



# School Newsletter

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

30.01.26

Dear parents and carers,

We said *au revoir* and good luck to Mrs Nicklin today in assembly as she temporarily departs for her maternity leave. We wish her all the best and every happiness over the next few weeks and months ahead. I am sure she will keep us updated. Mr Cahalin will be acting as assistant headteacher during her time of leave and Mrs Critchley will be shortly be joining us to teach alongside Mrs Cassidy in Y5.

## **Konflux Theatre - Drama and Personal Development Through a Recycling Theme**

Yesterday, the children took part in a series of creative drama activities linked to the theme of recycling. Through role play and performance, they explored how to use their voice, movement and expression to bring ideas to life. Pupils confidently expressed their thoughts and feelings, experimented with character roles, and presented short dramas to their peers.

The sessions also helped develop important personal and social skills. Children practised teamwork, learned to be aware of others on stage, and grew in individual confidence as they shared their work. They engaged in public speaking, offered thoughtful feedback during performances, and participated in valuable peer-to-peer learning.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable day that mixed creativity with key life skills—while keeping recycling at the heart of the learning experience.

**What's Your Story, Chorley?** - Message from Aimee Broughton, Cultural Education and Engagement Officer. Chorley Borough Council

Hello all,

The amazing What's Your Story, Chorley? event is BACK for 2026!

Taking place throughout March, What's Your Story, Chorley? is a month-long celebration of storytelling and the people and places that make Chorley special.

As part of the programme, we're excited to launch a children's comic book competition.

Please see the attached poster for full details and the comic strip template. In brief, entrants are asked to:

- Create their own superhero
- Tell their story using a five-frame comic strip (they can use the template provided)

Winning entries will be displayed across Chorley Town Centre during the ComiCon weekend of What's Your Story, Chorley?

To enter, participants can either email their completed comic strip to [event@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:event@chorley.gov.uk) or post/drop it off at Chorley Town Hall (Market Street, Chorley, PR7 1DP) by Saturday 28th February. We can't wait to see all the children's amazing comic book creations!

Thank you

Aimee Broughton Cultural Education and Engagement Officer

See leaflet attached

## Great Books Guide

*Message from our English lead, Miss Hesketh:*

Great Books Guide - Here are 100 books from 2025–26 that we think are great – and so will children.

Our priority is to get children excited about books, stories and rhymes because if reading is fun, children will want to do it. That's why we've put together this guide full of books we think are absolutely brilliant, carefully chosen to engage and excite children from 4 to 11. We believe that the 'right' book is always the book a child wants to read – and we hope this guide inspires you to find that book.

Bookfinder: Search thousands of hand-picked book recommendations to find a child's next favourite read – from astonishing adventures to fantastic facts, our Bookfinder tool will help you discover the very best kids' books

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/bookfinder/>

## Unavoidable School Closures

We are about midway through the winter months now and have escaped heavy snow so far, but in the event of a very heavy snowfall and the need to close the school, we will inform you via the *GroupCall* text, announcements on the local radio and via the school website.

## Parents' Evenings – spring term

Spring term parents' evenings have been planned for the evenings of **Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th February (Yr 5 will be 5th and 12th)**. The meetings will be up to ten minutes in duration and will be face-to-face. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to come in and look at the children's work too.

## Sports News

### Y3/4 Sports Hall Athletics

Mr Hodge informed me today that, despite their heroics and finishing first in their heat, the St Mary's athletes from Y3 and Y4 will not be progressing to the Chorley Sports Hall Athletics finals night. This is because other schools that took part have accumulated more points during their particular heats. Nevertheless, we asked the team to stand in assembly this afternoon to receive a round of applause and to wish them the best of luck when they return to the competition next year.

### Winter Olympics Message from Mr Hodge, PE and Sports Lead

Dear all,

The Winter Olympics starts in just over a week! 🏂🏊🏠❄️

Italy will be hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics for the third time, with Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo as the official hosts of the event. The opening ceremony will be at the San Siro Stadium on Friday 6th February. 🇮🇹🏍️🏍️🏍️🏍️🇮🇹

For any interested pupils, I am giving the children the opportunity to get some extra housepoints and dojos by completing some extra homework based on the games. Pupils can research, colour pictures, find out the events, make a competitor profiles - whatever they like. They just need to bring the work to Year 3, I will mark it and award the extra points and then deliver it back to the child's class! Work can arrive from now until the day after the end of the Olympic Games (23rd February 2026 - The first day back after half-term).

I look forward to seeing what the pupils produce. 🧐🧐

Mr Hodge (PE Subject Leader).

### Message from Chorley St Mary's Beavers, Cubs and Scouts groups

Chorley St. Mary's currently have spaces in their Beaver and Cub sections, and some availability in the Scout section. We meet at the Scout Hut on Hodder Avenue, PR7 3PB on Friday evenings during term time. Beavers and Cubs meet from 5 30 to 6 45pm, and Scouts from 7 till 8 30pm. We have a wide and varied programme and have a lot of fun in our Scouting activities. Please email [jacqueline.malone@chorleyscouts.org.uk](mailto:jacqueline.malone@chorleyscouts.org.uk) for more information.

### Foodbank

Following on from the fabulous support shown for our Harvest Service, we are reinstating the drop-off box in the main entrance for donations for the **Living Waters - Storehouse** food bank. You can use this for further donations of tinned/packed goods or other items such as toiletries (shampoos/bubble bath) or even gift sets as the Christmas season approaches. Thank you.

## CSSP Holiday Clubs – February half-term break

Please see leaflets below for CSSP holiday clubs for February half-term break –  
**St Peter's**

**CHORLEY**  
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

**FEBRUARY SPORTS CAMP**  
16<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

**Ages 5-11**

BOOK ONLINE AT:  
[www.chorleyssp.co.uk](http://www.chorleyssp.co.uk)

£22 A DAY OR  
£60 ALL THREE DAYS

10AM -2PM  
PAID

10AM-2PM  
HAF

Making it happen in Chorley

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

01257 824798  
[j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk](mailto:j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk)

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES  
PLEASE USE SCHOOL ISSUED CODE ON BOOKING

Instagram, TikTok, Facebook icons

## Lancaster Lane

**CHORLEY**  
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

**FEBRUARY SPORTS CAMP**  
16<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

**Ages 5-11**

BOOK ONLINE AT:  
[www.chorleyssp.co.uk](http://www.chorleyssp.co.uk)

£22 A DAY OR  
£80 ALL FOUR DAYS

10AM -2PM  
PAID

10AM-2PM  
HAF

Making it happen in Chorley

LANCASTER LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Hunters Road PR25 5TT

01257 824798  
[j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk](mailto:j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk)

FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES  
PLEASE USE SCHOOL ISSUED CODE ON BOOKING

Instagram, TikTok, Facebook icons

## Tax-free childcare

One of our governors shared some information with me a couple of years ago 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>

## Smartphone Free Childhood

## Fact of the Week



### FACT OF THE WEEK

Smartphones can interfere with quality family time and bonding.

You will notice around school a QR code inviting parents and carers to the St Mary's Smartphone Free childhood Whatsapp group. Here is the link again:



**You are not alone in wanting to create a childhood free from smartphones and social media.**

**Join the St Mary's Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp community for tips and support because screens can wait - childhood cannot!**

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

*Smartphone Free Childhood – 'We're united for childhood - Join the growing movement of families who believe childhood's too short to scroll away.'*

**STAR OF THE WEEK w/e 30.01.26**

<b>Class</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>Star of the week for... &amp; Value of the week of PEACE</b>
Nursery	s	Oliver C	Super answers during Literacy
	v	Aria	Nurture – helping a younger friend with their coat
	Dojo	Petra	
R	s	Theo	Super finger spaces when writing
	v	Martha	Being kind to a friend who needed help
	Dojo	Ottillie	
Y1	s	Hannah	Being a kind and helpful friend.
	v	Amaya	Understanding her friends' emotions.
	Dojo	Gloria	
Y2	s	Katie R	For showing an excellent understanding of our history topic on the Titanic.
	v	Scout & Archie G	For always showing empathy to others when they are upset.
	Dojo	Brody, Thomas and Sophie	
Y3	s	Zara W	For massively improved confidence with answering questions and quality of work in Maths and English lessons.
	v	James R	Always shows empathy to others.
Y4	s	Joshua A	
	v		Great answers in response to our RE work
Y5	s	Charlie A	For giving up his place for others when we went swimming.
	v	Myka	For picking up binary code in computing brilliantly! Well done Myka!
Y6	s	Jake	Kind, caring, friend to others.
	v	Noah	His wonderful work in mathematics all week when calculating with decimals.



## Attendance



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2025/2026 w/e 30.01.26



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1st	YEAR 3	97.63
2nd	YEAR 4	97.30
3rd	YEAR 2	97.04
4th	YEAR 1	96.84
5th	RECEPTION	96.21
6th	YEAR 5	96.14
7th	YEAR 6	94.07

Well done **Y3** on their super **100%** attendance this week.

### How does our attendance compare against other schools in Lancashire? 29.01.26

Attendance measure ▲	Percentage	Ranking ⓘ
Overall attendance	96.5%	You are ranked 87th out of 479 schools
Overall absence	3.5%	You are ranked 87th out of 479 schools
Authorised absence	3.0%	You are ranked 142nd out of 479 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.5%	You are ranked 44th out of 479 schools
Persistently absent	5.7%	You are ranked 52nd out of 479 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 479 schools

In the Lancashire league table, we have moved up six places in the last two weeks – it's going in the right direction!

### 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>



### Some New Year reminders

**Earrings and Jewellery** - For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If

## Hair styles

We expect pupils to have sensible hair styles. Cuts, dyed hair or styles which in the judgement of the school are extreme, are not acceptable. Please keep the school and nursery a fashion-free zone!

## Hair tied-up to prevent head lice infection, please!

As we all know, head lice do not fly or jump from head of hair to head of hair, they just walk! Therefore, to prevent the spread of head lice in school we ask that hair, longer than shoulder length, be tied back. Many thanks.



**Shoes** Pupils are expected to wear plain black shoes.



Again, we want school to remain a fashion-free zone. Some sports companies make black trainers for children. We ask you not to use these for school. They are trainers and not shoes and of course, the children will prefer to wear them! However, once one has them, this puts pressure on the other children to ask their parents for them. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

## **No boots please!**



## Labelling Uniforms

The children really look smart in their uniforms but so that bits and pieces do not go missing, please ensure that **all items** are labelled clearly with your child's name. Thank you. If items do go missing, we will be putting the lost property box in the newly available space in the main entrance.

**Future Date – Compass Bloom Sleep Assembly Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 9am. Parents/carers of children in Yrs 3-6 are invited.**



Sleep is essential for a child's physical and mental development, helping with growth, brain function, immunity, mood, and learning. Lack of sleep can cause issues like inattentiveness, irritability, poor problem-solving and hyperactivity. We spend about a third of our lives asleep! Yet sleep is often one of the first things we compromise on when things become busy or overwhelming.

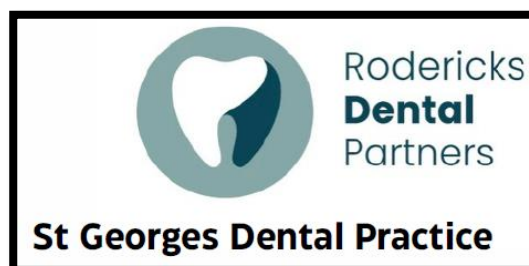
We invite parents and carers to Join us for a short assembly to learn more about how important sleep is and what you can do to improve sleeping habits. We will be At St Marys Primary School on **Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 9am**. At the end of the assembly, there will be an opportunity to refer your child onto our 2 week sleep workshop taking place in school on 17th and 24th March 2026. We look forward to seeing you there. See attached leaflet for details.

P Smyth  
30.01.26



## NHS Dentist for Children

We have been contacted by the NHS to publicise NHS dentistry for children. Please see attached leaflet.



## Message from SVP Chorley Buddies

# SVP Chorley Buddies

## We're Helping

01257 542 367

Supported by  
**Chorley Council**

Activity  
Classes

Good Food  
Clubs

Community  
Café

Craft  
Club

Children's  
Activities



**SVP Chorley Buddies**  
*We're Helping*

**01257 542 367**



**St Vincent  
de Paul Society**  
England and Wales  
Turning Concern into Action

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Seated Yoga</b> Adlington Library 9:30-10:30am. FREE to all.	<b>St Joseph's Good Food Club</b> St Joseph's Parish Centre, Harpers Lane, Chorley 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.	<b>Coppull Good Food Club</b> St John the Divine Parish Hall, Coppull 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.	<b>Buttermere Good Food Club</b> Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 10:30-11:15am, followed by refreshments. £5 to shop and donations for refreshments.	<b>Clayton Brook Good Food Club</b> Clayton Brook Village Hall, Clayton-le-Woods 10:30-11:15am. £5 to shop and refreshments available in the Café.
<b>Knit and Natter</b> Primrose Gardens, Chorley 10am-12pm. Donations welcome.	<b>Seated Yoga</b> Adlington Library 11am-12pm. FREE to all.	<b>Gardening Club</b> Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 11:00am-12:00pm. FREE to all.	<b>Seated Exercise</b> Ravensthorpe Independent Living Accommodation, Astley Village 10:30am-11:30pm. £3 suggested donation.	<b>Aquarobics</b> All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. Term time only. £5 suggested donation.
<b>Kids Arts and Crafts</b> Coppull Library 3:30-4:30pm. Term time only.	<b>Chair Fit</b> Euxton Community Centre, 11:15am-12:15pm. £3 suggested donation.	<b>Lunch Social</b> 2nd Wednesday of the month St Chad's Parish Centre from 12-2pm <b>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</b> Donations welcome.	<p style="color: #f1c40f; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">SCAN TO DONATE</p>	
	<b>Lunch Social</b> 4th Tuesday of the month Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley from 12-2pm. <b>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</b> Donations welcome.	<b>Buddies Café</b> Buttermere Community Centre, Chorley 9am-3pm Affordable café with crafts running from 12:30-2pm Everyone welcome		
	<b>Seated Exercise</b> All Seasons Leisure Centre, Chorley 3-4pm. £5 suggested donation.	<b>Chair Fit</b> Croston Old School, Church Street, Croston 1:30-2:30pm. £3 suggested donation.		