



School Newsletter

With Christ we live, love, learn and we grow

29th September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

Harvest Mass



Fr Marsden will be saying Mass with on Monday, as we celebrate the harvest.

While 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. 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 space marked out on the staff car park on **Monday, 2nd October**. Thank you.



St Mary's Reception Class September 2024, Prospective Parents/ Carers Open Evening

There will be an open evening event next **Tuesday 3rd October** at 6pm for parents/ carers interested in a place for their child in our reception class for September 2024. There will be a short presentation, including some advice on the admissions process, followed by a brief tour of the school led by some of our Y6 pupils. If you know anyone who might be interested in a place for their child, please let them know.

Caretaker/ Site Supervisor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a site supervisor. The job advert and job specification is on the LCC website https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=62079. The site supervisor is a very important and very valued member of our team. The job mainly involves cleaning but also involves an amount of site maintenance, repairs and opening and locking up. It is 35 hours a week. If you or you know of anyone else who is interested please contact the school office on 01257 262811 or office@chorleystmarys.lanc.sch.uk.

Catholic School Inspection

As a Catholic school, in addition to the regular OFSTED inspection, we receive a Section 48 inspection by the Catholic Schools Inspectorate. This inspection makes judgements on the school in three specific areas: Catholic Life and Mission, Religious Education and Prayer & Liturgy. As you will be aware, we were inspected on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Thank you to all of you who responded to the parent/ carer questionnaire and thanks also to the parents who were quizzed by the inspector in the playground. We were informed that the responses were highly positive – thank you.

As soon as we receive our inspection report, we will share it with you. I would like to say a big thank you to the whole staff team for their hard work and commitment, not just this week, but also during each and every day they come to work. Thanks to Mr Hodge for his excellent leadership in RE. Thanks also to our governors and to Fr Marsden who contributed to the inspection process. And, well done, of course to all the children across school who represented St Mary's so well with their excellent behaviour and hard work.

Tuesday 26th September - Y4 Sacramental Programme - Sacramental Cheese & Wine Evening



Another big thank you to Kinga Grzeczynska and Father Marsden for organising last Tuesday's Cheese and Wine Evening to introduce this year's Sacramental Programme to parents and carers. Thank you parents and carers for coming along; I am sure you found it very informative.

Governor Vacancy - Monday 2 October - 12 noon **!! deadline for nominations!!**

Monday lunchtime is the deadline for nominations for the role of parent governor. We have received no nominations to date. We are re-sending out details of how to apply for the post of parent governor this evening via Groupcall.

Interest is welcomed from any parents/ carers right across the school. No experience is needed, just the desire to keep improving St Mary's School & Nursery. We have a very proactive, supportive and experienced group of governors who will help the new governor in their role. The term of office is four years. Find out more about the role of parent/ carer governor at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/become-a-school-governor/>

Little Church is at St Mary's!

What is Little Church?

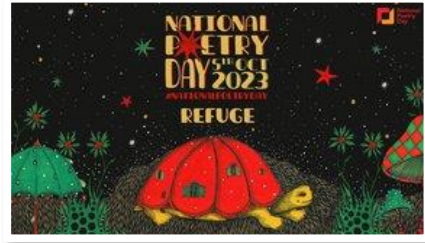
"Little Church" is the "Liturgy of the Word for Children". Our parish welcomes families and the full participation of young children in the celebration of the Mass. Since 1987, children at St Mary's have enjoyed their own Liturgy of the Word through 'Little Church' at the **10.00 am Sunday Mass**. [My

apologies for writing 10.30 in previous newsletters!] See information in leaflet attached to the newsletter.

St Mary's loves reading!

National Poetry Day 2023

On Thursday 5 October 2023, we celebrate National Poetry Day in school & nursery, which this year focuses on the theme of refuge. To mark the occasion, the children will take part in poetry-based activities. We will reflect on the theme of refuge, whilst encouraging a love of reading and writing poetry.



Blue Peter Book Club



As we all know, St Mary's loves reading and Miss Hesketh has asked me to share some exciting news about a new initiative by BBC's *Blue Peter* to engage and encourage readers from 7-11. Find out more here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-book-club>

PE Kit

Please ensure children wear the correct PE Kit. It is **white T-shirt and black or blue shorts**. Children should not be wearing other colours or team-branded football shorts. Please keep it simple. Thank you.

2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

Primary School Admissions September 2024: 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 2024 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 2024**. 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

Secondary school admissions: If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/> for a start in Year 7, in September 2024.

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 2024 will, as far as possible, conform to the following timetable.

1 September 2023 - Apply from this date

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.

31 October 2023 - National closing date for secondary applications (statutory).

Holy Cross High School Open Evening 12th October

Holy Cross will be holding their annual Open Evening for prospective parents on the evening of Thursday 12th October.



Chorley School Sports Partnership Annual Awards, Chorley Town Hall, 29 September 2023



St Mary's has been nominated for an award in the "**The Spirit of the Games**" category. The CSSP awards event takes place on Friday 29th September in the Lancastrian Suite at Chorley Town Hall. Fingers crossed!

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!

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

Online safety leaflet

Please take a minute to look at the online safety newsletter produced by City Learning Centres; they offer excellent online safety advice. There will be one for the start of each month.

New messaging service launched for Parents of 5-19 year olds in Lancashire



HCRG Care Group has introduced a quick and easy way for parents/carers to get in touch with the School Nursing service.



From 18th September 2023 parents and carers of children aged 5-19 in our area can send a message, anonymously if they wish, to the **School Nursing Team** to get confidential help and advice about a range of health concerns, including health, sexual health, relationships, alcohol and drugs and bullying. This joins our ChatHealth text messaging service which is for young people aged 11-19 years.

Further information about the service can be found at

<https://lancsyongpeoplefamilyservice.co.uk/school-nursing/> or go to www.chathealth.nhs.uk to start a chat with the local messaging service.



The messaging service will be available Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays from 9am to 5pm) When a message is sent to the dedicated number (07312263554) an automated reply confirms the message has been received. A trained healthcare professional will reply to the message during office hours within 24 working hours at most. This is not an emergency service. Urgent help should be sought from an NHS walk-in centre or by calling NHS 111. In an emergency, dial 999 or go to A&E.

The Lancashire ParentLine messaging service will be run by HCRG Care Group and powered by the award-winning messaging platform, ChatHealth, which has been widely implemented at several NHS Trusts and healthcare organisations across the UK. It was developed by 2013 by an NHS Trust to offer more choice in how people can get help from local trained health staff in their area. In other areas where it is used young people say they feel more comfortable talking about their issues in a discreet message, whilst parents and carers say messaging is more convenient way to ask quick questions.

Please find attached the digital Leaflets for Chat Health for young people aged 11-19 years old and Lancashire ParentLine for parents of 5-19 years. [At the end of the newsletter].



Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League

2023/ 2024 29.09.23




| CURRENT POSITION | CLASS | CURRENT % |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1st | YEAR 1 | 98.95 |
| 2nd | YEAR 6 | 97.72 |
| 3rd | YEAR 4 | 97.71 |
| 4th | RECEPTION | 96.86 |
| 5th | YEAR 3 | 95.88 |
| 6th | YEAR 2 | 95.00 |

| | | |
|-----|--------|-------|
| 7th | YEAR 5 | 94.91 |
|-----|--------|-------|

Well done to the reception class on their **100%** attendance this week!

STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 29.09.23



| Class | Name | Star of the Week for ... |
|-------|---------|---|
| YN | Avaeha | super discussion about Jesus and God and their love for us. |
| YR | Rory | excellent answers about God, love and kindness . |
| Y1 | Jesse | being an enthusiastic learner in all that we do. |
| Y2 | Poppy | excellent work in all subject areas – well done, Poppy! |
| Y3 | Freddie | amazing answers given in our RE Come and See lessons this week. |
| Y4 | Billy | his great report on the Loch Ness Monster and for always going above and beyond with his school work! |
| Y5 | Eliza | her thorough understanding during our Come and See topic, in particular when learning about Maximilian Kolbe. |
| Y6 | Tilly | amazing work in Come and See. |

P Smyth 29.09.23

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

**Parent or
carer**



**You can text a
school nurse on**

07312263554

We can help with all kinds of things like.....

Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Keeping Healthy Bedwetting

Sleep Bullying Dental Health

Growing Up Keeping Safe

Support with Medical Conditions

in School

Confidentiality

We might inform someone if we are concerned about the safety of you, your child or someone else but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be seen between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

If you need help before you hear back from us, contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. If it is an emergency call 999 or go to the emergency department (A&E). Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health professional from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number.

Messages are charged at your usual rates.





Young People
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



Parents scan
this QR code to
find support

SCAN ME

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.
WE CHANGE LIVES BY TRANSFORMING HEALTH AND CARE.