



# School Newsletter

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

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3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

**Dear parents and carers,**

Welcome back to the start of the longest half term of the school year. We start at the end of October, just after the clocks turn back, and finish just a few days before Christmas Day, deep into winter. We can look forward to another busy and full half term, full of exciting activities and hard work.

## **Online Safety Newsletter**

Please see attached to the newsletter the 'online safety' newsletter. This month's edition gives advice on popular apps such as **Roblox, TikTok and WhatsApp** amongst others. It is a very good read; I highly recommend it.

## **Poppy Appeal**

Remembrance Sunday is fast approaching and, as always, we are supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Items for this year's poppy appeal will go on sale in school from today. They include: paper poppies, key rings, wristbands and button ribbons – but no snap bands this year.

Please send your donations (any amount) into school with your child over the next few days. We suggest money is sent in a sealed envelope. Any spare change you can donate will be very much appreciated.

The Year 6 children will go from class to class each morning selling poppies and collecting donations. Parents and other family members can also purchase items from the school office during the day - all are welcome.



## **Y2 Remembrance Walk**

Next Friday, the Y2 class will be going on a *Remembrance Walk* around Chorley as part of their history studies. They will look at some of the houses that young men from Chorley, who fought in

the First World War, lived in. This is quite moving for the children. They will visit the war memorial at Astley Park and they will pop into St Mary's Church to visit the Remembrance display.

### **All Saint Mass at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

Bishop Tom Neylon celebrated Mass with the KS2 classes (juniors) on All Saints Day at St Mary's Church. He was impressed with the children's behaviour, their singing and the thoughtful answers they gave when he was asking them about saints. Well done to the Y6 bidding prayer readers; they read loudly and clearly. Thank you to the family members who came along to celebrate with us.

### **Can you help? Do you have an old doll's house or an old rabbit hutch that you no longer need?**

#### **Doll's House**

We have a pupil counsellor who comes into school on a Tuesday afternoon. She sometimes uses a doll's house in her sessions. The problem is the house has gone missing; we are worried it may have ended up in the skip over summer! If anyone has a spare that they were thinking of getting rid of and wouldn't mind donating; we would be very grateful.

#### **Rabbit Hutch**

Mrs Grzeczynska, parish administrator and school governor, told me that just before the half-term break, that a rabbit has made its home in the presbytery garden; she said it's very tame. She is worried about the health and wellbeing of the rabbit over the cold winter months and asked me to ask you, if anyone had a large rabbit hutch to give or lend her over the winter months. If you do, please could you call her on 01257 262537.

### **Mr Souter's 'Debt Aware' Programme**

Mr Souter has been giving financial awareness lessons to our Y5s and Y6s for many years now. He has gained national recognition for his excellent work. A few weeks ago, Adele Cooke, a financial journalist from the Mail group and *thisismoney.co.uk* website, came into St Mary's to see Mr Souter delivering one of his *Money Matters* lessons and published an article about it. You can read that here: <https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/bills/article-12604899/Every-child-needs-learn-dangers-getting-debt.html>

As a follow-up, our *Money Mentors* (Y5 and Y6 children) wanted to share these useful financial websites with parents and carers:

- Money Saving Expert <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>
- Savers Friend & Weekend Money Facts <https://moneyfactscompare.co.uk/savers-friend/>

### **Governor News**

Congratulations to Mrs Nightingale on her appointment as parent governor. And, congratulations to Mr Cahalin on his reappointment to the role of staff governor. Thank you both for volunteering for this very important role.

### **PTFA Spooktacular Dress-Up Day.**

I think the children enjoyed dressing up or coming to school in non-uniform for the *Spooktacular* dress-up day. Thank you very much for your kind donations. The PTFA raised **£120** which will be put to great use, enhancing the children's learning and experience at school over the coming months. Thank you the PTFA for organising!

### **Christmas Appeals 2023**

As part of our Catholic Life and Mission this Christmas, St Mary's are taking part in two campaigns to help those in need at this special time of year.

#### **EYFS/ KS1 - Nursery/ Reception/ Y1 and Y2 - Lancashire Teaching Hospitals – Give a Gift Campaign**

Locally, we will be helping to support Lancashire Teaching Hospitals making sure everyone has a gift for Christmas, even if in hospital. EYFS and KS1 are asked to bring in a gift for Lancashire Teaching Hospital by Friday 15th December. See leaflet attached.

#### **KS2 - Y3/ Y4/ Y5 and Y6 - Ukraine Christmas Shoe Box appeal**

And globally, we will be supporting Chorley and District's support for Ukraine Christmas Shoe Box appeal. KS2 The Ukraine appeal by Friday 24th November. The shoe boxes can be dropped off at school. See leaflet attached.

Please note we know this time of year can put a strain on everyone's finances so there is no obligation; this is entirely voluntary. Thank you, Mrs Nicklin

### **Tax-free childcare**

In case you missed this just before half term – a final reminder ... one of our governors shared some information with me to pass on:

*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.*

Many of our parents and carers may not know about this or may not be accessing this. We will write to you in more detail about in the near future but if you would like to find out more now, click on the link below. <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

## 2024 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES – PRIMARY

**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 15<sup>th</sup> 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> \*\***

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### STARS OF THE WEEK w/e 03.11.23

	Class	Name	Star of the Week for ...
	YN	Hannah F	always having fantastic contributions during group work.
	YR	Jemima	trying very hard in all areas all week.
	Y1	Arthur	a super attitude to his work this week, especially in his writing.
	Y2	Willow	amazing writing.
	Y3	Buddy	excellent concentration and focus all week.
	Y4	Veronica	her wonderful story about the Loch Ness Monster.
	Y5	Freya	excellent contributions during our work on multiples.
	Y6	Brody	an excellent biography about Alfred Wallace.

## Attendance



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2023/2024 W/E 20/10/2023



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 1	98.82
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 6	97.94
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 3	96.86
4 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	95.94
5 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	95.91
6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	95.49
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 2	93.48



### Chorley, St Mary's Attendance League 2023/2024 W/E 03/11/2023



CURRENT POSITION	CLASS	CURRENT %
1 <sup>st</sup>	YEAR 1	98.90
2 <sup>nd</sup>	YEAR 6	97.85
3 <sup>rd</sup>	YEAR 3	97.11
4 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 5	96.22
5 <sup>th</sup>	RECEPTION	96.13
6 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 4	95.59
7 <sup>th</sup>	YEAR 2	93.95

Congratulations to Y1 on their **100%** attendance this week – amazing! – KEEP IT UP!

P Smyth 03.11.23

**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



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

