



School Newsletter

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

25.09.26

Dear parents and carers,

We are already halfway through autumn first half term. Our Y6s have received their Leavers' Hoodies in preparation for their residential visit to the Venture Centre in the Isle of Man next week. We will see them off on Monday morning and look forward to hearing the tales of their adventure on their return.



Toddler group

Toddler group is now on Monday mornings in the school hall – please spread the word!

NSPCC Visits to Y2, Y5 and Y6

As a follow up to our assemblies on the NSPCC message for children to Speak Out and Stay Safe, we welcomed NSPCC volunteer, Gillian Robinson, who came and spent an hour doing workshops with our Y2, Y5 and Y6 classes.



Open Days 1st October, 8th October and 15th October

We will be opening our doors to prospective parents for three consecutive Thursdays starting next week: 1st October, 8th October and 15th October. If you know of anyone looking for a place at St Mary's for September 2027, please let them know that they can come in and take a look at the school in action!

Parents' Evenings

Our Parents' Evenings will take place during the week beginning 12 October 2026. Appointments will be held online and will last five minutes. Information on how to book will be sent out shortly.

In order to make the best use of both parents'/ carers' and teachers' time, please do not feel obliged to book a slot. At this stage of the autumn term, children have only been in their new classes for around five to six weeks and parents, carers and teachers often tell us that there is little to discuss beyond the positive news that children have settled in well and are enjoying their learning.

If your child's teacher has wanted to discuss a particular concern or celebrate something significant, they will usually have contacted you already, and likewise many parents will have already been in touch if they have something specific they wish to raise.

That said, these meetings are available for any parent or carer who would like an opportunity to speak with their child's teacher. We are always happy to answer questions, discuss how your child has settled into their new class, and work together to support their continued success.

Please also remember that there will be a further opportunity in the spring term for a longer, 10-minute face-to-face meeting with your child's teacher when there will be much more to share.

Cuddly Toy and Children's Book Collection

On Wednesday, we welcomed a local charity volunteer, Pauline Barnes, into school. She spoke to the children about how she collects small cuddly toys and children's books and makes small bags which she puts them in for children at Preston hospital to make them feel more calm and comfortable on their visits. She also creates parcels for the regular deliveries of toys and books to Ukraine from Chorley.

She asked our children if they could have a look in their rooms and see if they had any cuddly toys or books that they had finished with and would not mind donating. She told us that Sophie in Y3 had gathered together enough items to fill 50 bags! Someone in the hall worked out that if every child in the hall could provide the same amount of books and toys, that would equate to ten thousand bags!

Pauline said she would come along, collect and deliver any donations. We will give a date for the last week of term for donations if anyone would like to make them.

Democracy in action ... the election of St Mary's Pupil Parliament

KS2 pupils at St Mary's headed to the polls yesterday afternoon to cast their votes for this MPs.

Thank you to our Y6s and Mr Cahalin for organising the polls. We will let you know the newly elected MPs in due course. At this stage, as always, we would say a big thank you and well done to everyone who put themselves before a public vote. It

Sports News - Football

Girl's Football

We have a new after school Girls football club taking place on Wednesdays this half term. We are very grateful to two of our parents and carers will be running the club: Mrs Christie and Ms Mitchell. The club is for girls in Y5 and Y6. A consent form has been to parents of girls in Y5 and Y6 to respond to if their child would like to attend. The children will need sports kit and suitable clothes and they will train even if it is raining. Suitable footwear is required but this doesn't need to be football boots (only if they have them already). They can also bring a water bottle. No snacks please.

St Mary's Football team

The St Mary's football team competed in the CSSP football league over the previous two weeks. They won one match, drew two matches and lost one narrowly. On the basis of these results, they have qualified for the Chorley finals night later in October. Congratulations to the team and to their coach, Mr Hodge.

New St Mary's Instagram account

St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery is now on Instagram!



Follow us on Instagram at: @stmaryschorley

Foodbank

The Living Waters container is 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>

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 18.09.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Albie	A fabulous week in Nursery following the nursery routine
	v	Matilda	Being really helpful, especially at tidy up time
	Dojo	Caleb	
R	s	Aria K	For excellent clapping to the beat in music.
	v	Libby	For being a caring helping her friends come into school in the morning
	Dojo	Eli	
Y1	s	Toby	His excellent attitude to work this week.
	v	Lily	Celebrating the achievements of herself and others.
	Dojo	Tristan	
Y2	s	Collette	For excellent ideas linked to our story 'The Way Home for Wolf'.
	v	Mila	For showing gentleness to her peers when playing games.
	Dojo	Maggie	
Y3	s	Annie	The only child in the class who was able to identify and label the 6 given Chorley landmarks in Geography.
	v	Wolf	Always helpful to those around him.
Y4	s	Evie Win	For her confident approach to school all this week
	v	Ralphi	Looking after his friends on the playground
Y5	s	Charlie H	Always ready to learn, listening carefully and 100% effort in all he does
	v	Poppy	
Y6	s	Thomas I	For his hard work and determination on Learning By Questions, both in school and at home.
	v	Finley	Always showing compassion towards others by helping them in class.

STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 25.09.26

Class		Name	Star of the week for... & Value of the week of love
Nursery	s	Jack M	
	v	Maeva	
	Dojo	Skye	
R	s	Joe	Super answers in Science about growth and change
	v	Jay	For looking after friends when they were upset
	Dojo	Coby	
Y1	s	Charlie	For his careful work on his story map in English.
	v	Indie	For showing care for a friend who was hurt.
	Dojo	Luca	
Y2	s	Avaeha	For a superb week in all areas of the curriculum.
	v	Nathan	For always showing gentleness towards his peers.
	Dojo	Maggie	
Y3	s	Brooklyn	For working exceptionally hard in phonics and for being a good junior role model to others.
	v	William	For showing care and compassion to others.
Y4	s	Jessie	For an amazing non chronological report about the <i>Loch Ness Monster</i>
	v	Keeley	For being a kind and supportive friend
Y5	s	Lilah	A wonderful role model, always working hard and beautiful presentation in her work
	v	Keira	For her kind and respectful attitude to all around her
Y6	s	James	His wonderful work in geography, researching the United States of America
	v	Ariana	She demonstrates gentleness through her kind and caring nature, always treating others with respect and showing patience and understanding in her words and actions.

Attendance



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2026/2027 w/e 25.09.26



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).

WEEKLY CLASS ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLE (ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027)						
Week Number: Week 3		Date/Period: 21/09/2026 - 25/09/2026		School Target: 97.0%		
Rank	Class Name	This Week %	Last Week %	Change	Trend	Target Met? (97%+)
1	Year 3	99.24%	97.84%	1.40%	▲ Up	★ Target Met
2	Year 6	98.93%	99.06%	-0.13%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
3	Year 4	98.20%	98.52%	-0.32%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
4	Year 1	97.77%	98.61%	-0.84%	▼ Down	★ Target Met
5	Year 2	97.62%	97.04%	0.58%	▲ Up	★ Target Met
6	Year 5	96.77%	98.98%	-2.21%	▼ Down	Below Target
7	Reception	90.25%	91.23%	-0.98%	▼ Down	Below Target
School Average		97.0%	97.3%	-0.4%	▼ Down	Below Target

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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
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.

