



Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 14 | 12th December 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Prayer

This coming Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent, and we will light the pink candle on the Advent wreath to remind us of the joy Jesus brings.



Dear Jesus,

Thank you for bringing joy into our world, and for filling our days with your love. Help my heart shine with your bright light today, so I can share it with others. Teach me to spread smiles and kindness, even when it feels a little hard. Fill my family and friends with your happiness, and keep us close to one another.

Stay beside me as I get ready for Christmas, and guide me in all I do. May your joy grow in me every day, and help me bring joy to others too. Amen.

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

Little Explorers had a lovely pyjama and pantomime day on Wednesday. They watched 'Cinderella' on the big screen in the hall and enjoyed some hot chocolate and a Christmas treat.



SODA

Little Explorers had a wonderful SODA morning today. They were very excited to welcome their parents into the classroom and proudly shared the different activities they enjoy each day.



Elf the Musical

We all had a wonderful time at *Elf the Musical* at Blackpool Winter Gardens on Wednesday — a fantastic way to begin the festive season!

A big thank-you to all of our extra helpers for coming along and giving up their time. We really appreciate your support.



Christmas Lunch

The whole school enjoyed their Christmas dinner today. Teaching staff helped serve lunch, Christmas music filled the hall, and everyone was dressed in their festive jumpers. Henry in Year 3 even said that it was a 5-star meal with 5-star service!



Infant Nativity

A huge well done to the Infants for their wonderful Nativity performances of 'The Inn-Spectors' on Thursday afternoon and evening. The children read their lines clearly, sang beautifully, and performed with confidence for their families and friends. They all looked fantastic in their costumes too! You must all be very proud of them.

It was lovely to see so many families and friends in attendance—we hope you enjoyed the show! Here is a snapshot of photos, with more to follow soon.

Well done, Infants! We now look forward to the Junior performances next week on Monday and Tuesday.



A Wonderful Gift of Books for Our School!

We are delighted to share some exciting news with our school community. Thanks to the generosity of local business, Redrow Homes, our school has received a fantastic book bundle worth £183!

The donation, kindly organised through Christina Taylor, an Independent Usborne Partner, includes a brilliant mix of both fiction and non-fiction titles, chosen specially to support pupils from Key Stage 1 right through to Key Stage 2. These new books will help to enrich our school library, inspire a love of reading, and provide even more opportunities for our children to explore new ideas and stories. We are very grateful for this thoughtful gift, and we look forward to sharing these wonderful books with the children after the Christmas break.

A big thank you to Redrow Homes and Christina Taylor for supporting our school and helping to make reading magical!



Upcoming Dates

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

Letters Home

Year 5 Staffing—Letter and Timetable

Year 1 PHSE—Letter

Sports and Social Clubs

All clubs will resume in January, please check back here at the start of term for more information.

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.org.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOY SCALPING, FAKES & SCAMS

Online scalping is when individuals or groups use automated software (bots) to bulk-buy high-demand items – such as gaming consoles, concert tickets, limited-edition trainers, or exclusive merchandise – with the intention of reselling them at vastly inflated prices. It's a fast-moving online trend that can frustrate young consumers and expose them to misleading practices or financial harm. As this unethical tactic grows, it's important to help children and young people understand how scalping works and how to navigate it responsibly.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND MANIPULATION

Scammers create artificial scarcity by buying up large quantities of stock before the public has a fair chance to purchase. This drives up demand and pushes prices to extreme levels. Young people may feel intense pressure to spend more than they can afford for fear of missing out entirely.

EXPLOITATION OF FANDOMS

Scalping often targets popular releases with strong fan bases. Knowing that loyal followers are emotionally invested, children and young people may place huge value on owning certain items linked to their favourite artists, sports teams or games, making them more likely to accept unfair prices or questionable sales.

ACCESSING UNSAFE WEBSITES

In the rush to secure rare items, young people might click through to unvetted sellers, online marketplaces with little consumer protection, or even sites designed specifically to harvest personal and financial data. This can expose them to fraud, malware, and identity theft.

NORMALISING UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Some influencers and online communities present scalping as a clever money-making scheme rather than an exploitative one. This can normalise dishonest behaviour and blur the line between legitimate business and opportunistic profiteering for younger audiences.

RISK OF SCAMS OR COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Not every high-priced resale is legitimate. Fraudulent sellers may take payment for goods they never send, or ship counterfeit versions of branded items. In some cases, the product may look authentic in photos but turn out to be of poor quality or completely different from what was advertised.

REINFORCING INEQUALITY

Scalping makes already expensive items even less accessible, particularly for lower-income families. Children may feel excluded from trends or shared experiences with friends if their family cannot meet the inflated prices, which can lead to feelings of isolation and disappointment.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FAIRNESS

Use scalping as an opportunity to discuss fairness, consumer ethics, and how some people exploit markets for profit. Encouraging children to think critically about whether they really need an item – and at what cost – can help them make more considered decisions.

ENCOURAGE PATIENCE OVER IMPULSE

Teach young people to wait for official restocks or future releases instead of paying over the odds. Many products come back into circulation, and patience can save significant amounts of money while reducing the likelihood of falling victim to scams.

SUPPORT INFORMED PURCHASING

Show children how to check seller credentials, read independent reviews, and verify whether a site is secure before making any payment. Knowing how to spot red flags, such as unrealistic promises or missing contact details, can prevent costly mistakes.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Establish clear rules for online spending, including limits on prepaid cards, gaming gift cards, and online wallets. Discuss the real-world value of money spent on digital or collector's items so children understand the long-term impact of their purchases.

Meet Our Expert
Home to the world's largest CPO library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three membership tiers offer a range of support and training, from on-demand courses to live workshops, saving time, reducing risk, and building a culture of improvement.

Source: CPO and reference list on guide page 10

Follow us on social media: [@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds), www.thenationalcollege.org, [@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds), [wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds)

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RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Rainbow Hub will collect & recycle your real Christmas tree to save you time & hassle
Collecting Friday 9th - Sunday 11th January 2026

To book your tree collection, and help Rainbow Hub to raise funds to brighten the lives of children with disabilities, please scan the QR code or visit:
<https://www.rainbowhub.org/event/christmas-tree-collection/>

We will be collecting trees in the following postcode areas:
PR1, PR2, PR4, PR5, PR6, PR7, PR8, PR9, PR25, PR26, WN6, WN8, L39, L40, BL6

With thanks to our event sponsors:

01704 823276 | rainbowhub.org | fundraising@rainbowhub.org



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Every day is a life changing day

Rainbow Hub,
Salt Pit Lane, Mawdesley,
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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

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

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