



# School Newsletter

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

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19.07.24

Dear parents and carers,

Our school vision (this is our aim as a Catholic school):

***From their first day to their last at St Mary's, we support our children on a journey of learning and faith.***

***In learning, we want our children, by the time they leave our school: to be numerate and literate, to have received their full entitlement in all areas of learning and to have the opportunities to succeed in areas of particular interest to them. We want the children to be active and healthy. We want the children: to be challenged, to be exposed to the highest quality teaching, to take risks, to be unafraid of making mistakes and to reach their full potential.***

***On their journey of faith, we want to support our children to develop into well-rounded citizens for the future. We want the children to be thoughtful, loving, caring and considerate members of society. We want the children's attitudes, decision making and relationships to be underpinned and informed by Christian values with Christ at the centre of all we do at school. We want to be a Catholic, Christian community which aims for excellence and which learns, improves and achieves.***

At the end of the school year, it is good for us to reflect on how well we feel we have done against what we say we aim to do. We are very proud of how our current Y6 leavers have turned out. These children enjoyed their last day in primary school today; every single one of them is an absolute credit to their school and to their families. Well done and thank you, Y6!

Thank you also to the Y6 group of parents, in particular, for your support over the years. We wish your children all the very best in their new schools.



Thank you and goodbye to the Y6 parents and children who will be leaving us this summer – it has been a pleasure working with you. Goodbye to the families of George, Brooke, Noah, Brody, Eva-Marie, Phoebe, Tilly, Viktoria, Owen, William, Teddy, Harriet, Alex, Charlie, Charlotte, Sebastian, Faith, Betsy and Jimmy.

### **Thank you**

For us all, it has been a very busy, enjoyable and successful year. The children have worked hard and they deserve a rest. We are really pleased with how each and every one of them has progressed. I would like to thank everyone who works or volunteers in the school for making it such a happy and successful place.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work with the children since September – enjoy **your** well-deserved rest. Thank you to you the parents for your support of the school and your children in their education. Thank you and goodbye to the parents and children who will be leaving us this summer – it's been a pleasure working with you.

Thank you to the Governors of the school for their hard work and support for the school. Thank you to Father Marsden, Kinga Ggrzeczynska and the Family Catechesis team for your time, effort and support this year. Thank you to all the volunteers, parents and grandparents and the PTFA for your efforts and for making this school and nursery such a great community of which to be a part.

### **Goodbye and thank you...**

We say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Singleton. Mrs Singleton has been a class teacher, special educational needs coordinator (SENDCO) and member of the leadership team at St Mary's since 2012. She has been a fantastic servant to the school and its children. She is an outstanding champion for children who need extra support in school, for their families and for the staff and we will miss her! We wish her every happiness and success in her new role as SENDCO at St Peter's, Chorley. Thank you, Mrs Singleton!

### **Welcome!**

Welcome Mrs Fitzsimmons who will be teaching a day in both Y1 and Y4. In addition, welcome to Mrs J Wilson who will be joining us in the nursery class.

### **Class organisation from September 2024**

Nursery	Miss Bowler - Nursery Manager
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Reception	Mrs Ainscough (Monday – Thursday) Mrs Cassidy (Friday)
Year 1	Mrs Cahalin (Monday – Thursday) Mrs Fitzsimmons (Friday)
Year 2	Mrs Nicklin (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday) Mrs Cassidy (Thursday)
Year 3	Mr Hodge
Year 4	Mrs Banwell (Tuesday – Friday) Mrs Fitzsimmons (Monday)
Year 5	Miss Hesketh
Year 6	Mr Cahalin

Mrs Kate Taylor will resume the role of SENDCO for the coming year.

### **September 2024 Opening**

School reopens for children on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**.

Please remember the **new opening and closing times** for school :

- Doors open from 0845
- Registration is at 0850
- Home time is 1520

Nursery class remains

- Doors open 0845
- Home time 1515

### **Attendance**

We gave out certificates today for

- ✓ Bronze 98% attendance
- ✓ Silver 99% attendance
- ✓ Gold 100% attendance

And there were a fair few in each category. A special mention must go to Owen in Y6 who has not missed a single day of school since he started in 2017. He achieved the special and rare Platinum award. Thank you Mrs Hargreaves for her calculations and producing the certificates and well done to all our high attenders.

### **Message from Kath Smith, Chair of the Governing Body**

Kath asked me to wish the staff, children and their families a happy, restful and safe summer holiday.

## **Year 6 Leavers' Service and Party**

The Y6 Leavers' Mass took place in school on Monday evening. Deacon Norman celebrated the service for the children and their families in the school hall. I would like to thank him for his kind words and advice in the homily and for presenting the children with their records of achievement and a special signed prayer candle card.

The children enjoyed their leavers' party after Mass with plenty of food, music, dancing and games. Thank you to all the staff for helping the children celebrate on the evening.

## **Father Marsden 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination into the Priesthood**

Father Marsden will be celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest and will be celebrating with a special jubilee Mass on Monday evening at St Mary's Church. We would like to congratulate him on reaching this impressive milestone.

### **Some important reminders for the September restart:**

#### ***Earrings and Jewellery***

For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If parents wish their children to have their ears pierced, then please have them done at the beginning of this six-week break to allow ears to heal. The only jewellery children are permitted to wear is watches – but no spy-watches with built-in cameras please.

#### ***Uniform***

The wearing of school uniform is essential in giving us a sense of belonging and pride in St Mary's.

<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>PE</b>
Grey pinafore dress/ skirt/culottes/ school trousers White shirt Navy blue cardigan / jumper Black shoes –not boots or trainers Grey/ White or navy blue socks School tie	Grey trousers – long or short White shirt Navy blue jumper Black shoes, not trainers Grey, white or navy socks. School tie.	Plain black/ navy shorts (not fashion shorts!) White T shirt, badged or unbadged Black pumps/ bare feet (indoor) Trainers (outdoor) Warm, trackie bottoms for outdoor in winter and school jumper
<b>Please label all items of school uniform with your child's name - it prevents items getting lost and saves valuable learning time.</b>		

#### ***Hairstyles***

Please keep school a fashion-free zone with hairstyles and in addition, please remember long hair needs to be tied up to prevent unwanted visits from head lice.

## Message from the school office

Please check ParentPay account balances. Emails sent to the [office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk) will be monitored over the holiday and urgent queries will be dealt with as soon as possible.

## THE ARCHDIOCESE BUILDING FUND & MONTHLY LOTTERY

As a Catholic Voluntary Aided School we are required to make a 10% contribution towards funding the major repairs to our school building. This amount is collected by means of a levy paid to the Archdiocese Schools Building Fund. Currently the cost of this is approximately £1,560 per year.

St Mary's school levy has always been a voluntary contribution in the form of the School Development Draw - a monthly lottery.

There are approximately 160 families and 38 staff at St Mary's. A voluntary contribution of £1.00 a month (£12.00 per year) would help cover the cost of the levy and the lottery prize fund. All contributors participate in the monthly draw and we award prizes of £10 per month, with a special draw in July for a prize of £25. Contributors can be parents, carers, aunts, uncles, grandparents or staff - all we ask is that they are over 18 years of age.

Payment can be made for each entry for either a £12 lump sum or £1 per month by setting up a standing order with their bank. More than one entry can be purchased. They will then be allocated a number per entry and drawn from a hat each month to win either £10 or a £25 prize in July.

You can join the draw by sending payment as per the instructions given in a Groupcall form this week. Many thanks for your support!

Winners for 2023/2024 are

<b>Sep-23</b>	C Miller	£10.00
<b>Oct-23</b>	N Chester	£10.00
<b>Nov-23</b>	P Wiseman	£10.00
<b>Dec-23</b>	V Bradley	£10.00
<b>Jan-24</b>	C Hayward	£10.00
<b>Feb-24</b>	S Fairley	£10.00
<b>Mar-24</b>	E Southern	£10.00
<b>Apr-24</b>	J Walsh	£10.00
<b>May-24</b>	A Craig	£10.00
<b>Jun-24</b>	A Bates	£10.00
<b>Jul-24</b>	L McDermott	£25.00

## Online Safety Videos for parents

The Knowsley online safety team, who produce our monthly online safety leaflet, have spent some time producing online safety videos, this term. We are delighted to be able to share the first seven with you. I have also attached the July edition of the online safety newsletter to the newsletter.

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-videos/>

## **Mobile phone agreement**

I am exploring the possibility of seeking a voluntary agreement amongst our families to agree not to give smartphones to their children until they leave primary school. I realise that this be too late for some of our older children and I realise that not every parent/ carer will agree.

However, I think it is something worth exploring as it might go in some way to promote the children's mental health and wellbeing. I was prompted to consider this by a very powerful letter I received recently from one of our current Y6 parents who noted a big change in their child's wellbeing as a result of being given a smart phone. This parent also directed me to the May edition of our online safety newsletter with an article on a smartphone free childhood.

### *Smartphone Free Childhood*

*Smartphone Free Childhood is a parent-led movement whose mission is to protect children from the dangers of using smartphones too young.*

*The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age. Are you ready to join? Find out more here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>*

*You may feel your child does need a phone, particularly if they are walking home by themselves but there are alternatives to the smartphone, including a watch, which are listed here: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/alternatives>*

I will pick this up in the autumn term particularly with the parents/ carers of children in the juniors.

## **Chorley Library Summer Reading Challenge - Reading Heroes**

A librarian from Chorley Library came to school in the last few weeks to speak to the children about their exciting summer reading challenge. Please read on ...

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

This summer, we are challenging children across Lancashire to become a Reading Hero and help Dr Paige Turner to stop the evil super villain "The Spoiler"!

Reading Heroes is the summer reading programme offered in all libraries across Lancashire, which encourages children aged 4 to 12 (although not exclusively) to keep reading through the summer holidays, offering prizes for those who manage to read 5 books over the summer, and additional incentives for those who manage to also complete a number of challenges.

### *How it works*

Sign up at your local library and receive a booklet containing all the information you need to help defeat The Spoiler, including a comic book story which can be unlocked along the way. To become a

Reading Superhero, you will need to read five books and complete 3 of the suggested tasks in the booklet. Doing this will enter you into a prize draw for a special prize! We'll be running some fantastic events to help you defeat The Spoiler in our libraries. If you can't make it to one of our libraries you can complete the challenge online. Look out for this year's *Technology Tasks*.

## Olympic Week

To mark the Paris 2024 Olympics, St Mary's celebrated its own Olympics week, this week. We were visited by local Paralympian medallists, Olivia Broome and Graeme Ballard. We had an opening ceremony and took part in a variety of Olympic-themed activities, including a dressing-up day. This morning, we were joined by a number of parents and carers for our closing ceremony, where we were able to see some of the wonderful activities the children had got up to. A big thank you to all the children, staff and parents/ carers for taking part and to Mrs Nicklin for organising.

## Sporting Pride Awards

Mr Hodge presented some very deserving recipients with the prestigious annual PE and Sport Pride Awards today in assembly. These were awarded for our sports values of Participation, Respect, Inclusion, Development and Enthusiasm. Well done to all the worthy winners.

## Sports News

Rearranged CSSP orienteering event. A squad of orienteers took part in competition this week – thank you to Mr Hodge for taking them along; we finished in a very creditable 4<sup>th</sup> place. Well done, team!

## Summer Holiday Activities

### Chorley School Sports Partnership – Summer Camps

**Ages 5-11**

**CHORLEY**  
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

**9AM-4PM**

**SUMMER SPORTS CAMP**

- CHORLEY ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Eaves Lane PR6 0DX  
W/C -29TH JULY  
W/C -12TH AUGUST  
W/C -5TH AUGUST
- SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Brooke Street PR6 0LB  
W/C -19TH AUGUST
- LANCASTER LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Hunters Road PR25 5TT  
W/C -29TH JULY  
W/C -5TH AUGUST
- CLAYTON-LE-WOODS PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Back Lane PR6 7EU  
W/C -12TH AUGUST  
W/C -19TH AUGUST

**BOOK ONLINE AT:** [www.chorleyssp.co.uk](http://www.chorleyssp.co.uk)    **£80 WEEKLY/£25 PER DAY**  
**SIBLING DISCOUNT**

**CALL:** 01257 449278    **WHATSAPP:** 07306403255

## Adlington Library Craft Days



## The 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](http://www.stmarys.lancs.sch.uk/WednesdayWord)

**Are you interested in training to become a primary school teacher?** Visit the YSA website [www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk](http://www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk) to find out more about what is on offer.

## Free School Meals, Pupil Premium and School Budget

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/>

## 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.

**Are you interested in training to become a primary school teacher?** Visit the YSA website [www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk](http://www.yarrowteachingschoolalliance.co.uk) to find out more about what is on offer.

**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

hcrq  
Care Group

ChatHealth



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

NHS

[care.think.do](http://care.think.do)

Have a great summer everyone!

P Smyth 19.07.24