



# School Newsletter

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

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**28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Dear parents and carers,

We have come to the end of the spring term and we now break up for the Easter holidays. The children have all worked hard, learned lots and, have hopefully had fun along the way. They and the staff are now entitled to a good break. We return to school on **Monday 15 April** to start the final term of the school year and the final term at St Mary's for our Y6s. On behalf of all the staff and governors at St Mary's, we wish you a happy and holy Easter.

## **Good Shepherd Appeal 2024**

The end of the Good Shepherd appeal was celebrated today with the annual Good Shepherd Talent Show. It was a fantastic two-hour extravaganza with a wide range of talent displayed and enjoyed by all. The performers have been both excited and nervous for weeks. I hope they all had a great time; the audience certainly did. Thank you to all the children, parents and staff for all your support of this very good cause. Together we have raised a record **£876**.



## **Chorley Schools Sports Partnership (CSSP) – Annual School Cross Country Championships**

It was a cold, wet and blustery morning, last Saturday, as the St Mary's cross-country team joined hundreds of other enthusiastic children at Astley Park for the annual CSSP cross-country championships. There were some fine individual performances from the St Mary's team, with hard work and smiles all the way. A couple of runners even lost their shoes part way round in the deep mud! The St Mary's team finished in a very creditable **sixth place overall**. Well done to the team, thank you to the parents for supporting and thank you to Mrs Blackwell for training the squad so well and to Mr Hodge and Mrs Southern for their help on the day.

## **CSSP Martial Arts Event**

Yesterday, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Root took a KS1 team and a KS2 team to take part in a festival of martial arts at the Jay-Em dance studios in Victoria Street. They learned techniques from three martial arts: kick boxing, ju-jitsu and ninja skills. The children had a marvellous time. Mrs Wilson and Mrs Root said that their behaviour was impeccable – we are proud of them all.

## Staff vacancy

We have been without a site supervisor for ten months and are really struggling to fill that role. Do you know anyone who would be interested in a mornings-only role approximately 0600 – 0900? The job involves carrying out site inspections, safety checks, some cleaning, general maintenance and repair around the school site.

If you think this would suit someone you know, please ask them to contact the school office and we will provide more information about the role.

## DATE for the DIARY - St Mary's, Chorley Parish Children and Families Mass Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April

I wanted to give you advance notice of a wonderful celebration Mass at St Mary's Church at 10.00 am Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April. It is designed especially with the children of the parish in mind. We would love as many family members to come along too. It was wonderful to see St Mary's full to the rafters at the Christmas Carol Concert back in December and the joy of the children being there together with their friends and families was there for all to see.

It is not a school Mass, so children will not be sitting in classes or anything like that, but they will see their classmates at Church. We aim to get the children involved as much as possible in the Mass with readings, the Offertory, the collection and of course singing the hymns. We are also planning to get together in the parish centre afterwards for teas, coffees, squash and biscuits. Please make a date in your diary; it would be great to see the Church full of children and families once more.

## Easter Services at St Mary's *THE SACRED TRIDUUM*

Thurs 28th      HOLY THURSDAY  
19.00          Mass of the Lord's Supper  
20.00          Watching at the Altar of Repose  
21.45      Night Prayer

Fri 29th          GOOD FRIDAY  
10.00          Office of Readings and Morning Prayer  
10.30      Stations of the Cross  
15.00      THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Sat 30th  
19.00          EASTER VIGIL

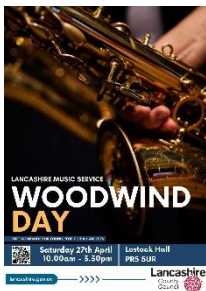
Sun 31st          EASTER SUNDAY  
10.00      Mass

## Length of School Week Consultation

Thank you to you all for your response to last week's consultation.

## Lancashire Schools Music Service Special Music Events

**Brass day 2024!**- April 20th, St Michaels CE High School, Chorley.  
We are delighted that we are being joined by student ambassadors from the RNCM Engage programme!



<https://www.lancashiremusicub.co.uk/site/events/brass-day-3/>

**Woodwind Day 2024!**- April 27th, Lostock Hall Academy High School, Preston.  
 This year centred around our fantastic Lancashire Youth Concert Band and Inspire programme!  
<https://www.lancashiremusicub.co.uk/site/events/woodwind-day/>



**Percussion Day 2024!**- May 4th, St Christophers C of E High School, Accrington.  
 We are proud to be hosting The Band of HM Royal Marines Scotland, who will be leading workshops, drum demonstrations and delivering a careers talk.  
<https://www.lancashiremusicub.co.uk/site/events/percussion-day/>

### What's Your Story, Chorley Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March



I know many of you will have joined in with the *What's Your Story Chorley?* event last weekend. One of our parents, Mr Lennon shared some fascinating information with me regarding one of the weekend's activities. It concerns a celebration of 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famous **Bash Street Kids** comic strip from *The Beano*. It turns out that its creator, Chorley-born artist, Leo Baxendale, was once a pupil at our very own St Mary's school. Mr Lennon suspects that the fictitious Bash Street School may even have been based on Leo's experiences at St Mary's!



**Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League**  
**2023/2024 W/E 28.03.24**



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 5	97.04
2nd	YEAR 6	96.97
3rd	YEAR 1	96.89
4th	YEAR 3	96.65
5th	YEAR 2	95.60
6th	RECEPTION	94.96
7th	YEAR 4	94.64

**No 100% attendance this week!**

### Attendance News - Unauthorised leave of absence update

We have been advised on a change in the law around penalty charge notice for unauthorised leave of absences e.g. holidays in term time. These changes will come 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.

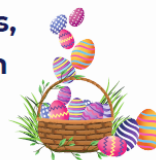
#### Chorley School Sport Partnership – Easter Holiday Sports Camp

**CHORLEY**<sup>®</sup>  
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

# EASTER SPORTS CAMP

TUESDAY 2ND - FRIDAY 5TH APRIL

Join us for 4 days of fun and games,  
crafting & an Easter egg hunt from  
9am until 3pm  
You will find us at...



Ages  
5-11

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

**LANCASTER  
LANE  
COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**  
Hunters Lane  
PR25 5TT



Please book online at [www.chorleyssp.co.uk/holiday-events](http://www.chorleyssp.co.uk/holiday-events)

**£80 full week £25 per day and siblings discounts.**

Enquiries: 01257 449278 or WhatsApp us 07306403255

## Foundation Governor role

In the autumn term, the school will have a vacancy on its governing board for a **foundation governor**. Are you interested and keen to make sure children at St Mary's get the best possible education? Are you keen to make sure that the school is helping our children to become followers of Jesus? Are you keen to ensure our school is offering high quality teaching and learning in a safe, happy and Christian environment? If so, you can become a foundation governor. You need to be a practising Catholic who can offer energy, experience and fresh ideas. You need to have interest, enthusiasm and time but do not need to have any particular expertise or special qualifications. Training is offered. School foundation governors are appointed for a term of four years. Governors work as a team to support, challenge and decide what's best for the school, the pupils and staff. They are responsible for how the school performs and for raising standards. Their priorities are to:

- Preserve and develop the religious character of the school
- Maintain and improve standards
- Keep children safe
- Monitor the curriculum
- Plan the school's future direction
- Decide the best way to spend the school budget

The governing board meets once each term with extra meetings to deal with issues like buildings, finance, staffing, standards and effectiveness and school admissions.

If you are interested or know somebody who might be, please contact the school office for an informal chat with me or contact our chair of governors, Kath Smith at [ksmith@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:ksmith@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk)

## Healthy Snack Reminder

We want to keep our break time snacks as healthy as possible. Children are welcome to have toast or to bring a piece of fruit. Chocolate snacks and crisps etc. are no longer permitted.

## Cyberbullying

We recently received a report based on the health questionnaires that our Y6s completed. The results made for interesting reading and probably reflect the experiences of ten and eleven-year-old children across the country. About half of the children manage to get eight hours or more of sleep each night. Quite a large proportion of children spend more than three hours a day on devices and a large group reported that they have experienced some cyberbullying.

We regularly teach children about cyberbullying and what to do if they experience it. And there is excellent advice for parents about cyberbullying in this month's online safety bulletin (sent out yesterday) attached. The bulletin also covers *TikTok*, talking to strangers online, *Poppy Playtime*, Group Chats and Online Challenges

**Mental health and emotional wellbeing support for children. (Contacts below).**

**YSA**  
**Yarrow School**  
**Alliance**

New Year, new challenge  
Train to teach with the best, to be the best!  
Open events held on the first Tuesday of each month.  
If you are interested in learning more about our School-based  
Initial Teacher Training Programme, email  
r.horne@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk for more information



**Young People**  
Scan this QR  
code to find  
support

SCAN ME

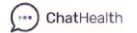


**Parents scan**  
this QR code to  
find support

SCAN ME

Text a school nurse directly to talk about  
health or emotional wellbeing:  
If you're 11-19 text our ChatHealth line on:

**07507330510**  
or scan the QR code



If you're a parent of 5-19 year old text our  
Lancashire ParentLine for support on:

**07312263554**  
or scan the QR code



care.think.do.  
AN ONLINE WAY OF TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE

P Smyth 28.03.24