



Eccleston St Mary's
C of E Primary School

Newsletter 9 | 7th November 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Prayer- For Remembrance

A POPPY PRAYER

FOCUS ON THE WHOLE POPPY:

POPPIES ARE BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL FLOWERS. SAY THANK YOU TO GOD FOR THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN WAR, REMEMBERING ALL THE JOY THEY BROUGHT TO FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, AND ALL THE GOOD THINGS THEY DID FOR THEIR HOME AND THEIR COUNTRY.

NOW LOOK AT THE RED PETALS:

RED REMINDS US OF DANGER AND HARM. ASK GOD TO BE CLOSE TO THOSE WHO ARE STILL FACING DANGER EACH DAY, TO GIVE COURAGE TO THE ARMED FORCES, AND COMPASSION TO ALL WHO HELP OTHERS.



IMAGINE YOU HAVE A POPPY IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND:

POPPIES ARE ALSO FRAGILE AND NEED TO BE HANDLED GENTLY. GOD CARES FOR THOSE WHO ARE HURTING AND THOSE WHO ARE SAD. ASK GOD TO COMFORT ALL WHO ARE GRIEVING THE LOSS OF SOMEONE THEY LOVE.

FINALLY FOCUS ON THE BLACK CENTRE OF THE POPPY:

ASK GOD TO HELP YOU PLAY YOUR PART IN WORKING FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD.

AMEN

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

John 10:10

Please click to find out more
about our school

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

RIBBLE

Student Council

Our School Council have been busy during their first two meetings planning for Hannah's Cake Sale. This week we got to work creating posters, banners and price tags.

They would like to remind everyone that all the cakes and biscuits we will sell next Friday will be either £1 or 50p. We can't wait to raise lots of money during the Cake Sale that will go towards funds for Hannah's Garden!



Little Explorers

This week Little Explorers have been thinking about Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day. They have used the interactive board to colour in some firework pictures, made chocolate breadstick sparklers and made playdough poppies.



Year 2

On Tuesday, Year 2 had a special visit from Lancashire Fire and Rescue, who came to talk to them all about fire safety around bonfire night. They had lots of fun learning something really important. Thank you to Lancashire Fire and Rescue for coming to see us.



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder treason plot. They discussed how we celebrate Bonfire Night and the importance of keeping safe. Year 1 then produced some fantastic firework pictures using the oil pastels. Aren't they eye-catching!



Year 3

Daily Mile with a difference! Year 3 enjoying an agility break in the sunshine.



Year 4

Year 4 have enjoyed sharing their creative homework of making or drawing Human or Physical Landmarks from North America. We are sure you agree that they look fabulous!



Jellybeans

Jellybeans had an exciting fun session this week. They listened to a story about a bonfire, made their own chocolate sparklers and rocket pictures and enjoyed making firework patterns in the glitter.



School Choir

It's been wonderful to see our school choir back up and running this week!

The children have jumped straight back into rehearsals and are already sounding fantastic. They are busy preparing for a number of Christmas performances we have coming up, and we can't wait to share their beautiful singing with everyone soon.





CERTIFICATES



BRONZE—Bronze certificates are awarded for gaining 50 house points.

Year 6	Isla	Thomas T.		
Year 3	Elodie	Joseph	Maisie	Cassie

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Luca	
Reception	Reggie	Margot
Year One	Maisie	Bertie
Year Two	Levi	Hugo
Year Three	Elodie	Jaxon
Year Four	Emily	Rory
Year Five	Oliver	Bodhi
Year Six	Ella	Elliott

School Library Book Bus Visit

The children were really excited to choose some new books for our school library when the School Library Book Bus visited on Wednesday afternoon. Representatives from Nursery to Year 6 visited the Book Bus and they all chose some extremely exciting looking books!

Visiting a library on wheels was a new experience for most of the children! Thank you to the staff from the school library service, who were fantastic in helping the children to choose books on a wide range of topics they expressed interest in. We can't wait to get reading!



Upcoming Dates

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)
Friday 14th November	All Day	Joy Day
Monday 17th November	9.00am	Nursery Library Visit
Tuesday 18th November	9.05am	Open the Book
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
Monday 1st December	All Week	Jingle Jog
Thursday 4th December	10 am	Jelly Beans Xmas Party
Friday 5th December	8.45—9.15am	SODA YR
Friday 5th December	9 am	Jingle Jog Café including Choir performance - Please join us
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
Friday 12th December	12.00pm	Christmas Lunch
Friday 12th December	1.30pm	Junior Dress rehearsal

Upcoming Dates — Cont..

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 Caffe 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

Whole School Teaching Arrangements Y2—Letter
Whole School Hannah's Memorial Garden Update—Newsletter
Whole School PTFA Autumn Term—Newsletter

St Mary's School Open Days

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

During the remaining session on the 1st December you will be able to visit each of our classrooms whilst lessons are in progress and speak to staff, pupils, governors and our Headteacher, Mrs Birchall.

We look forward to showing you around our wonderful school!



Sports and Social Clubs

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

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**

fun activities

Jellybeans

at Eccleston St Mary's Primary School

ALL CHILDREN AGED 0 - 4

stories songs

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

EVERY THURSDAY DURING TERM TIME
10.00-11.00

Sessions led by our Nursery and Reception teaching staff

£2 per family

Meet and chat with other parents.

Children must be accompanied by an adult

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

APPLY NOW!

at 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

lancashire.gov.uk

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

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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.gov.uk.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING**
Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely chance-based lotteries, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.
- QUICK BUT ABSORBING**
Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in "just one more game". This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons currently being introduced – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn special emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.
- PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE**
A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are repeated each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.
- ENDLESS PACK LOOPS**
New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 275 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.
- COST OF BOOSTER PACKS**
Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Dollars if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Dollars is awarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Dollars are also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.
- COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY**
Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are exclusively solo – there's no messaging between players. Friend requests require player approval, and real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-identification, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- MONITOR SPENDING HABITS**
Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. 'Test Fails' Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.
- SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS**
Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.
- PLAY TOGETHER**
Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.
- TEACH FAIRNESS**
Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert
Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 10 years of experience, specialising in technology and gaming. He has written extensively on how digital problems affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.

WakeUp Wednesday **The National College**

✕ @wake_up_weds www.thenationalcollege.gov.uk @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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