



School Newsletter

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

25.10.24

Dear parents and carers,

We have come to the end of the very 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 **Monday 4th November**.

Vacancy - Breakfast Club assistant

Are there any parents, carers interested in working for an hour, 0745 – 0845, each day in the Breakfast Club? We have a vacancy as Mrs Waddington is leaving the role. If you are interested or you know of anybody else who is, please contact Mrs Wilson at the school office.

office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk or 01257 262811.

A big thank you to Mrs Waddington for her hard work and dedication over recent months giving the children a safe, fun and happy start to the school day.

PTFA Spooky Disco

Mrs Wilson asked me to pass on to all the parents/ carers a huge THANK YOU from the PTFA.

Mrs Wilson says, *'A Spooktacular £500 has been raised today for school funds between the disco and the non-uniform day. Thank you all for your support for today. The children's costumes have been amazing.'*

Thank you to the Ice Queen team for their amazing disco and keeping the children so well entertained. The children had a brilliant time. Thank you to all the staff for stopping behind and supervising and of course, thank you to the Mrs Wilson and the members of the PTFA for organising the event.

PTFA future dates

PTFA Non-Uniform day - Friday 29th November - Chocolates & New Toys

PTFA Non-Uniform day - Friday 6th December - bottles

Christmas Fair - Friday 6th December 5.30-7.30

PTFA Meeting - Tuesday 4th February - time to be confirmed

PTFA Meeting - Tuesday 29th April - time to be confirmed
Ladies Party Night - Friday 27th June - St Mary's Parish Centre

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.

NOTIFICATION FROM ST MARY'S RC CHURCH CHORLEY, LANCASHIRE

As from Sunday 3rd November 2024 the Sunday Mass will be as follows:

- Saturday Vigil at 17.00
- Sunday at 09.30 – with *Little Church* for children

Thank you.



2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY



St Mary's Prospective Parents Open Evening Thursday 7th November at 6pm.

There will be an open evening event on **Thursday 7th November** 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 2025: 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 2025**. Between now and 15th 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 Applying for a place at high school * 31 OCTOBER DEADLINE**

APPROACHING ***

The window to apply for a secondary school place is now open. To apply for a place in a Lancashire secondary school please check the following link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/>

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 2025 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable. **The deadline for applications is Thursday 31st October, which is during our half term break.**

FREE SCHOOL MEALS 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>

Parentkind/ Asda Cashpot for Schools– update 18.10.24

Mrs Wilson registered the school a few weeks ago to the Parentkind/ Asda Cashpot for Schools initiative and we have so far accumulated **£188.60** in our rewards cashpot - free cash for school! (See screenshot right)

Parents can register on their app or if they haven't signed up yet - the link below gives more information:

<https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024.

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to St Mary's. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage. Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most.



Archdiocese of Liverpool School Christmas Card competition – open now - deadline Friday, November 8th

As the autumn term is in full swing and the nights draw closer, we are looking forward to some of the biggest highlights in our calendar – Advent and Christmas. This year, the Archdiocese of Liverpool would like to send out a digital Christmas card to all our parishes, clergy, schools, staff and stakeholders and we need your help... We want our children to put their creativity to the test and design a front cover for the Christmas card in our new competition. See leaflet attached.

Tax-free childcare

One of our governors shared some information with me last year 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>

ATTENDANCE NEWS



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2024/2025 25.10.24



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 6	98.99
2nd	RECEPTION	97.59
=3rd	YEAR 2	97.57
=3rd	YEAR 4	97.57
5th	YEAR 1	97.52
6th	YEAR 5	97.38
7th	YEAR 3	97.20

No 100% attendance this week!

An update on Penalty Charge Notices issued for unauthorised absence

These changes came into effect on 19 August 2024.

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice **must** be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).
- Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

Best wishes, Patrick Smyth 25.10.24

Free Chorley health Festival Saturday 2 November – All Seasons Leisure Centre

See flyer below.

Health Festival

FREE

Starting Life Well in Chorley

Saturday 2 November, 2024

All Seasons Leisure Centre, Water Street, PR7 1EX

12noon - 4pm

A fun, free day out for all the family. Bring your swimming kit so you can all have a free swim on the day, or book for a free session later in the month.

We want our children and young people to have the healthiest start they can. Come along to find out what's available, take part and join in. There is so much support out there and we've brought it all together in one place for you.

Join us in the leisure centre and be in with a chance to win prizes if you can complete the treasure hunt.



For more information contact
communities@chorley.gov.uk

Chorley
Council

EUXTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB



PAN DISABILITY FOOTBALL



Blast off with Comets

Comets is a recreational, pan-disability football programme for disabled boys between 5 and 11. Pan-disability is the largest format of disability football, which sees players with a broad range of impairments and health conditions play together.

Comets provides a safe space for disabled children to play football, belong and just be themselves, allowing them to use their imagination to take them to a world where the possibilities are endless!

Email the club to express an interest:

hello@euxtonvillaafc.com