



School Newsletter

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

22.05.26

Dear parents and carers,

We have come to the end of the busy summer first half term and will soon be in the sixth and final half term of the school year. The Y6s have completed their SATs and will be preparing to move on to their high schools. I am sure they will have a thoroughly enjoyable final few weeks at St Mary's. We wish all the children a lovely half term break and a good rest and we look forward to seeing them all here, back at school on **Monday, 1st June**.

Health Week 2026

We have enjoyed a fantastic *Health Week* in school, with a wide range of activities that encouraged our children to think about staying active, eating well and trying new experiences.

Throughout the week, different classes explored healthy eating by preparing a variety of foods, including smoothies and both sweet and savoury snacks. It was wonderful to see so many children trying foods they had not experienced before and developing a positive attitude towards healthy choices.

Our reception children also teamed up with Year 3 for an orienteering session, which was a great opportunity for collaboration and outdoor learning; Mr Hodge's highlight of the week. On Monday, pupils from Year 1 through to Year 6 had the chance to take on the climbing wall, which proved to be another real highlight.

We are very grateful to Mrs Rodgers, who led Forest School sessions for classes across the school on Monday. The children thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and benefited greatly from time spent learning outdoors.

Despite some uncertain weather, we took a chance and went ahead with our Sports Day events over the last two days; we are very pleased that we managed to dodge the rain! The events were a great success, with children showing excellent effort, determination and sportsmanship throughout.

Our thanks go to the **Chorley Schools Sports Partnership** for organising and running the events so smoothly. We would also like to thank our Year 6 Sports Leaders, who were singled out for praise by

Mrs Stokes from the CSSP for their kindness, encouragement and genuine support of the younger pupils.

A big thank you to the parents, carers and family members who came along to support the young athletes. And, another big thank you goes to Mr Hodge and the staff who arrived early to set up the field on both mornings; their efforts ensured everything ran seamlessly.

To add a little extra fun at the end of the week, our St Mary's netball team took on a staff team in a friendly match. Although the final score was 8–2 to the staff, it was agreed that it would be “last goal wins”—and our pupils scored the final goal, so congratulations to them on their well-deserved victory!

Finally, we would like to thank Mr Hodge for planning such an enjoyable and engaging week for all of our pupils.

Further details of the Key Stage 2 house team results can be found below. It was very close with Hoghton the overall winners.

Inter-House Results (Y3–Y6)

Year group	Points scored			
	Hoghton	Worden	Rufford	Samlesbury
Year 3	751	664	807	590
Year 4	694	606	694	816
Year 5	1,020	963	899	957
Year 6	1,126	1,229	1,044	1,039
Total points	3,591	3,462	3,444	3,402
Overall position	1st	2nd	3rd	4th

New St Mary's Instagram account



We are excited to announce that **St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery is now on Instagram!** Thank you to Mr Cahalin for his work on this.

Our page will give you 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**

The Big Future survey

A message from Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England inviting your children to take part in a big survey



First of all, congratulations to your Year 6 pupils on completing their SATs, and thank you to all your staff for everything you've done to support children through the assessment period. I know how much work and care goes into making the experience positive for pupils.

As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for your support in helping children at your school take part in my new survey, The Big Future.

Your pupils can take part here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

As many of your Year 6 pupils will have recently finished their SATs, this could be a great opportunity for them to reflect on their time at primary school and share their hopes and ideas for the future in their own words.

I want to hear from children aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country, and your support will help make that possible. I'm asking children about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they want to see in their communities, and what they think a good childhood should look like today.

I would be hugely grateful if you could share the survey with pupils, parents and carers across your school community. Schools with particularly high participation rates will receive formal recognition for helping amplify children's voices, along with a summary of their pupils' responses, and an invite to my final Festival of Childhood.

To support you, I've created a pack of resources including an introductory video, lesson materials and FAQs, all available on my website.

I'll publish the findings next year, and they will help shape the conversations and decisions being made about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

Thank you very much for your support.

Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England

Online Safety Newsletter

I have attached the next online safety newsletter. The June edition covers the following:

- Children can be targeted by online scams through games, apps, and social media.
- Scams may involve fake offers, requests for personal details, or harmful links.
- Encourage children to never share passwords and to speak to a trusted adult if unsure.
- Check privacy settings and disable auto-downloads to keep children safer online.
- Even "safe" apps can carry risks like cyberbullying and sharing of content.

It is a very worthwhile read; I strongly recommend it.

PTFA Project Playground

Fundraising opportunity

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/chorleystmaryscatholicprimaryschoolandnursery/40ZIOU/c2s/uc0KLOgX/CE072/facebook/>

We have been sharing details of this fundraising opportunity over recent weeks and Mrs Wilson was telling me that it has already raised in the region of £150. 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.

Sporting Competitions

Well done to our pupils for taking part in a couple of competitions this week and a huge thank you to Mr Hodge for taking them along and giving them the opportunity.

Orienteering

A group of Y6s competed in the CSSP orienteering competition this week at Astley Park. They all managed to find their way back and find most of the clues. Well done!

Tri- Golf

A group of golfers went to the CSSP Tri-Golf tournament, although it got off to a good start they had to abandon the event due to torrential rain. Well done for giving it a go.

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>

Half term holiday activities

Please see flyers below for details half term holiday clubs for children.

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 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.

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>

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 22.05.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Thomas	Fabulous week trying hard at all activities
	v	Poppy	Always forgiving other who take her toys in play
	Dojo	Ruby	
R	s	Beck	For enthusiastic answering questions about animals and how they grow
	v	Corey	For trying his best to listen to others
	Dojo	Elodie	
Y1	s	Colette	Fantastic attitude to all our exciting activities this week.
	v	Amaya	Her honesty in class and at playtime.
	Dojo	George W	
Y2	s	Joshua	For working extremely hard on his handwriting and for embracing Health Week.
	v	Jemima	For showing dignity by being respectful to guests.
	Dojo	Joey and Eleanor	
Y3	s	Robert	For his efforts in all things 'sporty' this week
	v	Coby	Always sets a good example of forgiveness in class.
Y4	s	George	A great piece of writing in the style of David Attenborough.
	v	Tess	Being a supportive and encouraging friend during sports day.
Y5	s	Seb D	An amazing attitude throughout Health Week, getting stuck in with everything and showing amazing enthusiasm
	v	Lawson	For showing forgiveness, understanding and determination this week.
Y6	s	Erin	For her wonderful flashback story set on the Titanic.
	v	Sam	For sacrificing his own time at the weekend to bake cookies for his whole class as a treat.

Love - values for this half term

- **Dignity** – Love recognizes the inherent worth of every person.
- **Faithfulness** – Love remains committed, loyal, and trustworthy over time.
- **Purity** – Love seeks what is good, honest, and life-giving rather than self-serving.
- **Forgiveness** – Love chooses mercy and restoration over retaliation.
- **Sacrifice** – Love is willing to give of itself for the sake of others.
- **Diversity** – Love embraces difference, seeing it as something to honor rather than fear.

Smartphone Free Childhood



Fact of the Week

FACT OF THE WEEK

Screen time often replaces outdoor play, contributing to childhood obesity and poor motor 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 22.05.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %	↑ OR ↓
1 st	YEAR 3	97.44	↓
2 nd	YEAR 4	96.90	↓
3 rd	YEAR 2	96.86	↓
=4 th	YEAR 5	96.74	↓
=4 th	YEAR 1	96.74	↓
6 th	RECEPTION	95.91	↓
7 th	YEAR 6	94.58	↑

No **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 08 May 2026

Last updated: 21 May 2026

Next update: 04 June 2026

How does St Mary's compare? (We have moved up three places to 78th place, since last update).

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	96.6%	You are ranked 78th out of 481 schools
Overall absence	3.4%	You are ranked 78th out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	3.0%	You are ranked 135th out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.4%	You are ranked 20th out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	5.1%	You are ranked 73rd 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!



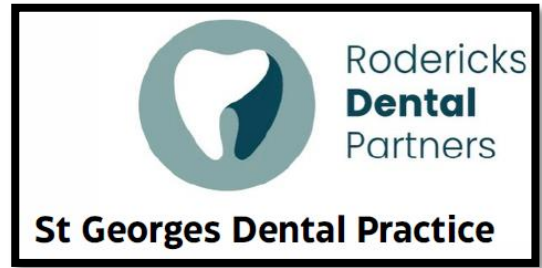
Labelling Uniforms

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
22.05.26

NHS Dentist for Children

We have been contacted by the NHS to publicise NHS dentistry for children. Please see attached leaflet.



Half term holiday activities

MAY LEARN TO RIDE

CHORLEY ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Eaves Lane PR6 ODX

WEDNESDAY 27TH MAY
CHILD LEARN 9AM - 10:30AM | CHILD LEARN 11AM-12:30PM

THURSDAY 28TH MAY
CHILD LEARN 9AM - 10:30AM | CHILD LEARN 11AM-12:30PM

TUESDAY 26TH MAY
ADULT LEARN 10:30AM - 12PM | FAMILY RIDE 12:30PM-2:30PM

£27 A SESSION

Ages 4-12

ONLY ONE BOOKABLE SESSION REQUIRED
BOOK ONLINE AT:
www.chorleyssp.co.uk

FREE

CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

01257 824798
m.brindle@chorleyssp.co.uk

Instagram, TikTok, Facebook icons

CHORLEY FC



**MAY
HALF TERM
2026**

CHORLEY FC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SOCCER CAMP



£21.50 per day

- ✓ 26th -29th May 2026
- ✓ 09:30 - 16:30 Monday - Friday
- ✓ Qualified & DBS checked Coaches
- ✓ All skill levels welcome
- ✓ Boys and Girls aged 5-12 years

- CERTIFICATES AND TROPHIES
- 1 BALL PER CHILD
- GUARANTEED FUN
- MEET AND BE COACHED BY CFC FIRST TEAM PLAYERS AND MANAGER

[HTTPS://CHORLEYFCFOUNDATION.CO.UK/SOCCERSCHOOLBOOKINGPAGE](https://chorleyfcfoundation.co.uk/soccerschoolbookingpage)

For more info call
07523 952149

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 Croston Old School, Church Street, Croston 1:30-2:30pm. £3 suggested donation.</p>		



SCAN TO DONATE

Badminton Sessions at Clayton Green Sports Centre

We have been asked to share the following:

Dear sir/madam

I hope you are well.

I'm getting in touch to share news of our :

'New badminton session aimed at Age 6+ delivered by 2 Badminton England L2 Coaches'.

We would be grateful for your help in promoting it to within your communities.

These are fun, friendly sessions designed to introduce young children to badminton in an engaging and supportive environment.

Details

Sessions begin:

The Venue: Clayton Green Sports Centre.

Cost: £6 on arrival

The sessions are run on a "pay and play" basis, so there is no need to book in advance—children can simply turn up and join in.

If you would like any further information, posters, or social media content, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you very much for your support.

Kind regards,

Derek and Lynette

Beyond Badminton Chorley

Tel : 07942361912 (Derek)

Email : Tidyl.BB@gmail.com

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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