



# School Newsletter

With Christ we live, love, learn and we grow

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

## Mass – start of new school year

Children from Y3 to Y6 attended Mass at St Mary's last Wednesday morning to mark the start of the news school year. The children behaved beautifully and listened intently as Fr Marsden spoke to them about the importance of learning. He even gave a bit of a science lesson himself all about the beginning of the universe and time. He told us about the Catholic priest, Fr. Georges Lemaître, who first came up with the theory known as the *Big Bang*.

## Harvest Mass



Fr Marsden will be saying Mass with us again on Monday 2 October, as we celebrate the harvest. While we give thanks for the food we have, we know that there are many people in our community who will be struggling to put food on their tables at this present time. Therefore, we would like to ask our families, if they are able, for donations of food which will be taken to the Living Waters Food Bank in Chorley. I know that they would be extremely grateful for donations of tinned food e.g. hot dogs, tinned meat products, tinned vegetables - tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, peas, tins of soup and beans and tinned fruit such as peaches. The bags can be left in the space marked out on the staff car park on the morning of **Monday 2 October**. Thank you.



## Caretaker/ Site Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a site supervisor. The job advert and job specification is on the LCC website [https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt\\_vacancyDetails.asp?id=62079](https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=62079). The site supervisor is a very important and very valued member of our team. The job mainly involves cleaning but also involves an amount of site maintenance, repairs and opening and locking up. It is 35 hours a week. If you or you know of anyone else who is interested please contact the school office on 01257 262811 or [office@chorleystmarys.lanc.sch.uk](mailto:office@chorleystmarys.lanc.sch.uk) .

## Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September - Y4 Sacramental Programme - Sacramental Cheese & Wine Evening



This year's Sacramental Programme will begin with a Cheese and Wine Evening at school for parents on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm**. Mrs Grzeczynska, will introduce the programme and explain the process of *Family Catechesis*. The meeting is intended for parents only but if families are struggling for childcare, then the school will do its best to accommodate them.

### Phonics meeting for parents of children in nursery, reception and Y1

Thank you to Mrs Cahalin, Mrs Ainscough and all the parents and carers who came to our phonics meeting on Wednesday after school. The teachers shared information about the phonics programme we use (*Read, Write, Inc.*) and how they can support the children with phonics at home. Gaining phonics knowledge and skills early is vitally important; it gives children the fundamentals in learning to read and therefore their learning overall.

### Governor Vacancy

In the coming weeks there will be a vacancy for a parent governor for the school. If you are interested in this role, please contact Kath Smith or myself via the school office at [office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk).

Information has now been sent out to parents/ carers via Groupcall.

Interest is welcomed from any parents/ carers right across the school. No experience is needed, just the desire to keep improving St Mary's School & Nursery. We have a very proactive, supportive and experienced group of governors who will help the new governor in their role. The term of office is four years. Find out more about the role of parent/ carer governor at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/become-a-school-governor/>

### Collective Worship/ Prayer and Liturgy Termly Overview

I have attached a termly overview of our collective worship in school over the autumn term.

### Little Church is open at St Mary's!

What is Little Church?

"Little Church" is the "Liturgy of the Word for Children". Our parish welcomes families and the full participation of young children in the celebration of the Mass. Since 1987, children at St Mary's have enjoyed their own Liturgy of the Word through 'Little Church' at the 10.30am Sunday Mass. See information at the end of the newsletter.

## St Mary's loves reading!

### Arrived and ready for September 2023 - Brand New Launch Pad Books

Miss Hesketh has purchased a range of amazing books to update our Year 5 and Year 6 Launch Pad section using the commission from the Scholastic Book Fair.

A huge thank you to everyone once again for their support throughout these events. The children in both Year 5 and Year 6 have chosen these books based on their favourite authors and book titles/series that they wanted to read.

A huge thank you to our Reading Ambassadors (now at Holy Cross) - Megan and Annabelle - for their help creating questionnaires to find out this information from the children. Thank you to Mrs St John for volunteering her time to unpack these books and getting them ready for the start of the new academic year. We hope the children enjoy them!



### Blue Peter Book Club

As we all know, St Mary's loves reading and Miss Hesketh has asked me to share some exciting news about a new initiative by BBC's *Blue Peter* to engage and encourage readers from 7-11. Find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club>



### PE Kit

Please ensure children wear the correct PE Kit. It is **white T-shirt and black or blue shorts**. Children should not be wearing other colours or team-branded football shorts. Please keep it simple. Thank you.

### 2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY



#### St Mary's Prospective Parents Open Day/ Open Evening

There will be an open evening event on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** at 6pm for parents interested in a place for their child in our reception class for September 2024. More details will follow.

**Primary School Admissions September 2024:** If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children->

[education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-primary-school/](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-primary-school/) for a September 2024 start.

It is quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

**VERY IMPORTANT: You must apply even if you already have siblings in a school.** If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

School places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis. All applications received up to the closing date are given equal priority, but if you miss the deadline, a late application may reduce your chance of getting your preference of school. The national closing date for primary applications is **15 January 2024**. Between now and 15<sup>th</sup> January all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the school's published admissions policy for school year 2024 – 2025

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions>

**\*\*Please remember that admissions to St Mary's, or any Catholic primary schools, also require the completion of the separate supplementary information form (SIF) - available at <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions> \*\***

### **Year 6 Pupils moving to Year 7**

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/> for a start in Year 7, in September 2024.

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

**VERY IMPORTANT: You must apply even if you already have siblings in school.** If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The arrangements for the transfer of pupils to secondary schools in September 2024 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable.

### **1 September 2023 - Apply from this date**

School places are not allocated on a first come, first served basis. All applications received up to the closing date are given equal priority, but if you miss the deadline, a late application may reduce your chance of getting your preference of school.

### **31 October 2023 - National closing date for secondary applications (statutory).**

### **Holy Cross High School Open Evening 12<sup>th</sup> October**

Holy Cross will be holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents on the evening of Thursday 12th October.



## SPORTS NEWS

### PE Steering Group Meeting for Weds 27th September 6-7pm in the school hall.

Mr Hodge has organised the annual meeting of the PE and Sports steering group for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 6-7pm in the school hall. This is an opportunity for the school community to come together, celebrate successes and have an input into the direction of PE and sport in the school over the next twelve months.

### Chorley School Sports Partnership Annual Awards, Chorley Town Hall, 29 September 2023

St Mary's has been nominated for an award in the "The Spirit of the Games" category. The CSSP awards event takes place on Friday 29th September in the Lancastrian Suite at Chorley Town Hall. Fingers crossed!

### Volunteers



We really appreciate the help we receive from parents and grandparents who come in to help with reading, supporting children's learning, clubs etc. We have had a couple of parents in recent years who started off volunteering and then have decided to pursue a career in teaching! A big thank you to all our returning volunteers this year – you make a massive difference!

If you feel you can spare half an hour or more a week please get in touch with the school office. Many thanks.

### Parking

By way of a reminder at the start of the school year, I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not park on the staff carpark, the yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. A neighbour has notified us just today that a parent/ carer blocked their driveway this morning. Also just to make our new parents aware, please do not park in the turning zone at the top of Warton Place by the entrance to school. Thank you.



### School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. For the safety of the children **please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance**. This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.

### A gift to the school from Margaret O'Neill

Parishioner and former St Mary's teacher, Margaret O'Neill, popped into school on Friday morning to donate to the school a Nativity sculpture. This will be a lovely addition to our prayer and liturgy resources especially when we prepare for Christmas. Thank you Margaret!



### New messaging service launched for Parents of 5-19 year olds in Lancashire



HCRG Care Group has introduced a quick and easy way for parents/carers to get in touch with the School Nursing service.



From 18th September 2023 parents and carers of children aged 5-19 in our area can send a message, anonymously if they wish, to the **School Nursing Team** to get confidential help and advice about a range of health concerns, including health, sexual health, relationships, alcohol and drugs and bullying. This joins our ChatHealth text messaging service which is for young people aged 11-19 years.

Further information about the service can be found at

<https://lancsyoungpeoplefamilyservice.co.uk/school-nursing/> or go to [www.chathealth.nhs.uk](http://www.chathealth.nhs.uk) to start a chat with the local messaging service.



The messaging service will be available Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays from 9am to 5pm). When a message is sent to the dedicated number (07312263554) an automated reply confirms the message has been received. A trained healthcare professional will reply to the message during office hours within 24 working hours at most. This is not an emergency service. Urgent help should be sought from an NHS walk-in centre or by calling NHS 111. In an emergency, dial 999 or go to A&E.

The Lancashire ParentLine messaging service will be run by HCRG Care Group and powered by the award-winning messaging platform, ChatHealth, which has been widely implemented at several NHS Trusts and healthcare organisations across the UK. It was developed by 2013 by an NHS Trust to offer more choice in how people can get help from local trained health staff in their area. In other areas where it is used young people say they feel more comfortable talking about their issues in a discreet message, whilst parents and carers say messaging is more convenient way to ask quick questions.

Please find attached the digital Leaflets for Chat Health for young people aged 11-19 years old and Lancashire ParentLine for parents of 5-19 years. [At the end of the newsletter].



**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League**  
**2023/ 2024 22.09.23**



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 1	98.81
2nd	YEAR 4	98.62
3rd	YEAR 6	98.33
4th	YEAR 2	97.02
5th	YEAR 3	96.90
6th	RECEPTION	95.65
7th	YEAR 5	94.82

Well done Y1 on achieving **100%** attendance this week!

**STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 22.09.23**

Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Joey	a fantastic attitude to learning.
YR	Annie	being a kind and caring friend and always willing to help others.
Y1	Thomas B	working hard independently, without any fuss.
Y2	Lilah	writing a lovely psalm in <i>Come and See</i>
Y3	George	brilliant answering of questions in English (especially about word classes).
Y4	Evie	an amazing independent piece of extended writing.
Y5	Mattia	excellent participation during our place value work in mathematics.
Y6	Declan	a great poem based on <i>Tyger Tyger</i> , by William Blake

P Smyth 22.09.23

**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

**Parent or  
carer**



**You can text a  
school nurse on**

**07312263554**

We can help with all kinds of things like.....

**Emotional Health & Wellbeing**

**Keeping Healthy Bedwetting**

**Sleep Bullying Dental Health**

**Growing Up Keeping Safe**

**Support with Medical Conditions**

**in School**

**Confidentiality**

We might inform someone if we are concerned about the safety of you, your child or someone else but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be seen between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

If you need help before you hear back from us, contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. If it is an emergency call 999 or go to the emergency department (A&E). Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health professional from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number.

Messages are charged at your usual rates.







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.  
WE CHANGE LIVES BY TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE.

St Mary's R.C. Church, Chorley

# LITTLE CHURCH



‘Liturgy of the Word for Children’

## What is Little Church?

"Little Church" is the "Liturgy of the Word for Children". Our Parish welcomes families and the full participation of young children in the celebration of the Mass. Since 1987, children at St Mary's have enjoyed their own Liturgy of the Word through 'Little Church' at the 10.30am Sunday Mass. There are two groups; 3-6 and 7-10 year olds.

We try to ensure that Children's Liturgy is an enjoyable experience for the children which helps develop their relationship with God. We discuss the Gospel of the day at a level the children can understand and enjoy. We enrich this with discussion, prayers, songs and readings. We also try to raise awareness of God's

love, the humanity of Jesus, the Seasons of the Church, the understanding of symbols in the Mass and the context of the Bible.

The children gather in Church for the beginning of the Mass with their families and after a blessing from Father they go out to the activity rooms with the leaders and helpers. We return to lead the offertory procession and join our families for the rest of Holy Mass.

### What do the children think about Little Church?



### Is there a crèche?

There is a crèche/play area at the back of the church for families with babies and toddlers to use. Parents / carers remain with their babies / toddlers in the crèche area as this facility is not supervised.

### Can I accompany my child?

Parents/carers are welcome to accompany their child until they are confident to attend alone. However, if a parent/carer attends on a regular basis (more than 3 or 4 times) they will be expected to complete a DBS check. This is in accordance with the advice and guidance given by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

### Can I get involved?

We are always keen to welcome new leaders and helpers. There is no previous experience needed and full guidance and support will be given. We meet two or three times a year to plan activities etc. Currently we ask for a commitment to lead or assist approximate once every 6 weeks. We would appreciate any help that is offered.

### What about safeguarding and DBS checks?

St Mary's Parish is committed to the protection of children and vulnerable adults and complies fully with the guidance given by the Archdiocese of Liverpool. This

means that all volunteers who come into contact with children and/or vulnerable adults must comply with the safeguarding procedures. A team of trained volunteers co-ordinates the administration of these procedures on behalf of the Parish. For further information contact the parish office or follow the link: <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk>.

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For further information please speak to one of the Little Church Leaders  
or Alison on:

Tel: 01257 262537

email: [stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmaryschorley@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.stmarys-chorley.org>