



St. Chad's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



'Be who you were created to be...'

Web: www.st-chads.lancs.sch.uk Twitter: @StChadsChorley

Friday 4th September 2026

Parish Newsletter Available at <http://stchads-southhill.org/newsletter>

HEADLINES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD:

Thursday 3rd September: School reopens

Wednesday 9th September: Forest School for Years 5&6

Thursday 10th September: Year 6 Mass at St Mary's, Leyland

Friday 11th September: Toddler group

WELCOME BACK!

May I welcome all our families, children and staff to another new school year at St. Chad's. I especially extend a warm welcome to our new families and staff. It is always lovely when any family grows, and our school family is no different. As we prepare to welcome our pupils, staff and families back into our school communities, we are reminded of the words of Ecclesiastes:

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

The beginning of a new academic year is indeed a special season. It is a time filled with hope, optimism, and new possibilities; an opportunity to build upon previous successes and to look forward with confidence to all that can be achieved in the months ahead. Please take some time to carefully read this first newsletter, to help us work together to establish good routines and make a great start to the new school year. Apologies that it is a long one! May I thank you for your ongoing support. Mr J Riley



ROUTINES AND RULES REMINDERS

It is helpful to begin the year with a few reminders, so that we can start on the right track. Please share with anyone who helps with the school run.

- Children are not allowed to use the play equipment before or after school, as our risk assessments require strictly limited numbers and staff supervision. Thank you.
- Children should not run around the playground after school. Space is limited and it is very busy. Incidents have occurred where tall Year 6s have accidentally injured small Reception children, which is to be avoided.
- Dogs are not allowed on the school premises.
- Smoking is not allowed anywhere on the school site.
- Please park responsibly and avoid blocking any neighbour's driveways.
- Stopping on the zig-zag lines is prohibited.
- Only plain stud earrings should be worn, and removed entirely for PE days.
- We are a 'nut-free school', so please do not send in snacks or lunches with food containing nuts.
- Please cut grapes in half to reduce choking risks.
- Watches should only tell the time (i.e. no smart watches - see details below)
- Children should not bring fidget toys into school, unless suggested by a teacher/agency professional through formal support meetings and individual support plans.



All the above are to help keep your children safe and create an effective learning environment. Many thanks indeed for supporting these.

COMMUNICATION METHODS

Open, honest and clear communication is the key to an effective and happy school. You will receive regular communication from school in a variety of forms, all with a different purpose. Please see chart below:

METHOD	PURPOSE
Emails via Parent Pay	Communication from the school office (uniforms, dinners, trips, etc)
Weekly Newsletter Email and on the school website	General important updates and information, including dates for your diaries.
Class Newsletters Email and on the school website	Termly information specifically about your child's class, including the curriculum, routines, PE days, homework, etc.
Seesaw (App) (See update on this below)	Direct messaging between parents and teachers. Teachers aim to respond within 2 working days during office hours (9am-5pm). If a message is urgent, please contact the school office directly.
Informal conversations before and after school	Teachers and Mr Riley make themselves available before and after school for quick informal messages or chats. Teachers are, however, required in class to begin teaching at 9:00am. See below if more time is needed.
Face-to-Face meeting	More formal conversations, where required. Please make an appointment should this be needed.

We greatly value our relationship with parents and encourage you to reach out to us where necessary. We would much rather you to ask questions or raise concerns, rather than worrying or being confused about something. Please contact class teachers in the first instance where a question is relating to your child and their experiences in school. Admin questions may be directed to the school office.

SEESAW IMPORTANT UPDATE – PLEASE READ

Seesaw is an online platform/app that we have used for several years, however annual subscription costs have spiralled in recent years to over £2000, which is not a good use of our very limited budget. We have researched a very similar platform to serve the same purpose, called Class Dojo. We are busy setting this up and will send out details soon. Like Seesaw, this will facilitate two-way communication between teachers and parents, alongside other features. In the meantime, if you need to message your child's class teacher, please do so via the school office. We hope to have the new system operational by next week.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE: MOBILE PHONES, INC SMART WATCHES

National safeguarding guidance has changed significantly. The Department for Education's *Mobile Phones in Schools* guidance became statutory on 29 June 2026, with schools expected to begin implementing it from 1 September 2026. The guidance states:

"All schools should be mobile phone-free environments by default (including smart watches); anything other than this should be by exception only."

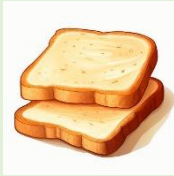


This is straightforward for us at St Chad's, where **mobile phones have never been permitted**. However, we recognise that phones may be needed in certain circumstances, such as when a child is moving between households or walking home independently (see policy for further details). In these cases, phones should be handed in at the school office on arrival and will be returned to the child at the end of the school day. We strongly encourage children to enjoy a phone-free childhood, whilst recognising that there are occasions when a mobile phone may be necessary.

National safeguarding guidance also requires schools to treat smart watches in the same way as mobile phones. Last year, some smart watches worn in school were capable of taking photographs, recording audio and accessing the internet, which is neither appropriate nor necessary during the school day. It is difficult and time-consuming for staff to verify the functions available on different models of watch, so our policy must be clear and consistent. **Children should therefore only wear watches that tell the time.** All classrooms have clocks, and children are supported to be in the right place at the right time throughout the day, so watches are not essential in school.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for all children.

TOAST



Toast will continue to be offered in school on Friday mornings throughout the school year. If your child would like toast, please send in your payment of £5 per child by Wednesday 9th September, so that we can inform our "toast fairies" how many children to cater for. If your child has any dietary requirements that have changed or that we are not already aware of, such as gluten free, no butter etc, please email Mrs Southworth so that we can ensure your child is catered for correctly. **Please send in payments in a clearly named envelope.** Payments for siblings can be put together in the same envelope as they are all sent through to the office for updating the list. Please remind children to hand the envelope in to their class teacher during morning registration, or drop off at the school office. Unfortunately, we cannot accept payment through ParentPay for this as we need to be able to easily re-imburse our toast fairies.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We are just finalising the last few dates for this term, so will communicate all the relevant dates for the whole term with you in next week's newsletter.

CLASS NEWSLETTERS

These will all be emailed to you next week and uploaded to the school website for future reference.

FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS

As explained in a recent email, our exciting Forest School provision begins on **Wednesday 9th September** for children in **Year 5 and Year 6**. Could relevant parents please check the details in the letter and complete the online form ASAP. Thank you for the replies so far. N.B. There was a mistake in the letter, asking infant parents to complete the form – it is only relevant for Year 5 and Year 6. We will gather details from other classes later in the year. See form links below for easy reference:



[YEAR 5 FORM](#)

[YEAR 6 FORM](#)

MEDICAL FORMS FOR MEDICATION AND INHALERS KEPT IN SCHOOL

If your child normally has medication or an inhaler kept in school, please complete a new form using the link below to ensure we have the most up to date information. Please also remember to send in any medication which may have been sent home at the end of Summer. You are responsible for checking any expiry dates on medication, so please make sure you check these before sending them in and ensure that you replace them before they expire. Many thanks.



[MEDICATION FORM](#)

WALK TO SCHOOL ALONE POLICY

If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 and you wish for them to walk/ride to or from school alone, please request a copy of our 'Travelling to and from school alone policy'. An application form is contained within the policy to be submitted to Mr Riley. **Please include details of the route and address and await a response.** Many thanks.

YEAR 3 SWIMMING LESSONS

Lessons start on **Thursday 10th September**. Children leave school at 1:30pm for their lesson 2:00-3:00pm. They will return shortly after the end of the school day. Please look out for email with full details.



ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER



Please see attachments for this month's online safety newsletter, which is designed to support parents to keep your children safe online. This month's focus is on AI images, parental controls, YouTube and WhatsApp usernames. We hope it helps.



LEP RECEPTION CLASS PHOTOGRAPH

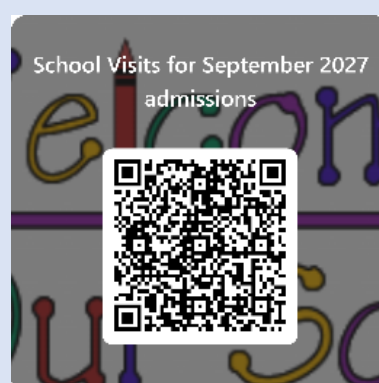
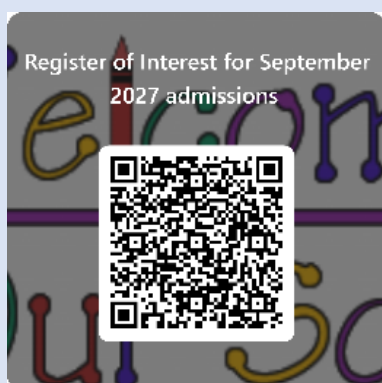
The Lancashire Evening Post & Chorley Guardian publish class photos of reception classes at this time of year. Their photographer is visiting next Wednesday 9th September. You will be sent proofs of the photograph in due course in case you wish to purchase a copy of it.

PTA AGM – SAVE THE DATE

More details to follow, but for now please bookmark **Monday 28th September at 7:00pm.**

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – SEPTEMBER 2027

We are already planning ahead for the next round of admissions for Reception in September 2027. It would be most appreciated if you could spread the word with family and friends who have an eligible child. Families may register their interest and book on to open days throughout the autumn term using the QR links below.



MONEY MATTERS



ParentPay

Can you please log into ParentPay to check the balances on your Dinner money, After School Club and Breakfast Club and make any payments for outstanding balances. Thank you.

FREE CHILD CAR SEAT/BOOSTER SEAT

A grandparent has kindly offered a free car seat and a booster seat, should anyone need one. Please let us know if you are interested.

YEAR 6 SPECIAL MASS IN LEYLAND

Liverpool Archdiocese have invited our **Year 6** to join a special Mass at St Mary's, Leyland, on **Thursday 10th September at 10:00am**. His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, will celebrate Mass alongside The Most Reverend John Sherrington, Archbishop of Liverpool. The trip takes place during the school day and children will be transported by coach. Please look out for an email with more details.

200 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to our **August** winners:

PRIZE	NAME	MEMBER NO.	AMOUNT
1 ST	Heather Moore	20	£50.00
2 ND	Mrs B Ballard	183	£30.00
3 RD	Jenny Taylor	135	£20.00



CODING DAY LUNCH

We will be offering a "Coding Day" themed lunch on Tuesday 22nd September. The menu will be:
Glitching Chicken Goujons with Data Stream Dips, Micro-Chip Fries, Server Sweetcorn & Processor Peas
or



Pizza Pocket Programmes, Micro-Chip Fries, Server Sweetcorn & Processor Peas (v)
or

Binary Baked Jacket Potato with a choice of filling

Followed by

Waffle Grid & Cache Chocolate Sauce or Java Jelly pots with Ctrl+Alt+Del-icious Fruit Wedges

SPACE DAY LUNCH

We will be offering a "Space Day" themed lunch on Thursday 1st October. The menu will be:

Meteor Meatball Marinara & Solar Spaghetti with Galactic Garlic Bread

Or

Cosmic Cheese & Onion Roll with Planet Potato Wedges & Lunar Peas (v)

Or

Jupiter Jacket Potato with choice of filling

Followed by

Sonic Boom Rocket Ice Lolly or Super Moon Cookies with Frontier Fruit Wedges



This menu will be available to the whole school. If your child does not normally have a school lunch on this day but wishes to take part, please ask for your child to be added to the list by emailing Mrs Southworth at k.southworth@stchads.lancs.sch.uk. Children who normally have a school lunch on this day do not need to reply. Payment for this lunch should be made via the Pupil School Meal payment item on ParentPay for children who are in KS2 (unless entitled to Free School Meals).

ST CHAD'S PARISH SOCIAL GROUP COMEDY NIGHT

A night of massive laughs is coming to Chorley this autumn! Friday 2nd October 2026.

Local comedy legend, radio presenter, and Britain's Got Talent finalist Steve Royle is bringing an incredible line-up of funny friends to host a special, non-profit charity evening.

Expect a fantastic night of top-tier stand-up and entertainment as Steve shares the stage with a handpicked group of his closest comedy chums to guarantee non-stop laughs—all while raising vital funds for St Chad's Church in Whittle-le-Woods.

Event Details: Charity Comedy Night hosted by Steve Royle and Friends. St Marys Parish Centre, Devonshire rd, Chorley PR7-2BY

Ticket Sale Locations & Times:

Tickets can be purchased in person after mass at the following locations starting 5th September:

Price £15.00pp

- **St Chad's Church (Whittle-le-Woods):** Sundays 10:00am (also available from the school)
- **St Bede's Church (Clayton Green):** Saturdays at 6:45pm or Sundays at 11:45am (also available from the school)
- **St Joseph's Church (Harpers Lane, Chorley):** Sundays 10:15am
- **St Gregory's Church (Weld Bank, Chorley):** Sundays 10:15am



Contact Information:

- **Phone:** 07904 984322 (For enquiries or ticket questions)

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – IMPORTANT CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 2026

The Department for Education has confirmed significant changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility which came into effect from September 2026. Please note that these “Benefit related Free School Meals” is separate to the free meals which children currently receive in the infants under the Universal Free School Meals scheme”.

What has changed?

Eligibility has broadened significantly, meaning more families will qualify, even if they have not previously been eligible. There are now 2 different types of Benefits related Free School Meals; Targeted and Expanded

- **Expanded Free School meals** - **All** pupils in households receiving **Universal Credit** will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of household income.
- **Targeted Free School meals** – available for pupils in households receiving Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of £7,400 or less, or other certain benefits. Unlike the newly introduced *Expanded FSM*, **Targeted FSM** unlocks broader disadvantage support such as Pupil Premium Funding for schools to support their learning and grants access to free holiday clubs and meals during school holidays under the **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)** program.
- **End of transitional protections**
Transitional protections, which have ensured continued entitlement for some pupils since 2018, ended at the close of the 2025/26 academic year.

Please see separate email and flyer sent before the end of term for more information along with details of how to apply if you think you now qualify.



AUTUMN TERM DATES FOR THE DIARY

N.B. Dates may be subject to change. We will update with changes and highlight new dates in yellow.

You may also subscribe to our calendar [via the school website](#). Click on ‘SUBSCRIBE’ and follow the instructions for your device.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday 3 rd September	8:45am	School Reopens
Wednesday 9 th September	-	Forest School sessions begin for Year 5&6
	-	LEP Reception photographs
Thursday 10 th September	10:00am	Year 6 Mass at St Mary’s, Leyland
Friday 11 th September	9:00-10:30am	Toddler Group
Tuesday 22 nd September	6:00-7:00pm	Phonics Workshops for Parents (Reception, Y1, Y2)
Saturday 26 th September	-	Scarecrow Festival
Monday 28 th September	7:00-8:00pm	PTA AGM
Friday 2 nd October	2:15pm	Harvest Assembly
Thursday 8 th & Friday 9 th October	-	Year 6 Bikeability
Monday 12 th & Wednesday 14 th October	3:30-6:00pm	Parents’ Evenings
Friday 16 th October	3:15pm	School closes for half term
Monday 2 nd November	8:45am	School reopens

ATTACHMENTS:

- Baby & Toddler Group
- Access School Health in a drop in session
- Online Safety Newsletter - September 2026

TODDLER GROUP FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Exciting news... we are hosting a volunteer-led baby and toddler group in the school hall, starting 11th September 2026. Please see attached for details.



St Chad's School Baby and Toddler Playgroup



COME AND JOIN US FOR A PLAY!



Pop up playgroup for children aged 0-4
and their grown ups.



Play and
explore



Story and
song time



Refreshments
included



Meet and
connect

VOLUNTEER LED
£2 SUGGESTED DONATION



No pre booking
necessary



Fridays term time
only 9:00-10:30am



St Chads School hall
South Hill,
Blackburn Road,
Whittle-le-Woods,
Chorley,
Lancashire,
PR6 8LL



Everyone welcome – we can't wait to see you!



CLASS & STAFFING STRUCTURE 2026/27

The class and staffing structure for 2026/27 is explained in the chart below. I have included photos for a more personal approach so that you can put faces to names. We are confident that our class structures, staffing and curriculum from September 2026 will offer excellent provision for all children.

	CLASS NAME	YEAR GROUPS	TEACHER/S		SUPPORT STAFF	
INFANTS	Class 1 Year 1 Support (a.m.) Class 2 Support (p.m.)				Miss Brennan	
	Class 1	Reception	Mrs Aldridge		Mrs Coyle	
		Year 1 (youngest)				
	Class 2	Year 1 (eldest)	Mrs Ingham (4 days) & Mrs Taylor (1 day)	 	Mrs Turner (a.m.)	
		Year 2				
	JUNIORS	Class 3	Year 3	Mrs Deacon		Mrs Monaghan
Year 4 (youngest)						
Class 4		Year 4 (eldest)	Miss Gillibrand		Mrs Murphy	
		Year 5				
Class 5		Year 6	Mrs Topp (3 days) & Mrs Muldoon (2 days)	 	Mrs Mitchell	
Breakfast & After School Club			Ashley Parker	Mrs Dalton	Mrs Mitchell	
Welfare Staff			Mrs Dalton Mrs Turner		Mrs Murphy Miss Lavery	
Office Staff			Mrs Southworth		Miss Lavery	
Site Supervisor			Mr De Jongh			
Kitchen Staff			Kate Still		Elena Mainea	

REMINDERS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Please follow these accounts to receive our feed and share with friends and prospective families:

Facebook: St Chads Catholic Primary School

Instagram: StChadsChorley

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

PARISH NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE AT <http://stchads-southhill.org/newsletter>

LITTLE CHURCH: All our children are invited to come along to Church for Sunday Mass at 9:15am, where they are welcome to join in the Children's Liturgy at "Little Church".

PARISH CENTRES FOR HIRE: St. Chad's and St. Bede's Parish Centres are available to hire for use by groups and for some private functions. **Enquiries :** **St Bede's** call Aidan on 01257 271818 / **St Chad's** call 07719 718523. If you get the answerphone, please leave your name and number and they will call you back.

COFFEE MORNINGS: Regular coffee mornings will be held in St. Chad's Parish Centre every second Sunday of each month. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served for a small donation. Everyone welcome.

ALTAR SERVERS: Any young people in Year 4 or older who would like to help at Mass as altar servers are very welcome. Please have a word with Fr Mark who will explain how you can get involved.

