



# School Newsletter

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

28.02.25

**Dear parents and carers,**

Please could we remind you of a few things now we are back full swing for the new half-term.

## ***Hair***

Please do not allow your child's hair to be loose around their shoulders. Hair, below shoulder length, must be tied back/tied up into pony tails/pigtails, etc. to prevent spread of head lice. Plain and simple bobbles should be worn – not elaborate hair decorations

## ***Uniform***

Ties must be worn unless it is your child's PE day. Earrings are not permitted in school – please ensure that these are removed each morning – retainers should only be worn in exceptional circumstances – check with your child's class teacher or the office, if unsure.

## ***PE uniform***

Children should attend school in their PE kit on the day of their PE lesson and should comprise of the following items:

- Plain black or navy shorts (for indoor and warm weather PE)
- Plain black or navy jogging bottoms/ leggings (with or without school logo for outdoor cold weather PE)
- Plain white T-shirt (with or without school logo)
- School jumper, cardigan or fleece
- A pair of black pumps (indoor PE) or trainers (outdoor PE)

Extra tops must be either school cardigans, jumpers or fleeces. On PE days, please do not send your child into school wearing coloured joggers/leggings/hoodies or any sportswear with advertising.

Please refer to the school website for further guidance

<https://www.chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/school-uniform>

### **Grapes**

If you send grapes in your child's packed lunch, please remember to cut them in half lengthways. Grapes not cut or cut widthways present a choking hazard.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Regards  
School Office

### **Online Safety Newsletter – March edition**

I have sent out the March edition of the online safety newsletter for parents separately. This month there are articles on keeping children safe online with regard to: Artificial Intelligence (AI), TikTok, smartphone use, NSPCC Talk PANTS, Lego Arcade and the STARS messenger app. As always, it is a quick (2-sided) and very informative read. I highly recommend it.

### **Prayer for Pope Francis**

Archbishop Malcolm shares this prayer for Pope Francis with us all:

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

*We hold the Holy Father very close in prayer tonight as he continues to suffer - as the psalmist says - may the Lord help him on his bed of pain. May Our Lady, Mother of the Church, intercede for him. With my prayers for you and those you love,*

*+Malcolm*

### **Ash Wednesday (5<sup>th</sup> March)**

Children from Y3 to Y6 will be going to St Mary's Church on Wednesday morning for the 9am Ash Wednesday Mass to mark the start of Lent. Please could children be dropped off from 0845 at the Church entrance. Staff will walk to Church with children from the Breakfast Club. The children will walk back to school at the end of Mass. Please ensure they are wearing suitable coats in case of cold or wet weather. Thank you.

Later in the afternoon Kinga Grzeczynska will be visiting reception, Y1 and Y2 to distribute the ashes to the younger children.

### **Pets as Therapy Dog**

Each Monday we are visited by Christine Seager and her tiny, very friendly, very well-trained hypoallergenic cockapoo, Heidi as part of the **Pets as Therapy** programme. They base themselves in the school library and the children enjoy spending time with her. If your child has an allergy to dogs

and/ or is nervous of them, please let us know and we will make sure that they avoid the library for the time Heidi is with us. Thank you.

### Good Shepherd Appeal 2025

Next week we start the annual Nugent Care *Good Shepherd Appeal*. The table below lets you know what happens on each day. For the children, it is one of the events that they look forward to the most, over the course of the school year. We start off with a cake sale on Monday – all donations welcome!

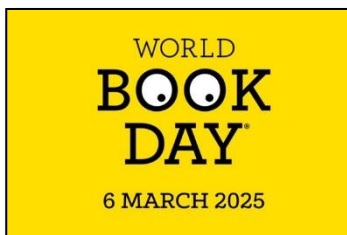


Day	Activity
Mondays	Cake sale – sell and buy cakes – max 1 per person – 50p each
Tuesdays	Games and activities –guess how many sweets are in a jar/ spot the ball/ name the teddy/ lucky dip etc.
Fridays	Disco in the hall – 50p voluntary contribution

See web address below for further details:

<https://wearenugent.org/good-shepherd-appeal-primary-resources/>

### World Book Day – message from Miss Hesketh



We will be celebrating our love of books on World Book Day, which takes place next **Thursday, 6th March**. This year, the theme is Bedtime Stories and we will be having a **Pyjama Day!**

Children can wear their favourite pyjamas, onesies, loungewear, joggings bottoms, T-shirts (but still with suitable shoes for outdoors). It's not necessary to buy anything special for the day - the children

can just wear what they would normally wear when relaxing with a book! Of course, please can we ask that no face paints, crazy hairstyles or outfits other than mentioned above are worn. However, if your child wants to wear their normal school uniform, that is perfectly okay.

Don't forget that they should also bring their favourite bedtime story. Children can always borrow a book from the school library or their class library on the day if needed. Thanks for your continued support. Best wishes, Miss Hesketh.

### Ebb & Flo Bookshop Chorley

St Mary's has a longstanding relationship with Ebb & Flo Bookshop in Chorley. We receive new books for our classes every month and are lucky to be involved in many author visits arranged by Ebb & Flo. The bookshop moves to its new premises on St Thomas's Road in Chorley and has its grand opening on 15th March. There is currently a sale on at its current shop on Gillibrand St. Miss Hesketh



### **Visit from Buddhist Monk, Gen Papga,**

Earlier this week, the school was visited by Gen Papga, a local Buddhist monk to talk to us about his beliefs. It was a wonderful experience where the children learned about key Buddhist beliefs including:

- The tree of enlightenment
- Reincarnation where Buddhists believe that the mind leaves the body and goes to the next life
- Karma - surrounding the actions and choices we make and what we experience as a result
- Moral discipline - trying to be the best person we can be
- Love
- The belief Everyone is equal
- Vegetarian and vegan food choices
- We are a Universal human family that we should take care of
- Meditation - promoting inner peace and happiness
- Finally the 3 main priorities of Buddhism which are Inner peace, helping others and world peace

The children listened and participated beautifully and asked some thought provoking questions. Well done St Mary's. Mrs Nicklin

<https://teach.classdojo.com/#/schools/57f3a87b5c5f0b9554fb6e47/story>

### **St Mary's Pupil Parliament - The Department for Environment**

Thank you to you all for the animal accessories everyone has worn on Wednesday Well done to the Department for Environment (Winter, Nathaniel, Alice, Felix and Lilah) who led our assembly on Wednesday morning and raised **£155.28** for making and buying bee and butterfly houses for our school grounds. Well done everyone and thank you for your kind donations! Mrs Nicklin.

### **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>



## Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2024/2025 w/e 28.02.25



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 6	98.34
2nd	YEAR 1	97.66
=3rd	YEAR 2	97.41
=3rd	YEAR 3	97.41
5th	YEAR 4	97.27
6th	YEAR 5	97.20
7th	RECEPTION	96.31

Well done **Y3** on your **100%** attendance this week!

And well done to all the pupils and families at St Mary's – with our current attendance of 97.5%, the school is ranked **fifth** out of all the schools in Lancashire! (data is from 20.02.25)

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	97.5%	You are ranked 5th out of 481 schools

### Star of the Week 28. 02.25

Class	Name	Star of the week for... Value of the week for showing value of <b>peace</b> Dojo Champion
Nursery	s Joseph M	Super verbal contributions during small group play
	v Charlie	Providing a calming influence to keep the peace in play
R	Dojo Arthur	
	s Chidiogo	For being a super phonics partner and helping others.
Y1	v Ellie	Being a calming influence to others
	Dojo Robert	
	s Wolf	Adding detail to his writing
Y2	v Jemima	Being calm with friends
	Dojo Marnie	
	s Coby	Great behaviour and super handwriting
Y3	v Jacob	Peaceful member of the class
	Dojo Thomas	
Y4	s Ruby F	Great answering of questions in maths
	v Zendaya	Always acts peacefully in class.
Y4	s Alexia	For her wonderful use of adventurous vocabulary in her English work.
	v Antoni	For always keeping the peace both inside and outside of the classroom.

<b>Y5</b>	s	India	For excellent answers during our mathematics linked to decimals and fractions.
	v	Lydia	For having a peaceful manner to all she does.
<b>Y6</b>	s	Kyle	For a great debate text
	v	Max	Is always calm

### Child Car Seat Safety Events

From February -March 2025 car safety events will be delivered by the Good Egg Safety, supported by Lancashire County Council

These free, community events will take place at a variety of supermarkets in specifically targeted areas and aim to educate parents/carers, grandparents and anyone who drives with children in their vehicle on how to correctly fit a child car seat to their vehicle.

The team will demonstrate how to correctly install the child car seat or inform the driver if a car seat is unsuitable for some reason. General road safety literature will be offered to take away with them.

Many of the mistakes' people make surrounding child car seats are simple and easy to avoid, including seats belts needing tightening, harnesses not being in the right position and incorrect head restraints ?simple, yet potentially lifesaving. Pop along for free advice and an independent check. Events run from 10am - 3pm

Morrisons, Olympian Way Leyland      Friday 28th February

Morrisons, Riversway Preston      Wednesday 5th March

Morrisons, Brooke Street Chorley      Friday 7th March

### PTFA future dates

**PTFA Meeting** - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - time to be confirmed

**Ladies Party Night** - Friday 27th June - St Mary's Parish Centre

Best wishes, Patrick Smyth 28.02.25

**Compass Bloom Mental Health & Wellbeing for children – parent referral details below**

## PARENT/CARER CONSULTATIONS

We offer a free and confidential service supporting children and young people, aged 5-18, with mild to moderate emotional health and wellbeing needs. We work with schools and colleges throughout Chorley, South Ribble, Preston and West Lancs.

Are you the parent/carer of a young person who is experiencing mild to moderate anxiety or low mood?

This could look like:



FEELING  
WORRIED



STRUGGLING  
TO  
SLEEP



WITHDRAWAL  
FROM FAMILY,  
FRIENDS  
AND/OR USUAL  
ACTIVITIES



STRUGGLING TO  
CONCENTRATE



TEARFUL

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE SOUNDS LIKE YOUR CHILD/YOUNG PERSON WE CAN HELP!

If your young person attends one of our 63 schools we can offer a consultation with one of our friendly practitioners.

They can offer you advice, guidance and signposting to support you to support your child/young person.

To complete our consultation form Scan our QR Code or type in the web address below into your web browser.

<https://forms.office.com/e/x1asaVTeTL>



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