only for staff and disabled users. At busy times for example, the start and end of the school day, if a staff member drives into the car park as somebody else is leaving there is no room to pass. This forces the staff to member to have to reverse back on to Hornchurch Drive which is not an ideal manoeuvre when children and other cars are nearby.
3. Parents have also reported to me the overgrown nature of the bushes including some thorny branches poking across the ginnel making it unpleasant and uncomfortable for people who use it. We will do our best to address that issue as soon as possible.

PTFA Summer Fair

Our PTFA Summer Fair will take place in a fortnight's time on Friday 3rd July.

To help prepare for this event, we will be holding two non-uniform (own clothes) days - one next Friday 26th June and another on Friday 3rd July.

- On **26th June**, we kindly ask for donations of **new toys and chocolates**.
- On **3rd July**, we ask for donations of **bottles** for the tombola.

A big thank you to our PTFA for organising this exciting event, and to all our parents and carers for your continued support.

PTFA Project Playground

Fundraising opportunity

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/chorleystmaryscatholicprimaryschoolandnursery/40ZIOU/c2s/uc0KLogX/CE072/facebook/>

One of our governors, Mrs Chester has been using and she sent me the following:

I just wanted to let you know how simple it was to set up the “easy fundraising” app on my phone. When I am shopping online now and I am on a participating store, it automatically lets me know that it qualifies for cashback to St Mary’s.

And it took less than 30 seconds to link my bank card which means school also benefits when using my card in participating stores e.g. when doing the weekly Tesco shop!

It’s also great that you can track both your own donations and the total that’s been raised overall for St Mary’s and I look forward to seeing what the school spends these donations on to benefit the children.

Foodbank

The Living Waters container is back in the school entrance to collect further donations. A big thank you to you all, for your generous support.

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.



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>

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 for more information.

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!



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>

Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) Summer Holiday Activities.

Please see the flyers at the end of the newsletter for information about summer holiday activities organised by the **Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP)**. These activities offer a range of opportunities for children to stay active and enjoy their time over the summer break.

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 19.06.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of human dignit
Nursery	s	Poppy	Increased independence and learning new skills
	v	Harry	Ensuring turn taking happens in play
	Dojo	Romee	
R	s	Luca	For super re-telling of the class story
	v	Elijah	For looking after his friend carefully
	Dojo	Olivia and Elodie	
Y1	s	Tillie	Working hard to help paint the school book bench she was involved in designing.
	v	Avaeha	Showing compassion for a class member who was hurt.
	Dojo	Oscar	
Y2	s	Tommy D	For his excellent mathematical explanations during our near doubles work in mastery maths.
	v	Joshua	For helping to ensure games are played fairly.
	Dojo	Annie & Maddy	
Y3	s	Evie Win	For amazing effort in all lessons all week.
	v	Theo K	For always being inclusive of others.
Y4	s	Teddy	A great story based on Philip Pullman's Aladdin
	v	Josh A	For being a kind, compassionate friend
Y5	s	Olivia	Amazing contributions to our debate in history and an excellent information poster
	v	Antoni	Valuing and listening to every person and always taken the opinions of others on board
Y6	s	William W	For his outstanding acting and commitment during our school play rehearsals.
	v	Evie	For her thoughtful and caring attitude towards everyone

Smartphone Free Childhood

Fact of the Week



FACT OF THE WEEK

Smartphones are designed to be addictive, leading to compulsive use in young users.

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 19.06.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %	↑ OR ↓
1 st	YEAR 3	97.53	↑
2 nd	YEAR 4	97.04	↑
3 rd	YEAR 2	96.95	↑
4 th	YEAR 1	96.89	↑
5 th	YEAR 5	96.86	↓
6 th	RECEPTION	95.79	↑
7 th	YEAR 6	94.70	↑

Congratulations to the **Reception Class** on their **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 08.05.26

Data shown: Academic year start to 05 June 2026
Last updated: 18 June 2026
Next update: 02 July 2026

How does St Mary's compare? (We have remained at 96.5% and in 77th place, since last update).

Attendance measure ▲	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	96.5%	You are ranked 77th out of 481 schools
Overall absence	3.5%	You are ranked 77th out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	3.0%	You are ranked 133rd out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.5%	You are ranked 31st out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	4.5%	You are ranked 56th 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!



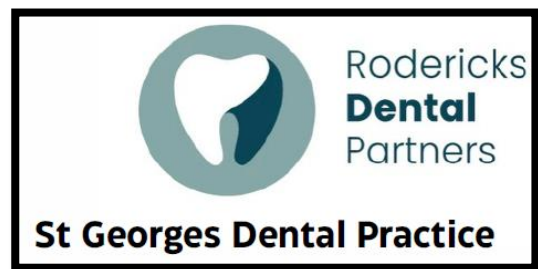
Labelling Uniforms

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 19.06.26

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



St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Seated Yoga Adlington Library 9:30-10:30am. FREE to all.</p>	<p>St Joseph's Good Food Club St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane, Chorley 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.</p>	<p>Coppull Good Food Club St John the Divine Parish Hall, Coppull 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.</p>	<p>Buttermere Good Food Club Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.</p>	<p>Clayton Brook Good Food Club Clayton Brook Village Hall, Clayton-le-Woods 10:30-11:15am. £5 to shop and refreshments available in the Café.</p>
<p>Knit and Natter Primrose Gardens, Chorley 10am-12pm. Donations welcome.</p>	<p>Seated Yoga Adlington Library 11am-12pm. FREE to all.</p>	<p>Gardening Club Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 11:00am-12:00pm. FREE to all.</p>	<p>Seated Exercise Ravensthorpe Independent Living Accommodation, Astley Village 10:30am-11:30pm. £3 suggested donation.</p>	<p>Aquarobics All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. Term time only. £5 suggested donation.</p>
<p>Kids Arts and Crafts Coppull Library 3:30-4:30pm. Term time only.</p>	<p>Chair Fit Euxton Community Centre, 11:15am-12:15pm. £3 suggested donation.</p>	<p>Lunch Social 2nd Wednesday of the month St Chad's Parish Centre from 12-2pm BOOKING ESSENTIAL Donations welcome.</p>		
	<p>Lunch Social 4th Tuesday of the month Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley from 12-2pm. BOOKING ESSENTIAL Donations welcome.</p>	<p>Buddies Café Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 9am-3pm Affordable café with crafts running from 12:30-2pm Everyone welcome</p>		
	<p>Seated Exercise All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. £5 suggested donation.</p>	<p>Chair Fit Crosston Old School, Church Street, Crosston 1:30-2:30pm. £3 suggested donation.</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 10th June 2026 9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Wednesday 17th June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Wednesday 24th June 2026 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Wednesday 1st 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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Chorley Sweet Chilli Parenting Workshop Dates

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

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ULTIMATE SURVIVOR

— 27th July - 30th July —

9AM-3:30PM
PAID

10AM-2PM
HAF

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

WEEK ONE: Nature and Outdoor Adventure



ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Woodland Hike
- ▶ Obstacle Race
- ▶ Camp Challenges



SURVIVAL SKILLS

- ▶ Shelter Building
- ▶ Water Safety & First Aid
- ▶ Knot Tying & Pioneer Skills



HEALTHY FUEL

- ▶ Trail Mix Lab
- ▶ Outdoor Picnic
- ▶ Camp Snacks

£24 A DAY OR
£90 ALL FOUR DAYS





✉ j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk

☎ 01257 824798



@chorleyssp



Visit Our Website:

www.chorleyssp.co.uk



CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP



WORLD CUP GLOBAL FESTIVAL

— 3rd August - 6th August —

9AM-3:30PM
PAID

10AM-2PM
HAF

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

WEEK TWO: Global Cultures & Sport



FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Tournament Day
- ▶ Inclusive Football
- ▶ Club Visit



WORLD CULTURES

- ▶ Design own Kits
- ▶ Culture Exploration
- ▶ Glow Football



ATHLETE FUEL

- ▶ Food Festival
- ▶ World Tasting
- ▶ Cultural Snacks

£24 A DAY OR
£90 ALL FOUR DAYS





✉ j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk

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CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

GRAND CREATORS

— 10th August - 13th August —

WEEK THREE: Construction & Upcycling



CREATIVE BUILDING

- ▶ Treasure Hunt
- ▶ Inspiring Voices
- ▶ Creator Workshop



ARTS & GAMES

- ▶ Upcycling
- ▶ Slime Making
- ▶ Construction Comp



INVENTORS FUEL

- ▶ Brain Food
- ▶ Food Masterclass
- ▶ Creative Snacks



9AM-3:30PM
PAID

10AM-2PM
HAF

Ages
5-11

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

£24 A DAY OR
£90 ALL FOUR DAYS

Ofsted

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FESTIVAL OF FUN

— 17th August - 20th August —

WEEK FOUR: Expressive Arts & Circus Skills



CREATIVE ARTS

- ▶ Confidence Development
- ▶ Carnival Mask Making
- ▶ Musical Workshop



BIG TOP ADVENTURES

- ▶ Colour Run
- ▶ Community Safety
- ▶ Circus Skills



FESTIVAL FEASTS

- ▶ Carnival Snacks
- ▶ Festival Picnic
- ▶ Hydration Masterclass



9AM-3:30PM
PAID

10AM-2PM
HAF

Ages
5-11

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