



School Newsletter

With Christ, we live, love, learn and grow

22.07.25

Dear parents/ carers,

Our school vision (this is our aim as a Catholic school):

From their first day to their last at St Mary's, we support our children on a journey of learning and faith.

In learning, we want our children, by the time they leave our school: to be numerate and literate, to have received their full entitlement in all areas of learning and to have the opportunities to succeed in areas of particular interest to them. We want the children to be active and healthy. We want the children: to be challenged, to be exposed to the highest quality teaching, to take risks, to be unafraid of making mistakes and to reach their full potential.

On their journey of faith, we want to support our children to develop into well-rounded citizens for the future. We want the children to be thoughtful, loving, caring and considerate members of society. We want the children's attitudes, decision making and relationships to be underpinned and informed by Christian values with Christ at the centre of all we do at school. We want to be a Catholic, Christian community which aims for excellence and which learns, improves and achieves.

At the end of the school year, it is good for us to reflect on how well we feel we have done against what we say we aim to do. The children are an absolute credit to their school and to their families. Well done and thank you, Y6!

Thank you also to the Y6 group of parents, in particular, for your support over the years. We wish your children all the very best in their new schools.



Thank you and goodbye to the Y6 parents and children who will be leaving us this summer – it has been a pleasure working with you. Goodbye to the families of Mattia, Freddie, Heidi, Alice G, Oscar, Faith, Rory, Joseph, Cody, Sofia S and Sophia T.

Thank you

For us all, it has been a very busy, enjoyable and successful year. The children have worked hard and they deserve a rest. We are really pleased with how each and every one of them has progressed. I would like to thank everyone who works or volunteers in the school for making it such a happy and successful place.

Thank you to all the staff for their hard work with the children since September – enjoy **your** well-deserved rest. Thank you to you the parents for your support of the school and your children in their education. Thank you and goodbye to the parents and children who will be leaving us this summer – it's been a pleasure working with you.

Thank you to the Governors of the school for their hard work and support for the school. Thank you to Father Marsden, Kinga Grzeczynska, Deacon Norman for your time, effort and support this year.

Thank you to all the volunteers, parents and grandparents and the PTFA for your efforts and for making this school and nursery such a great community of which to be a part.

Goodbye and thank you...

We say goodbye and thank you to two of our longest-servers. They have completed 61 years between them. Mrs McKeown, who has worked in the St Mary's kitchen preparing our meals for the last 30 years, is retiring. Thank you and good luck in your retirement. We also say thank you good luck to Mrs Grayken who has worked at St Mary's for 31 showing kindness and care for our children throughout that time.

Goodbye to Ms Frankle, who is leaving us after a very successful year working in the reception class. We wish her all the very best in her career as a teaching assistant. Goodbye and good luck to Ms Hawkins who has spent the last two years volunteering in the reception class and has now gained her teaching assistant qualification.

Mrs Fitzsimmons will be staying with us next term teaching on Fridays in Y1.

September 2025 Opening

School reopens for children on **Wednesday 3rd September 2025**. The reception class welcomes its first ten children on Wednesday 3rd, a further ten children, making twenty children on Thursday 4th and then the final group of children, making the full whole class on Friday 5th September. We look forward to seeing you all back in school in refreshed and ready to go in September.

Sporting Pride Awards

We presented some very deserving recipients with the prestigious annual PE and Sport Pride Awards today in assembly. These were awarded for our sports values of Participation, Respect, Inclusion, Development and Enthusiasm. Well done to all the worthy winners.

Attendance Awards

Yesterday we gave out attendance certificates: Bronze for 98% plus, Silver for 99% plus and Gold for 100%. It was great to see so many children receive those certificates, including 24 children having 100% attendance this year! Well done to Y6 who were the best attending class for 2024 - 2025 with an attendance of 98.3% - a great effort.

I congratulated **all** the children on their excellent attendance yesterday – you can see from the table below that St Mary's sits 4th out of 481 North West schools in overall attendance. That is very impressive. These figures are up-to-date to the 10th July. The final figures will be published on 7th August.

Attendance measure	Percentage	Ranking ①
Overall attendance	97.5%	You are ranked 4th out of 481 schools
Overall absence	2.5%	You are ranked 4th out of 481 schools
Authorised absence	2.1%	You are ranked 15th out of 481 schools
Unauthorised absence	0.4%	You are ranked 12th out of 481 schools
Persistently absent	1.1%	You are ranked 6th out of 481 schools
Severely absent	0.0%	You are ranked 1st out of 481 schools

Message from Matthew Simpson Chair of the Governing Body

Somehow, another academic year has come to an end. I'm sure everyone is looking forward to a sunshine-packed six weeks of summer holidays!

This has been my first year serving as Chair of Governors and it has been pleasing to see the school make great progress against this year's priorities, alongside the brilliant achievements made across the curriculum.

A particular highlight for me this year was seeing the school receive such positive local and national media coverage with the visit of Sir Lindsay Hoyle to our school parliament - just one of many moments for our school community to be proud of.

I think that this year's overall excellent attendance rates are a clear reflection on how much our children enjoy coming to school to learn and develop in the warm, nurturing environment that the school provides.

I wish our year 6 children and their families all the best for the next stage of their learning journey and hope they leave us with many fond memories. At the same time, I look forward to our new reception class joining us in September, as they start their own learning adventure with us.

Thank you to everyone – the children, parents and carers, friends and family, teaching staff, governors and the wider parish community - for the role you play in ensuring that our school is the warm, welcoming catholic environment we strive for it to be.

On behalf of the Governing Board, I wish you all an enjoyable - and hopefully sunny - summer break and look forward to what the next academic year brings.

Some important reminders for the September restart:

Earrings and Jewellery

For safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn in school. If parents wish their children to have their ears pierced, then please have them done at the beginning of this six-week break to allow ears to heal. The only jewellery children are permitted to wear is watches – but no smart watches with built-in cameras please.

Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is essential in giving us a sense of belonging and pride in St Mary's.

Girls	Boys	PE
Grey pinafore dress/ skirt/culottes/ school trousers White shirt Navy blue cardigan / jumper Black shoes – not boots or trainers Grey/ White or navy blue socks School tie	Grey trousers – long or short White shirt Navy blue jumper Black shoes, not trainers Grey, white or navy socks. School tie.	Plain black/ navy shorts (not fashion shorts!) White T shirt, badged or unbadged Black pumps/ bare feet (indoor) Trainers (outdoor) Warm, trackie bottoms for outdoor in winter and school jumper
Please label all items of school uniform with your child's name - it prevents items getting lost and saves valuable learning time.		

Hairstyles

Please keep school a fashion-free zone with hairstyles and in addition, please remember long hair needs to be tied up to prevent unwanted visits from head lice.

Message from the school office

Please check ParentPay account balances. Emails sent to the office@chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk will be monitored over the holiday and urgent queries will be dealt with as soon as possible.

Health & Well-being - Smartphone Free Childhood

'You don't have to have it all figured out. You don't need to be an expert. You don't have to convince anyone. Just opening the conversation with kindness and confidence is enough'

Over the past few weeks, the newsletter has asked you to keep a look out for information and to contact school if you are interested in finding out more about Smartphone Free Childhood. This is a grassroots movement nationwide to support and help parents/carers navigate what having / not having a smartphone means for a child. We thank all of you who have shown interest, which is a significant number.

As we move towards summer holidays, changes around the law and issues closer to home within our

school community, the narrative around what does it mean to have smart devices or access to social media becomes a daily discussion. As parents/ carers we don't have all the answers, but we can have a culture amongst parents/ carers that creates space to say;

'I'm not sure about smartphones, I'm not sure about social media, I'm not sure what the alternative would be for what I see as the benefits of smartphones.'

If we don't have the small shifts, we won't be able to make changes to what we would prefer.

What we observe as parents/carers is how smart devices are experience blockers - they pull children out of real life play, friendship, the outdoors, imagination and creativity. All the things that build confidence, curiosity and resilience. Coupled with a growing evidence base that too much is linked to anxiety, loneliness and extreme behaviours, finding a way to navigate our children through healthy choices and improving their mood and well-being is a common goal for all.

Moving forward to create those spaces for discussion, within a positive culture amongst parents/carers, we would like to hold a forum early in the first half term. For those interested in attending please watch out for a WhatsApp survey for you to select the dates you could attend.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. We wish you a happy and healthy summer.

Kind regards
Sarah and Anna

Finally...

Thank you to you all for your support over the last school year. I wish you and the children a very happy summer. Goodbye to our Y6s and to the rest, see you all back here in September.

Best wishes,

Patrick Smyth
Headteacher.