



School Newsletter

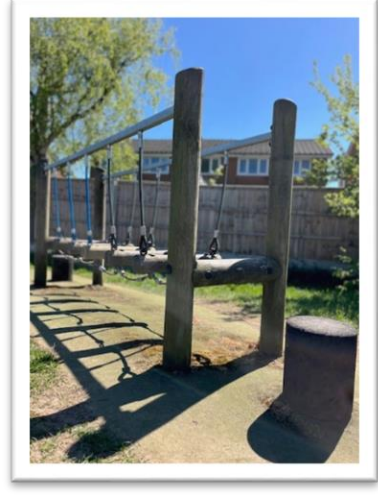
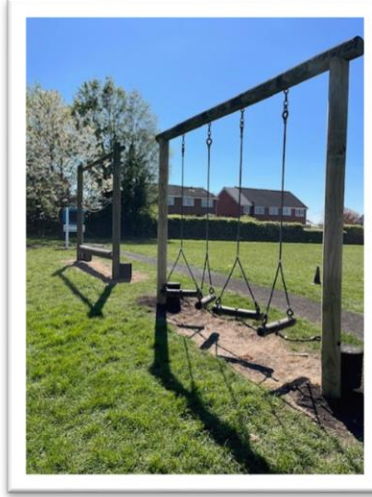
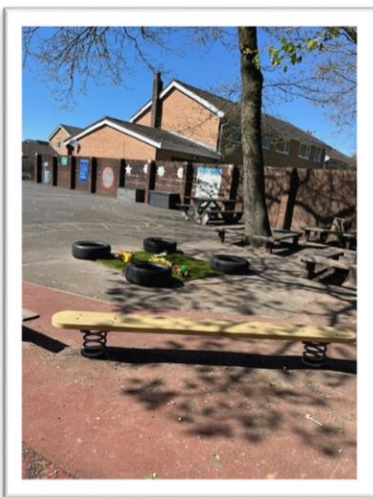
With Christ we live, we love, we learn and we grow

24.04.26

Dear parents and carers,

We have enjoyed a great second week back buoyed by the wonderful sunshine, allowing both the infants and junior to play on the grass at break times.

PTFA Project Playground



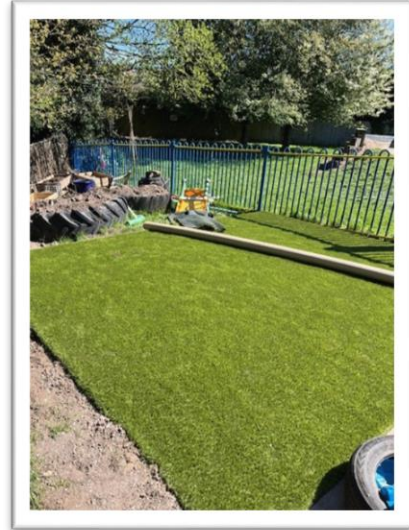
Contractors have been in school carrying out repairs to our outdoor play equipment over the last few days, bringing items that have been out of use, back into play. The children were delighted to be able to get back on today and we had the perfect weather for them too!

The children in nursery and reception have absolutely loved watching the contractors as they have been carrying out the repairs and digging with the mini-excavator.

Next week, we are going to have some new markings painted onto the playground surface in the infant playground, which will improve the look and feel still further.

The base has been prepared for a new house to arrive in the nursery play area. The children were sad to see the old one being taken away but will be thrilled when they see its replacement.

Keep your eyes peeled for other changes and replacements. A big thank you, once again, to our PTFA for allowing us to fund this playground refresh for the children and a big thank you to our parents and carers for supporting our PTFA events.



Fundraising opportunity

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

Y3 trip to Deva (Chester)

Our Y3 class spent Wednesday in the sunshine this week, in Deva (Chester). They had a tremendous day out. They went on a tour of the ancient Roman walls, learned some Roman military history, marched along to the Latin chant of *sin, dex, sin, dex...* - you'll have to ask Y3s for a translation – amongst many other exciting activities. This really brought to life their learning about Roman Britain.

Thanks to Mr Hodge and our staff for taking them along and a big thank you too to our parent/ grandparent volunteers who came along too. Mr Hodge was so impressed with the attitude and behaviour of the class on the visit that he awarded each one of them this week's star of the week award!

Online Safety

We received some very good advice from the Lancashire Schools Safeguarding Service to pass on to you about keeping your children safe online. Many parents/ carers are very strong on monitoring what their children are accessing online. That said, children can often be adept at hiding what they don't want their parents/ carers to see. We have been advised that monitoring can be improved still further, for example, by looking at a device's camera roll where any screen recordings or images could be stored and indeed to check and also by viewing recently deleted pictures and videos.

For further tips on keeping your child safe online, there is an excellent session being put on in a couple of weeks' time, on May 6, by Knowsley Council online safety service, who produce our monthly online safety newsletter. See below and leaflet attached.

Parent/Carer online safety information session - see leaflet attached

Wednesday 6th May 2026 – 4pm – 4.45pm

Focus: Guide to social media and livestreaming - this will include latest trends and emerging threats and will focus on developing your understanding of social media and livestreaming, the associated risks and steps we can take to support our children. The link to access this session will be provided one week before the event.

As a reminder, this session (and all our virtual sessions) will be recorded and will be subsequently shared.

Sports News

CSSP Netball league - WEEK 2

The seven members of the St Mary's netball squad went to Holy Cross High School to take part in week two of the four-week netball league. The squad, made up mainly of Y5 players, once again came up against three teams from across Chorley. Mr Hodge reported that they are improving rapidly and notched up their first points of the league season. Well done!

Lancashire Schools Music Service – a message from its district music lead, Mark Waltho

We would like to let you know about the Jazz Day that is running on Saturday May 16th, and would be very grateful if you would share this information with any musicians at your school with the appropriate skills and interests.

Young musicians, 18 and under, are invited to come and join us for our Jazz Day 2026! The Day will consist of workshops, masterclasses and performances with an emphasis on creativity and improvisation, featuring Yamaha artist, Craig Wild.

Musicians should be able to play their instruments at a Grade 1 level of proficiency or above. If they are not sure they can ask their LMS music teacher if they think Jazz day would be appropriate for them.

📅 16th May 2026, 10am – 3.30pm (arrivals from 9.45am)

📍 Lancaster Royal Grammar School, East Rd, Lancaster, LA1 3EF

Click here to sign up:

<https://UKLANCASHIRE.speedadmin.dk/registration?signupSchoolID=2092#/Course/918/0/7313/2092>

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>

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.

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>

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 24.04.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Petra	Always making others feel good about themselves
	v	Coby	Sacrificing toys for others in play
	Dojo	George and Harry	
R	s	Charlie	For trying hard and having a positive attitude with writing and trying to spell longer words
	v	Luca	For being loving and caring towards others
	Dojo	Marabelle	
Y1	s	Gloria	Confident and thoughtful reasoning in our capacity lessons.
	v	Ellie	Being a loyal and reliable friend.
	Dojo	Rayne	
Y2	s	Brody	For showing determination and applying his problem-solving skills during mathematics. As well as working extremely hard on his presentation in all areas of the curriculum.
	v	Chloe	For demonstrating dignity when helping her classmates.
	Dojo	Hallie	
Y3	s	WHOLE CLASS	Chester Trip – Amazing behaviour, answered questions well and learnt a lot!
	v	Rory H	Always loving and caring towards others
Y4	s	Madison	Great work learning all her times tables
	v	An	Being a kind forgiving friend
Y5	s	Sebastian P	Excellent achievements in his assessments
	v	CiCi	For her pure, loving approach to life and lighting up the room with her smile

Y6	s	Emily	For getting full marks on her arithmetic test.
	v		

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

Real-life interactions help children develop empathy and emotional intelligence.

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 24.04.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %	↑ OR ↓
1 st	YEAR 3	97.59	↓
2 nd	YEAR 4	97.00	↓
3 rd	YEAR 1	96.85	↑
4 th	YEAR 2	96.84	↓
5 th	YEAR 5	96.77	↑
6 th	RECEPTION	96.30	↑
7 th	YEAR 6	94.33	↑

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 23.04.26

How does St Mary's compare? (We have moved up two places since last update – we're slowly but surely going in the right direction)

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	96.5%	You are ranked 81st out of 481 schools
Overall absence	3.5%	You are ranked 81st out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	3.1%	You are ranked 136th out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.4%	You are ranked 29th out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	5.7%	You are ranked 74th 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.

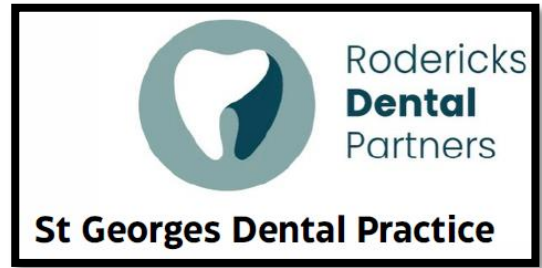
P Smyth
24.04.26

Chorley Children and Family Wellbeing Service – One Stop Shop on the Move

I have attached a leaflet which promotes a community drop-in event at Clayton Brook Community Centre where families and individuals can access support and information from multiple local services—including help with housing, finance, food banks, mental health, and wellbeing—all under one roof.

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



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.



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

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
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.

