



Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 11 | 21st November 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Prayer

Our GIFT group have written this prayer for us this week.

Dear God,
In this cold weather that we are having at the moment, we think especially of homeless people who don't have a warm place to snuggle up. We pray that they are able to eat a hot meal or to be given warm clothes to wear. Please help them to find shelter on these cold nights. Thank you for all of the charities that help homeless people such as The Salvation Army, Shelter and Healthy Heroes.
Amen

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Roman	
Reception	Nora	Archie G.
Year One	Karlie	Charlotte
Year Two	Henry	Elijah
Year Three	Freddie	Isla
Year Four	Hugh	Ally
Year Five	Teddy	Harry
Year Six	Archie	Sofia

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

DOUGLAS

Please click to find out more
about our school

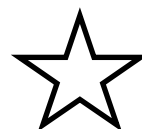
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**"I came to give life—life
in all its fullness."**

John 10:10



CERTIFICATES



Bronze certificates are awarded for gaining 50 house points.

BRONZE

Year 6	Annabelle	Jacob	Saffron	Lucianna
	Annie			

Year 3	Claudia	Henry		
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Year 2	Anna	April	Oscar	Neve
	Olivia	Ruairi		

Silver certificates are awarded for gaining 100 house points.

SILVER

Year 6	Katie
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Year 2 SODA

Year 2 had a fantastic morning welcoming their adults into their SODA morning. We enjoyed playing lots of games together and gave them a sneak peek of our Christmas performance with a performance of one of our songs!

Thank you to all of the adults who came along this morning to join in!



Little Explorers

Little Explorers enjoyed a lovely visit to the library.

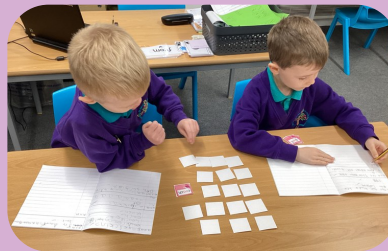
They listened to some stories, made a craft and then chose a book to bring back to school.



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed playing pairs in their phonics lesson this week.

They had to find and match words with the grapheme 'oa' and, when they found a match, they wrote it in their books. They practised their reading, writing and memory skills whilst having lots of fun playing the game! Great work, Year 1.



Year 4

Year Four had an interesting, interactive and valuable session with Anna from Compass Bloom on Thursday.

The focus of their learning was relationships with ourselves and others and recognising feelings.

The children also discussed what we mean by bullying and making good choices.

Well done, Year Four for such sensible contributions.



School Council

This week, School Council have been busy counting the money that was raised during our Cake Sale last week. They had to ensure they sorted all the coins and that they had the correct amount in each bag. We enjoyed working together to sort all the money that was raised for Hannah's Garden. Well done School Council!

We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and all those who baked or donated cakes for the sale.

An incredible **£411.32** has been raised!



Reception

With the weather getting colder this week, Reception have been busy making a butternut squash soup. We loved learning all about the different ingredients and discovering how some of them grow.

We then worked together to chop the spring onions and the butternut squash as a team. We also added the other ingredients that we needed from the recipe we followed. Finally, we sat down together to enjoy our tasty soup.

Well done Reception Class!



Eco Council

The Eco Council are doing a fantastic job of refreshing the gardening area!

Their next task is to revive the mud kitchen and so they are asking for donations of the following:

- Old pots and pans
- Wooden spoons
- Soup spoons
- Spatulas
- Metal or plastic teapot
- Sieve/colander
- Plastic Cups

Any donations can be sent into school with your child and passed on to Miss Slater in Year 1.

Many thanks,
The Eco Council



Parental Questionnaires

A massive thank you to everyone who completed our recent parental questionnaire. The responses were overwhelmingly positive and we are so pleased that you love the school as much as we do. We are delighted to share some of your lovely comments below.

We really appreciate the suggestions you've made to help us to develop the school still further and we do intend to act on these in the near future. It was apparent that many of you would appreciate a greater variety of extra-curricular clubs for all ages and we will look into ways to address this in the New Year.

We will be looking in detail at all your suggestions, of course and will give you more in-depth feedback in due course.

In the meantime, thank you, once again for taking the time to complete the survey. We look forward to working together to help St. Mary's to go from strength to strength.

**"I like the Christian ethos
and it promotes good values."**

**"Committed and capable
staff who really care"**

Excellent pre-school"

**"Teaching staff are
enthusiastic,
engaging and
approachable."**

**"Caring, friendly,
lovely children."**

"Family feel"

"Community"

**"Such a nice
atmosphere"**

"Welcoming"

"Nurturing"

**"Treat every pupil well -
respected and kindly."**

"My children are very happy here."

Upcoming Dates

Monday 24th November

Wednesday 26th November

Friday 28th November

Friday 28th November

Monday 1st December

Monday 1st December

Thursday 4th December

Friday 5th December

Friday 5th December

Tuesday 9th December

Tuesday 9th December

Wednesday 10th December

Thursday 11th December

Thursday 11th December

Friday 12th December

Friday 12th December

Friday 12th December

Friday 12th December

Monday 15th December

Tuesday 16th December

Tuesday 16th December

Wednesday 17th December

Thursday 18th December

Thursday 18th December

Friday 19th December

Friday 19th December

All Day

9.00-10.30am

8.45-9.15am

4.00pm

1.30 pm

All Week

10 am

8.45—9.15am

9 am

11 am

2.00pm

8.30 am-2.00pm

2.00pm

6.00pm

All Day

8.45—9.15 am

12.00pm

1.30pm

2.00pm

9.30am

6.00pm

10.30-11.30am

All day

5.30pm

9.00-10.00am

2pm

Staff INSET Day

Y5 Worship at Church

SODA Y1

Winter Wonderland

Open Afternoon

Jingle Jog

Jelly Beans Xmas Party

SODA YR

Jingle Jog Café including
Choir performance -
Please join us

Infant Dress Rehearsal

Choir Performing for Over
60's Club Bateman Hall

Panto at Winter Gardens

Infant Performance

Infant Performance

Christmas Jumper Day

SODA - Nursery

Christmas Lunch

Junior Dress rehearsal

Junior Performance

Junior Community Performance

Junior Performance

Choir at Caffè Manna

Christmas Party Day

Carol Service St Mary's Church

Whole school Carol Singing

Break up for Christmas

Winter Wonderland

Don't forget to join us next Friday—28th November—for one of the highlights of the whole school year—Winter Wonderland!

With stalls galore, the Grotto, the raffle, refreshments and performances from our music groups, it promises to be a fantastic occasion—perfect for getting you into the Christmas spirit.

Look forward to seeing you then!



Letters Home

Year 5 Wind Instrument Lessons—Letter

Whole School Jingle Jog—Letter, Tracker & Sponsor Form

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

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

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

songs

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

APPLY NOW!

[at lancashire.gov.uk/schools](https://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

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 thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's AirTag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- STALKING AND HARASSMENT**
Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 207 percent between 2018 and 2023.
- INVASION OF PRIVACY**
These devices are designed to share location data with the user and other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.
- TOOLS FOR BULLYING**
Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces - like homes - that should feel safe and secure.
- FALSE ACCUSATIONS**
Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.
- DIFFICULT TO DETECT**
Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS**
If a child's phone charges seem to know their location - whether in person or hidden at home - it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will occasionally make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.
- CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS**
Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it - this could help police trace the account it's linked to.
- USE DETECTION APPS**
Apple devices running iOS 15.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.
- HAVE THE CONVERSATION**
Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to probe, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, the Guardian, the Evening Standard, the Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.

WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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