



Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 8 | 24th October 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

Our Mission Statement:
Through Jesus we love, learn and grow

Prayer

Father God,

We thank you for all that we have learned in this first term in our new classes. Help us to take time to reflect on the things we have initially found hard and the way we have persevered to improve. We thank you for the fun times spent with our classmates and are sorry if we have not always made good choices towards others.

We thank you for our teachers who have supported us and worked hard to help us.

Be with us and our families as we have a week to relax and refresh. Keep us all safe as we embark on days out or on trips away, until we are back together as our school family.

Amen

Little Explorers



Little Explorers had a lovely visit to the library. They listened to some stories, made a little friendly ghost and enjoyed choosing books to bring back to school.

Little Explorers have been reading the book 'Car, Car, Truck, Jeep' this week and enjoyed doing their own vehicle survey watching the different traffic going past school.



WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

RIBBLE

WINNING HOUSE THIS TERM

YARROW

Please click to find out more
about our school

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

**"I came to give life—life
in all its fullness."**

John 10:10

Little Explorers and Reception

Little Explorers and Reception Class have been learning all about Diwali this week. We watched a video all about Deeya celebrating Diwali with her family. We then loved creating mehndi patterns, firework pictures on the IPAD and rangoli patterns on the playdough table and also outside using chalk. We had a lovely afternoon together!



Worship at Church

On Wednesday, Year 2 and 3 walked to Eccleston St. Mary's Church to join Father Jordan and the congregation for Morning Worship.

The children listened attentively, took part in the service and they also enjoyed asking Father Jordan a variety of questions before they returned to school.



Gift Group

During worship on Monday, Fr Jordan presented our new GIFT group with their badges. We offered prayers for them as they begin leading prayer and Worship in school.



Tennis Coaching

Year 3 and 4 took part in a session with Tennis Coach Guy from Mawdesley Tennis Club on Monday afternoon!

The children displayed lots of super skills and thoroughly enjoyed the activities provided.



Year 1

Year 1 have been learning how to add "-ed" and "-ing" to verbs in phonics this week. They played a game of charades using different verbs. Each child had to choose a word from the pile and act it out without speaking. The rest of the class then guessed what 'verb' they were acting out.

They had lots of fun whilst practising their reading skills!



Year 4

What a fabulous lunchtime Year Four had at Verdes on Monday! They decorated chef hats and created their own pizzas before very much enjoying eating them!

A huge thank you to Verdes for such wonderful hospitality and generosity.



Throughout the rest of the week, Year 4 have been preparing and making Quesadillas—fabulous practice of chopping, slicing and grating skills. Thanks to Mrs Scard and Miss Trower for assisting in the kitchen today!



KS2 Reading Raffle Winners

Congratulations to our KS2 Reading Raffle winners for this half term!

It's wonderful to see so many children engaging with reading at home and earning raffle tickets through their dedication and enthusiasm for books. Each ticket represents valuable reading time — and every reader is a winner in our eyes!

At the end of each half term, a raffle draw takes place and one lucky winner from each class receives a brand-new book as their prize.

This half term, we were especially excited to offer some extra special prizes — books personally signed by author and illustrator Nadia Shireen!

Well done to all our readers — keep up the fantastic reading at home, and who knows, maybe next half term you'll be our lucky winner!



Eco Council

The Eco Council endured the bad weather and got stuck in with some more gardening this week. They enjoyed picking potatoes from our garden and even got to take some home to cook and eat.

We look forward to planting more potatoes and hopefully harvesting more next time.



School Photos

Please remember to send your school photos back, along with payment, by Wednesday 5th November. Thank you.



Year 3 SODA

We were delighted to welcome parents and carers into our classroom for the Year 3 SODA this morning. Thank you so much to everyone who came.



Chorley Sports Partnership

Last Friday, Chorley Schools Sports Partnership celebrated 20 years with a special Awards Evening at Chorley Town Hall. Miss Slater and Mrs Rodofile were invited to share in the wonderful occasion and were so touched to hear that all raffle donations were dedicated to raising money towards our 'Garden for Hannah'.

On behalf of all our St. Mary's family, we would like to extend a huge thank you to Gemma and her team at CSSP for the £138 raised.

We are also delighted to share that Mrs Rodofile has been presented with a "20 Years of Service" award in recognition of her long-standing dedication to the Chorley Sports Partnership. For over two decades—and still going strong—she has worked tirelessly to ensure that the children of St Mary's are offered a wide range of exciting sporting opportunities across Chorley.

We are incredibly proud of the rich sporting provision here at St Mary's, and Mrs Rodofile and Miss Slater continue to give our pupils the chance to take part in a variety of both competitive and non-competitive sport.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025

Poppies and poppy merchandise will be on sale in school, to support the Royal British Legion 2025 Poppy Appeal, from Monday 3rd November. Please send change in to school with your child.



A Message from our New Governor Peter Holland

I'd like to thank all the parents for electing me as your new parent governor, I am honoured and will give this my utmost to ensure we preserve and promote what is special about our school, together. My wife, Ette, has been a well-known and liked face around school life for several years, I could see her community spirit and passion, which she is now looking to formalise through contributing to the various social and community events. That inspired me to get involved myself and support the school in this new role.



We have a daughter, Isla, who is currently in Year 4 and our son Noah, who is a regular and familiar face (noise) at Jellybeans, and like all parents, we're passionate about helping ensure that St. Mary's continues to be a wonderful place for our children to live, learn and grow. St Mary's is at the heart of our community and built on the foundations of good morals, manners, understanding and ethics – this is something I will look to emanate in my role.

If you'd like to get in touch with me, you can email me at **P.holland@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk**. However, please remember that if you have any specific concerns or issues, the correct first point of contact should always be the school directly. Thank you again for your trust and support. I'm looking forward to working with you all to continue making St. Mary's the fantastic school it is.'

Upcoming Dates

School Closes for Half Term on Friday 24th October at 3.20pm and re-opens on Monday 3rd November at 8.45 am.

Tuesday 4th November	9.30am	NCMP YR & Y6
Wednesday 5th November	1.00pm	School Library Bus Visit
Friday 7th November	9.30am	School Open Morning
Friday 7th November	3.20-4.30pm	PTFA Film Night KS1
Friday 7th November	4.45-6.00pm	PTFA Film Night KS2
Tuesday 11th November	10.45-11.45am	Remembrance Service (At School-Please Join Us)
Friday 14th November	9.00am	Y3 Class Worship (Please Join Us)
Wednesday 19th November	1.15-3.15pm	Flu Immunisations
Friday 21st November	8.45-9.15am	SODA Y2
Monday 24th November	All Day	Staff INSET Day
Wednesday 26th November	9.00-10.30am	Y5 Worship at Church
Friday 28th November	8.45-9.15am	SODA Y1
Friday 28th November	4.00pm	Winter Wonderland
Monday 1st December	1.30 pm	Open Afternoon
Friday 5th December	8.45—9.15am	SODA YR
Tuesday 9th December	9.30am	Infant Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 9th December	2.00pm	Choir Performing for Over 60's Club Bateman Hall
Wednesday 10th December	8.30 am-2.00pm	Panto at Winter Gardens
Thursday 11th December	2.00pm	Infant Performance
Thursday 11th December	6.00pm	Infant Performance
Friday 12th December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12th December	8.45—9.15 am	SODA - Nursery

Upcoming Dates — Cont..

Friday 12th December	12.00pm	Christmas Lunch
Friday 12th December	1.30pm	Junior Dress rehearsal
Monday 15th December	2.00pm	Junior Performance
Tuesday 16th December	9.30am	Junior Community Performance
Tuesday 16th December	6.00pm	Junior Performance
Wednesday 17th December	10.30-11.30am	Choir at Caffè Manna
Thursday 18th December	9.00am	Junior Christmas Party
Thursday 18th December	1.00pm	Infant Christmas Party
Thursday 18th December	5.30pm	Carol Service St Mary's Church
Friday 19th December	9.00-10.00am	Whole school Carol Singing

**School Closes for Christmas on Friday 19th December at 2.00pm
and reopens at 8.45am on Monday 5th January**

Letters Home

Archery After School Club, YR, KS1 & KS2—Flyer KS2 Singing Sensations—Letter

Girls' Football After School Club, YR, KS1 & KS2—Flyer

PTFA Film Night KS1/ KS2—Letter YR, KS1, KS2 Elf the Musical—Letter

Whole School Children in Need/ Day for Joy—Letter

Sports and Social Clubs—please note new clubs starting after half term.

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtime
Tuesday	Archery Games	3.20-4.10pm
Tuesday	Choir KS2	3.20-4.15pm
Thursday	Spanish Club-All Years	8.00-8.45am
Thursday	Fantastic Book Awards	Lunchtime
Thursday	Girls' Football	3.20-4.10pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

School Library Service

Library Book Returns

Please could all library books be returned to school by Monday 3rd November (the first day back after half term). The School Library Service will be collecting all library books on Wednesday 5th November.

On this day, the 'Book Bus' will be visiting school, giving the children a wonderful opportunity to choose some new books to restock our library shelves — ready for everyone to enjoy a brand-new range of exciting reads!

Elf The Musical

Please look out for a text from our **School Money Payments** system for information about our Christmas trip to see Elf the Musical. Payments will be in two instalments, and can be made on **School Money**.



St Mary's School Open Days

You are warmly invited to come along to our school open days.

During the remaining sessions on the 7th November and 1st December you will be able to visit each of our classrooms whilst lessons are in progress and speak, not only to staff, but to the pupils too.

Staff and governors will be on hand to guide you around and answer any queries you may have. Mrs Birchall, our headteacher, will also be available to speak to you, should you have anything you wish to discuss.

We look forward to showing you around our wonderful school!



Eccleston St Marys CE Primary School

Disney EBAY SALE

Thanks to a very generous donation from Disney towards our 'Hannah's Garden' fundraising we are excited to invite you to our new ebay store
seller search: [hannahsmemory](#)

- ★ Stock up on christmas presents with great prices below RRP
- ★ Range of toys, merchandise and rare, limited edition collectibles
- ★ Save on shipping and collect from school
- ★ Support a great cause, with all proceeds going towards the creation of Hannah's Memory Garden

MARVEL PIXAR Disney STAR WARS

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.org.uk](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALWAYS ONLINE
There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – that you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS
Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer optional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, V-Bucks items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to speed up progress, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Fortnite Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE
There's no denying that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the current. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Four seasons have introduced characters and references from popular franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT
Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to stronger, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES
Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetic items. These updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as kids try to keep up with the latest trends. These regular releases help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change dramatically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Star Wars and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION
Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for accountability and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use the in-game reporting system to report potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER
Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child while they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two.

SET SPENDING LIMITS
Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to impulsive transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's social screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young people know this.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for several years. A regular contributor to the Age Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety for his 10 and 12-year-old sons and has been published at sites including IGN, Techradar, and plenty more.

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SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

APPLY NOW!

lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2026

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
15 January 2026

School transport

If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.

Lancashire County Council

lancashire.gov.uk

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS SECONDARY SOUTH

Do you have a child starting secondary school in September 2026 and living in Lancashire?

Closing date: 31 October 2025

You must apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school.

Apply for a school place now by scanning the QR code or visit lancashire.gov.uk/schools

If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, please check the guidance on our website, or call 01772 532109.

Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces and click 'school admission policies'.

Lancashire County Council

lancashire.gov.uk