



School Newsletter

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

27.09.24

Dear parents/ carers,

Online Safety Newsletter

I am sending out October's online safety newsletter tonight separately. Interestingly, there is more information about smart phones and children in it with an article: *Mobile phones: do you know the risks?* It's a really good read, quick read with excellent advice and guidance for parents and carers.

Sacramental Class Meeting – Cheese and Wine evening 6pm Tuesday 24th September at 6pm

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to the Family Catechesis Cheese and Wine evening on Tuesday night in school. Thank you to Kinga Grzeczynska and Fr Marsden for outlining this year's programme.



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

St Mary's went to the polls yesterday afternoon to vote for members of the St Mary's Pupil Parliament. In assembly today, Mr Cahalin made a special point of thanking all the children who had put themselves forward for election. It takes a great deal of courage for anyone, let alone children, to prepare and deliver a speech to their peers, and then subject themselves to a public vote. Therefore, I would also like to say thank you and well done to all the children who stood for election. I would also like to congratulate those who were elected and we look forward to seeing the parliament getting to work..

Thank you to Mr Cahalin and the Year 6s for organising this year's elections; they were highly authentic. We had ballot papers, polling booths, electoral officers and the process was conducted in a fair and transparent manner. I don't think Chorley Borough Council could do it better.

Harvest Mass Monday 30 September – Food donations Tuesday 1st October



Fr Marsden will be saying Mass with us on **Monday 30 September at 2pm**, as we celebrate the harvest. Whilst we give thanks for the food we have, we know that there are many people in our community who will be struggling to put food on their tables at this present time.

Therefore, we would like to ask our families, if they are able, for donations of food which will be taken to the Living Waters Food Bank in Chorley on Tuesday morning, when it opens. I know that they would be extremely grateful for donations of tinned food e.g. hot dogs, tinned meat products, tinned vegetables - tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, peas, tins of soup and beans and tinned fruit such as peaches. The bags can be left in the coned-off parking bay of the school car park on the morning of **Tuesday 1st October**. Thank you.



Governor News

Change of Chair and Vice Chair

After a number of years as Vice-Chair, Matthew Simpson was elected Chair of Governors in the summer term and takes over that responsibility this term. Congratulations to Matthew and a big thank you to him for taking on such an important voluntary role within our school and parish community.

Kath Smith, has stepped down as Chair and was also elected to Vice-Chair. We thank her for time, energy, effort and expertise in the role of Chair and thank her for continuing to volunteer. It was always Kath's intention to step down after a limited period of years to help us keep our approach to governance fresh and focused as well as help shape the knowledge and experience of our governing board. Thank you, Kath.

Margaret Rogerson Stepping Down

Margaret Rogerson has stepped down from governor duties after over three decades of dedication. Margaret was Chair of Governors before Kath took over a few years ago. Margaret has been a champion for the school of St Mary's and its children, as a governor, for **thirty-two years** and we thank her knowledge, experience, her time, her expertise, her care and guidance too. Thank you, Margaret!

This extraordinary length of service and level of volunteering has been recognised at county level and she is due to be given a special recognition award shortly by Lancashire County Council.

New foundation governor

We welcome Sheila Cronin, appointed by the Archdiocese of Liverpool, to the governing board as our new foundation governor

Information on our governing board is available on the website – with more to follow.

Volunteers

We really appreciate the help we receive from parents and grandparents who come in to help with reading, supporting children's learning, clubs etc. We have had a couple of parents in recent years who started off volunteering and then have decided to pursue a career in teaching! A big thank you to all our returning volunteers this year – you make a massive difference! Thank you to all those who have offered their services this year, we will be in touch soon.

If you feel you can spare half an hour or more a week please get in touch with the school office. Many thanks.

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

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.

Parking

By way of a reminder at the start of the school year, I would appreciate your co-operation in parking safely and considerately at drop-off and pick-up times. **Please do not park on the staff carpark**, the **yellow zig zag lines** outside the gates and please do not park **across resident's driveways**. Thank you.



School entrance

At the start and end of the school day there are two entrances to the school in use: Walgarth Drive and Warton Place. The Warton place entrance can also be accessed from Hornchurch Drive via the alleyway that runs parallel to the staff car park. **Please do not use the path in the staff car park entrance.** This may only be used during the school day when the other entrances are locked.

Parentkind

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 our Primary school. 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.

Message from Linda Walmsley, Lay Chaplain at Holy Cross

*For the first Youth Mass of the academic year, we're working with the Live Simply Group at St Gregory's to host a **Creation Mass**, on **Sunday 6 October at 6:30pm**. We're hoping to involve as many young people and families as possible and to help with that. Many thanks. Linda, Linda Walmsley Lay Chaplain*



As always, if there is anyone in our school who you think might like to be involved - readers, greeters, musicians, offertory we can put them in touch with Linda. Please contact the school office.

High School Open Evenings

Holy Cross Catholic High School

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR

Open Evening

at Holy Cross Catholic High School

Thursday 10 October 2024

Join us between 4.30pm - 7pm

Holy Cross
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

www.holycross.lancs.sch.uk

'AN OUTSTANDING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'
ARCHDIOCESEAN REPORT

St Michael's CE High School


St Michael's CE High School are holding an open morning on Thursday 10th October 9:30am-12 noon. This is open to all prospective families and there is no requirement to book.

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 27.9.24



Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
YN	Ella W	always showing her caring side to her friends.
YR	Joey	100% effort in all his learning
Y1	Paisley	trying her very best in all her learning.
Y2	India	wonderful work in DT
Y3	Joshua A	some brilliant homework recently (various pieces).
Y4	Tommy K	his wonderful writing this week about the Loch Ness Monster
Y5	Erin	always working hard and trying her best in all she does.
Y6	Emma	an amazing piece of descriptive storytelling

ATTENDANCE NEWS

Message from the school office

When leaving messages on the absence line to report your child absent for the day, please could we kindly remind parents to confirm the details of illness so that we can record this on school registers. It is important to know the reason so that we can identify any potential illnesses which could spread through classes, eg vomiting/diarrhoea or coughs/cold. Please could we also remind that you should telephone every day of absence.

Our school website contains lots of information for new and existing parents alike. For any frequently asked questions, we have a dedicated page in the Parent section <https://st-mary-s-catholic.schudio.com/parents/faqs>

This also links to our online contact page if you have a query not answered on the website. If you use the online contact page, your query will be directed to the correct person and dealt with quickly.



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2024/2025 27.09.24



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	RECEPTION	98.92
2nd	YEAR 1	98.70
3rd	YEAR 3	98.66
4th	YEAR 6	98.35
5th	YEAR 2	97.78
6th	YEAR 4	97.50
7th	YEAR 5	96.53

Congratulations to Reception who had **100%** attendance this week – well done!

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
Headteacher
27.09.24