



# School Newsletter

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

23.01.26

**Dear parents and carers,**

It has been a busy and exciting start to the New Year with lots going on. This week we have had visitors in from Lancashire' Heritage Workshop to bring our history learning alive – thank you to Mrs Fitzsimmons for organising that. We also welcomed Kash, an expert in Sikhism, today.

## **History Workshops**

The Y2s enjoyed a workshop about the Great Fire of London and the Y6s had a workshop about Britain in the time of the Vikings

Mrs Cahalin said: 'Year 1 had an amazing time during their Great Fire of London workshop! The children put their existing knowledge to the test and discovered fascinating new facts about the events and key figures from this historic period.'

The day was packed with engaging activities: singing songs, taking part in role play, and even playing a team game using leather buckets to understand how people worked together to fight the fire in 1666.

A huge thank you to Julie from LCC for delivering such an interactive and informative session, and to Mrs Fitzsimmons for organising this fantastic learning experience for our pupils.'



Later in the week it was the turn of our Y6s who worked with Lancashire Heritage on Viking Britain to deepen their knowledge of this period in British history.

### **Other Religions – Sikhism**

As part of our learning about other faiths and cultures, we welcomed Kash, once again, to talk to us about her faith and share aspects of Sikh culture and history. Our children thoroughly enjoyed the lively visit which included music, dancing and amazing food. Thank you Kash and thanks to Mrs Nicklin for organising.

### **Staffing News**

As some of you may have noticed, especially parents and carers of children in Y5, Mrs Nicklin will soon be leaving us to have a baby. During her maternity leave, we are welcoming Mrs Critchley to our team and she will be teaching Y5 on the days Mrs Nicklin currently does. Mrs Critchley starts with us on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

During Mrs Nicklin's leave, Mr Cahalin will be stepping up into the role of acting assistant Headteacher, a role he has carried out previously.

### **Reading for pleasure advice from Book Trust:**

*Message from our English lead, Miss Hesketh:*

Great Books Guide - Here are 100 books from 2025–26 that we think are great – and so will children.

Our priority is to get children excited about books, stories and rhymes because if reading is fun, children will want to do it. That's why we've put together this guide full of books we think are absolutely brilliant, carefully chosen to engage and excite children from 4 to 11. We believe that the 'right' book is always the book a child wants to read – and we hope this guide inspires you to find that book.

Bookfinder: Search thousands of hand-picked book recommendations to find a child's next favourite read – from astonishing adventures to fantastic facts, our Bookfinder tool will help you discover the very best kids' books

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/bookfinder/>

### **Unavoidable School Closures**

We are about midway 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.

## **Parents' Evenings – spring term**

Spring term parents' evenings have been planned for the evenings of **Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th February (Yr 5 will be 5th and 12th)**. The meetings will be up to ten minutes in duration and will be face-to-face. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to come in and look at the children's work too. Details on how to book will be released in the next week or so.

## **Sports News**

### **SEND sports competitions spring term.**

Today Mrs Blackwell and Miss Roby accompanied our Y5/6 Boccia team to take part in a competition against children from other Chorley schools at the All Seasons Leisure Centre. The children participated well and enjoyed taking part in a new sport. Thank you to our parents/ carers for taking the children along.

## **Foodbank**

Following on from the fabulous support shown for our Harvest Service, 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>

## **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](mailto:jacqueline.malone@chorleyscouts.org.uk) for more information.

## Smartphone Free Childhood

## Fact of the Week



### FACT OF THE WEEK

Prolonged screen use can lead to digital eyestrain and early onset myopia

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.'*

## **STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 23.01.26**

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of PEACE
Nursery	s	Eli	Super talking about what the penguin can do in our literacy book 'I can Fly'
	v	Jay	Always looking after others when they are sad
	Dojo	Elsey	
R	s	liza	For brilliant work in music on percussion instruments
	v	Beck	For showing empathy for others making sure everyone was happy when playing a game
	Dojo	Olsen and Olivia	

Y1	s	Olivia	Beautiful handwriting in her books.
	v	Tillie	Gentleness with a classmate who was upset
	Dojo	George B	
Y2	s	Chloe	For her excellent answers linked to Samson and the Titanic, and working hard during our mathematics work on money.
	v	Seb B	For being a forgiving friend.
	Dojo	Annie	
Y3	s	Jacob	For an amazing week of independent work
	v	Jesse	Always gentle with and respectful of his friends
Y4	s	Joseph S	A great issue and dilemma story
	v	Hattie	For giving a friend after a fall out.
Y5	s	Rebecca	For a fantastic speech on the deforestation topic
	v	Thomas I	For being a kind and caring friend
Y6	s	Kristian	For a great retelling of Macbeth.
	v	Joseph P	For always being kind and caring to everyone.

## Attendance



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2025/2026 w/e 23.01.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 3	97.49
2nd	YEAR 4	97.22
3rd	YEAR 2	97.16
4th	YEAR 1	96.85
5th	RECEPTION	96.78
6th	YEAR 5	95.96
7th	YEAR 6	93.98

No 100% attendance this week.

## 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>



### ***Some New Year 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.

**Future Date – Compass Bloom Sleep Assembly Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 9am. Parents/ carers of children in Yrs 3-6 are invited.**



Sleep is essential for a child's physical and mental development, helping with growth, brain function, immunity, mood, and learning. Lack of sleep can cause issues like inattentiveness,

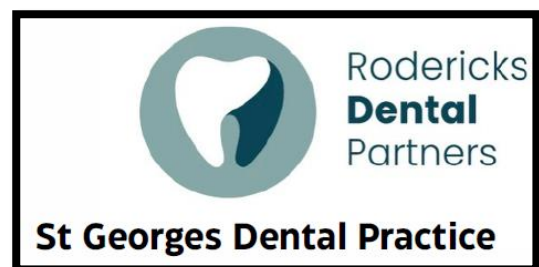
irritability, poor problem-solving and hyperactivity. We spend about a third of our lives asleep! Yet sleep is often one of the first things we compromise on when things become busy or overwhelming.

We invite parents and carers to Join us for a short assembly to learn more about how important sleep is and what you can do to improve sleeping habits. We will be At St Marys Primary School on Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 9am. At the end of the assembly, there will be an opportunity to refer your child onto our 2 week sleep workshop taking place in school on 17th and 24th March 2026. We look forward to seeing you there. See attached leaflet for details.

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23.01.26

### 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



Part of the SVP Nationally





**SVP Chorley Buddies**  
*We're Helping*

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

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



**SCAN TO DONATE**