



School Newsletter

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

20.03.26

Dear parents and carers,

Good Shepherd Appeal 2026

The Good Shepherd fundraising phase for Lent 2026 has now come to an end. I would like to say a huge thank you to the children for their efforts in the cake sales and in designing and making games and activities and of course for spending their money on all these things and on the disco. And, thank you to the parents and carers for supporting with the finances! Another big thank you to the staff for their time and effort in organising all the events above.



The final collection this week raised **£284.79** which has now been banked. This means that the grand total raised for the Good Shepherd appeal in 2026 is **£1, 134.79**. This is a fantastic amount which tops last year's record-breaking total of **£1, 018**. This is an incredible effort – well done everyone!

Next Thursday we will celebrate the success of the appeal with the annual Good Shepherd Talent Show, which I know the children are very excited about.

Reception Trip to Blackpool Zoo

Our Reception class are also very excited to be going on their trip to Blackpool Zoo, next Tuesday. I think that they are going to enjoy a fabulous day out seeing all the different animals, some of whom they have been writing about and drawing in school. Thank you to all our volunteer helpers for coming along too. Fingers crossed for some dry weather!

Chorley Borough Council Competition

We have been asked to promote a competition being run by Chorley Borough Council to come up with names for new waste collection trucks!

Dear Headteacher,

We are excited to invite your school to take part in a fun and creative borough-wide competition to help us name our brand-new fleet of food waste collection vehicles.

As we prepare to launch food waste collections from 13 April, we want to involve local primary school children in choosing imaginative, bold, and memorable names for the trucks.

Whether it's a pun, a character, or something completely unexpected, we want names that make people smile and remind everyone why recycling food waste matters.

The winning names will be proudly displayed on the vehicles as they travel around our communities.

Key information and dates:

1. Entries to be submitted to communications@chorley.gov.uk by 5pm on 31 March.
2. Please submit your pupils' name ideas — along with the child's name and age for each entry.
4. A panel of officers will review all submissions and select the winning names – up to three names will be chosen.
5. The children behind the chosen names will be invited to meet the newly named trucks around 10 April.
6. Photography from this event will be used in communications to support the launch of food waste collections on 13 April.
7. Please note, if we receive very few entries, the competition may be cancelled.

If you have any questions, please respond to communications@chorley.gov.uk.

Kind regards,
Chorley Council

PTFA Easter Discos

Next Wednesday, Ice Queen, who run holiday clubs at St Mary's will be hosting firstly, an infant Easter Disco, and then, a junior Easter Disco, next Wednesday afternoon. These are always fun occasions. Details have been sent out separately. Thank you for your support and thank you to the PTFA for organising.

Fundraising opportunity

[easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) 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/40ZI0U/c2s/uc0KLOGX/CE072/facebook/>

So far Chorley, St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery has 9 entries into [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)'s giveaway to win a £250 donation! You can help increase our chances of winning by signing up to support us before midnight 15th March:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/chorleystmaryscatholicprimaryschoolandnursery/40ZI0U/c2s/J1YccjD6/CE941/facebook/>

Competition News

Sports News

CSSP Dodgeball Competition

Last night, the St Mary's Y6 dodgeball squad travelled to Holy Cross Catholic High School to compete in the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership Dodgeball Competition. The mixed squad of three boys and three girls played five three-set matches in their pool. They won four and lost one. This earned them third place in their pool. It was fast and furious and great fun. Well done to team who represented St Mary's very well indeed.

CSSP Cross-Country Competition

Twenty-five runners from across the juniors will be joining fellow athletes from across Chorley in the annual CSSP Cross-Country Competition at Astley Park tomorrow morning. They will all compete in boys and girls races, in a lap of the park, in their age groups. The weather forecast looks perfect for cross-country and, with a bit of luck, some of Astley Park's muddy patches have dried up. We look forward to finding out how they got on next week. Good luck to all our competitors!

Non-sports competition

CSSP Singing Competition

This year St Mary's have entered the CSSP singing competition. Violet and Myka from Y5 are representing St Mary's at St Michael's school this afternoon and evening. We wish them all the very best and we look forward to hearing how they got on, on Monday.

Chorley FC Easter Holiday Club – message from Chorley FC

Chorley FC Community Foundation will be running our Kick, Play, Thrive Football & Activity Club during the upcoming Easter school holidays...

As the community foundation connected to Chorley Football Club, we are committed to providing positive opportunities for young people to stay active, build confidence and enjoy their school holidays in a safe and supportive environment.

*We are also proud to be able to offer a limited number of funded places through the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, which includes activities and a nutritious lunch. **See poster at the end of this newsletter for further details.***

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>

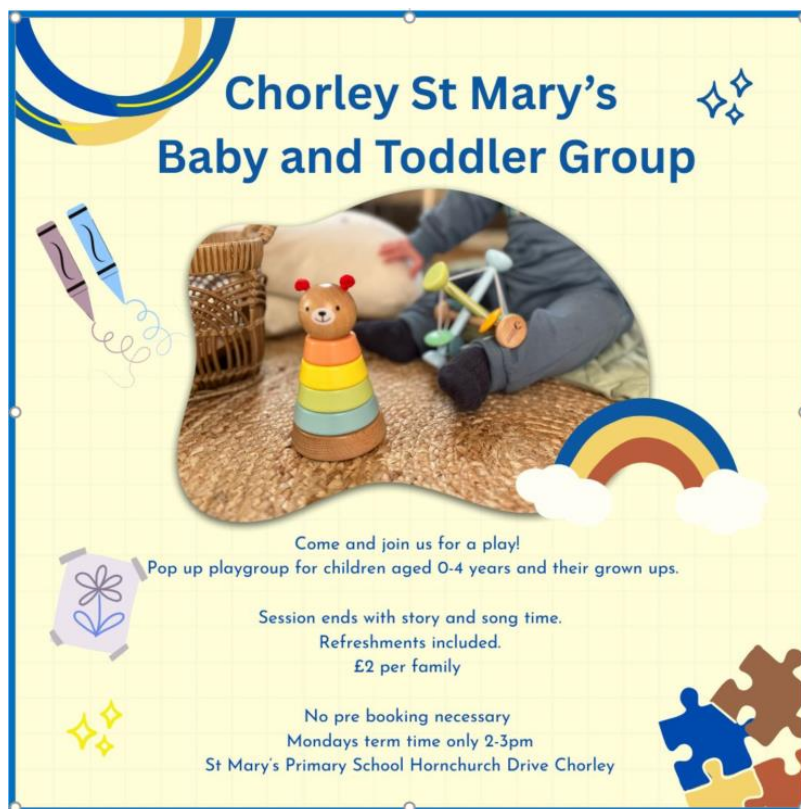
Unavoidable School Closures

We are almost through the winter months now and have escaped heavy snow so far, but in the event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

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 Lancashire Music Service

We are delighted to announce that this year we are holding a "Folk Day" open rehearsal, taking place tomorrow on **Sat 21st March** at Lancaster Methodist Church.

Led by our fabulous Folk specialist Richard Moss, this FREE day is open to all:

Young players 18 and under, beginners to advanced on any Acoustic instrument

The day will consist of workshops and an informal performance at the end

📅 21st March 2026, 10.30am – 3.30pm (with arrivals from 10.15am)

📍 Lancaster Methodist Church, Scotforth Road, LA1 4TE

Sign up via the link below!

<https://UKLANCASHIRE.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=2226#/Course/918/0/7283/2226>
See poster at the end of the newsletter.

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.

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>

Smartphone Free Childhood

Fact of the Week



FACT OF THE WEEK

Digital distractions may hinder emotional resilience and coping skills.

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 20.03.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	Last week	CURRENT %	↑ OR ↓
1 st	YEAR 3	97.78	97.69	↓
2 nd	YEAR 4	97.09	97.14	↑
3 rd	YEAR 2	96.79	96.81	↑
4 th	YEAR 1	96.62	96.66	↑
5 th	YEAR 5	96.55	96.58	↑
6 th	RECEPTION	96.18	96.27	↑
7 th	YEAR 6	94.08	93.98	↓

No **100%** attendance this week but well done to Y4 who have narrowed the gap to Y3 ever so slightly.

The DfE sent out a bulletin to schools today giving us the following statistic to highlight the importance of high attendance on academic outcomes:

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 12.03.26

How does St Mary's compare? (We have slipped two places in last fortnight)

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	96.4%	You are ranked 92nd out of 481 schools
Overall absence	3.6%	You are ranked 92nd out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	3.1%	You are ranked 148th out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.5%	You are ranked 40th out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	6.3%	You are ranked 77th out of 481 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 481 schools

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 20.03.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of harmony
Nursery	s	Aria T	Fantastic home achievement showing how much of a big girl she is! Amazing
	v	Ruby	Always following Nursery rules!
	Dojo	Aria K	
R	s	Olivia	For taking such care with her handwriting
	v	Marabelle	Getting on well with others and always doing the right thing
	Dojo	Oliver	
Y1	s	Darcey	Her writing using the story map.
	v	Colette	Always joining in with prayers in a holy way.
	Dojo	Tillie & Joey	
Y2	s	Scout	For a superb effort with her vocabulary choices and handwriting.
	v	Brooklyn	For showing holiness by giving thoughtful answers linked to Holy Week.
	Dojo	Matilda	
Y3	s	Mille	For amazing answer of questions in in class in maths all week
	v	Billey	For providing peace and harmony in Year 3 with his friends
Y4	s	Sienna	Great fractions work in maths
	v	Layla C	For creating harmony at break times
Y5	s	Luke S	100% effort into every task he completes and a wonderful setting description in English
	v	Myka	Having a lovely, calming personality and giving reflective answers in Come and See
Y6	s	Neave	For consistently working hard and putting her all into everything she does.
	v	William B	always creating a peaceful working environment in class.



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!



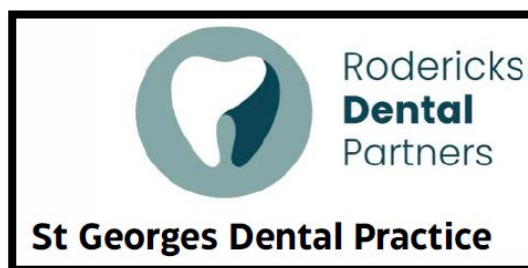
Labelling Uniforms

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
20.03.26

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>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

The sessions will take place at the Home-Start Central Lancashire offices, 112a Market Street, Chorley PR7 2SL
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EASTER HALF TERM 2026

£21.50 per day
Optional lunch £3

KICK, PLAY, THRIVE FOOTBALL & ACTIVITY CLUB

Chorley
Council



- ✓ 30/3 -02/04 (HAF) & 07 - 10/04
- ✓ Boys and Girls aged 5-12 years
- ✓ All abilities welcome
- ✓ Full day Programme 09:30 - 16:30
- ✓ HAF Programme 09:30 - 13:30

- TRAIN WITH CHORLEY FC PLAYERS AND COACHING STAFF
- UEFA QUALIFIED COACHES
- FOOTBALL GAMES, SKILL CHALLENGES AND TOURNAMENTS
- FUN MULTI-SPORT ACTIVITIES AND TEAM GAMES
- CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS TO CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS

FULL DAY SPACES CAN BE BOOKED HERE

[CHORLEYFCFOUNDATION.CO.UK/CHORLEY-HOLIDAY-CLUB](https://www.chorleyfcfoundation.co.uk/chorley-holiday-club)

HAF SPACES CAN BE BOOKED HERE

[HTTPS://WWW.HOLIDAYACTIVITIES.COM/HOW-IT-WORKS/RECIPIENTS/](https://www.holidayactivities.com/how-it-works/recipients/)

For more info call 07523 952149 - Please book early as places are limited

LANCASTER YOUTH FOLK ENSEMBLE



FOLK DAY OPEN REHEARSAL

SATURDAY 21ST MARCH

2026

10:30-3:30PM

VENUE:

LANCASTER METHODIST CHURCH
SCOTFORTH ROAD,
LANCASTER, LA1 4TE



#WHEREWILLMUSICTAKEYOU



Lancashire
County
Council

**LANCASHIRE
MUSIC SERVICE**