



School Newsletter

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

24.10.25

Dear parents and carers,

We have come to the end of the very busy first half term of the academic year. The past seven-and-a-half weeks have flown by and we have packed a lot in. Well done boys and girls on your hard work in your new classes. I hope everyone has an enjoyable break and we look forward to seeing you all back, safe and sound, on **Tuesday 4th November**; school is closed for children on Monday 3rd November as it is INSET (training) day.

Parents' Evening

Thank you for meeting with the teachers for the online parents' evenings this week; I hope you found them both useful and informative in supporting your children in their learning and in school. Thank you to the teachers, too, for your time and effort.

Primary School Admissions September 2026

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/> for a September 2025 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 2026**. Between now and 15th January all applications are processed and all preferences are considered against the school's published admissions policy for school year 2026 - 2027.

<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> **

Primary School Admissions 2027-2028

Every seven years the school is required to have a consultation about its proposed admissions policy. You will have received information separately about this and, if interested, everything you need to know is on the school website. <https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/admissions/admissions-consultation-2027-28>

Archdiocese of Liverpool Christmas Card Competition – Deadline November 7

Message from the Archdiocese education team – *‘The autumn term is in full swing and the nights draw closer, we are looking forward to one of the biggest highlights in our calendar Advent and Christmas. We’re pleased to announce that our annual Christmas Card Competition is back for 2025! We want our schools to put their creativity to the test and design a front cover for our official archdiocesan Christmas card which will be sent out to our parishes, clergy, schools, staff and stakeholders.’* See separate leaflet attached.

PTFA Tropic Pamper Night

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported our Tropic Pamper Night held last night at school. We are delighted to share that the event raised over £400 for the PTFA – *Project Playground* fundraising campaign.

Special thanks go to Mrs Cassidy for generously hosting the evening and organising the guided facials, fabulous prizes, and festive gifts. Guests enjoyed a relaxing night with a glass of fizz and a lovely goody bag — all for just £5!



Your support helps us continue to fund exciting opportunities and resources for our children. Thank you again for making the evening such a success.

PTFA Spooktacular Dress up day - Friday 24th October

Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting today’s *Spooktacular* Dress-Up Day. The children had fun in their costumes, and we’re delighted to share that the event raised over £100 for *Project Playground*! Your continued support is greatly appreciated and helps us make lasting improvements to our school environment. Many thanks.

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.

Cafod – Brighten Up the Harvest We are still waiting for a total for the CAFOD harvest collection – we will let you know as soon as we have it.

ParentPay

ParentPay - please ensure accounts are up to date for the half term break. 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

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

Two of our governors, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Nightingale, both parents of children at school, have been working hard behind the scenes to share information about the **Smartphone Free Childhood** movement and find out what interest there is amongst our school community for it.

All parents and carers, who are interested and want to find out more, are welcome to attend a meeting here at school on **Wednesday 26th November at 6pm** where we can discuss and share plans for children and families of St Mary's.

For more information about this parent-led grassroots movement visit:

<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.'

Holiday term dates

Some parents have been asking about holiday term dates for 2026/ 2027 and when they will be released. These will be agreed at the next full governing board meeting in November. Thank you to the parents and staff who contributed to the recent consultations.

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.

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 24.10.25

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of mercy for...
Nursery	s	George	Always following nursery rules and being a star
	v	Libby	Always being kind and forgiving
	Dojo	Sylvia	
R	s	Zach	For super vocabulary in maths when comparing amounts
	v	Lucy	Always being kind to others
	Dojo	Teddie	
Y1	s	Maggie	Lovely independent writing about Macaroni penguins.
	v	Robert	Always being a kind and thoughtful friend.
	Dojo	Nathan George B	
Y2	s	Edie	For showing passion and enthusiasm throughout our non-fiction work in English and for completing a wonderful information text on her chosen animal.
	v	Annie	For always showing kindness and forgiveness to others.
	Dojo	Eden	
Y3	s	Alex K & Ralphi	For confidently answering questions in class and giving good explanations. For a massive improvement in his spelling test score.
	v	Rory T-J	For showing kindness and forgiveness to a friend who accidentally hurt him
Y4	s	Alice B	Most improved score on weekly times table check since beginning of term
	v	Clara	For showing mercy and kindness to others.
Y5	s	James	Always wanting to do his best and make the right choices
	v	Jessica	Showing mercy and kindness when navigating the complexities of friendship.
Y6	s	Penny	For her wonderful writing assessment based on Simone Biles.
	v	Alfie	For showing mercy and kindness to others.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2025/2026 w/e 24.10.25



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 st	YEAR 4	98.94
2 nd	YEAR 2	98.77
3 rd	RECEPTION	98.02
4 th	YEAR 3	97.63
5 th	YEAR 5	97.33
6 th	YEAR 1	97.31
7 th	YEAR 6	96.22

No class achieved **100%** attendance this week.

Have a good half term break.

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth
Headteacher

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>

CSSP half-term holiday activities



CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

OCTOBER SPORTS CAMP

28TH - 30TH OCTOBER

Ages 5-11

BOOK ONLINE AT:
www.chorleyssp.co.uk

9:30AM - 3:00PM

£22 A DAY OR
£60 ALL THREE DAYS

01257 824798
j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk

LANCASTER LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Hunters Road PR25 5TT

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Instagram, TikTok, Facebook icons



CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

PRESENTS CREATIVE CAMP

28TH - 30TH OCTOBER

Ages 5-11

9:30AM - 3:00PM

£22 A DAY OR £60 ALL THREE DAYS

BOOK ONLINE AT:
www.chorleyssp.co.uk

CHORLEY ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Eaves Lane PR6 0DX

01257 824798
j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Instagram, TikTok, Facebook icons



OCTOBER LEARN TO RIDE

CHORLEY ST PETER'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Eaves Lane PR6 0DX

MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER 10:00AM - 11:30AM

MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER 12:30PM - 2:00PM

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

Ages 4-12

£25 A SESSION

01257 824798
j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk

CHORLEY
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Instagram, TikTok, Facebook icons

**Message from
SVP Chorley
Buddies**



SVP Chorley Buddies

We're Helping

01257 542 367

Supported by



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.	 SCAN TO DONATE	
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.		