



SCHOOL NEWS

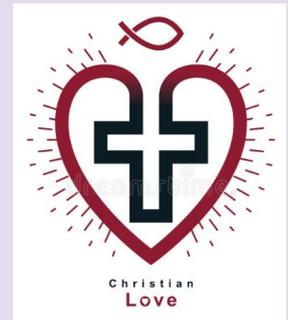
Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Prayer

Year Two led a lovely worship for us on Tuesday morning, focusing on the Christian Value of Love. Here is their prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you, for the people who love us
and for the love we share every day.
Sorry, for the times we are not patient or when we forget to be kind.
Please, God, help us to love others
just like Jesus taught us to do.
Amen



☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Harry	
Reception	Phoebe	Aspyn
Year One	Reggie	
Year Two	April	Levi
Year Three	Elodie	Isla
Year Four	Rory	Henry
Year Five	Bodhi	
Year Six	Holly	Annie

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

DOUGLAS

WINNING HOUSE THIS TERM

LOSTOCK

Please click to find out more
about our school

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

“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 1

Maisie

Abigail

Charlotte

Everley

Year 2

Year 2 led a special worship on the theme of LOVE.

They enjoyed performing and sharing important messages about being loving and following the teachings of Jesus.



Year 1

Year 1 have loved getting practical in Maths!

They have been making numbers up to 50 using lots of different representations of the 'tens' and 'ones'. They have also been practising their counting skills using dot-to-dots and playing counting games in class. Our Year 1 class love Maths!



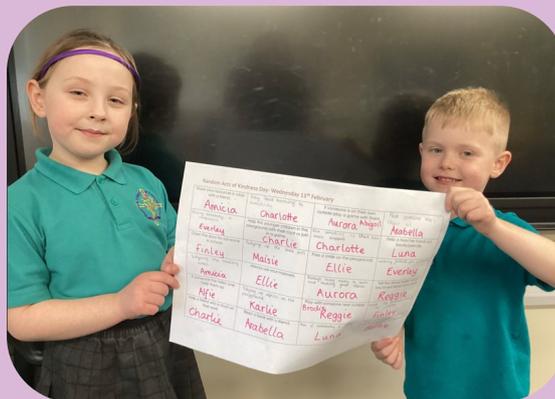
Year 4

In Year Four, the children have been exploring high and low pitch sounds by completing various investigations and activities. They even made their own pan flutes, without instructions and plenty of trial and error!



School Council

School Council loved planning and organising our Random Acts of Kindness Week. The whole school took part in this on Wednesday and what a great day we all had. Each class worked together as a team to complete all the challenges on their grid. School Council then enjoyed delivering the certificates to each class. Well done St Mary's!



Non-Uniform & Cake Sale

We are so pleased to announce that today's non-uniform and cake sale have raised an incredible—**£309.10** for **Hannah's Garden Fundraising Appeal**.

Thank you once again for all of your kind donations—we are looking forward to sharing progress with you when work on the garden begins!



PTA Players Show

We are absolutely delighted to share with you the grand total from the **PTA Players' Show—an amazing £10,315.92!**

From this, **£1,592.47** was collected for **Hannah's Memorial Garden** ie the proceeds of the raffle..

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to the **PTA Players** for their hard work, dedication, and commitment in producing such a successful show year after year. Your efforts truly make this event something special for our whole community.

A huge thank you as well, to all of the volunteers who generously gave up their time to help each evening, and to our wonderful school and village communities who supported the performances by purchasing tickets.

Once again, it was a tremendous success, and everyone who attended has shared what a fantastic time they had. We are so grateful to each and every one of you for making it possible.

Thank you all so much!



Little Explorers—Outdoor Learning

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Kyme family for their generous donation of artificial grass for Little Explorers' new outdoor learning area.

A special thank you to Mr Kyme for kindly giving up his time to lay it for us. We are incredibly grateful for your support and can't wait to make full use of this fantastic space!



Night of Neon Walk for The Christie Charity

In September several children in Y4 completed the 'Walk for Hope' for The Christie Charity as part of a team event for Mawdesley Juniors U9s. The team have chosen to support that particular charity this year and also feature their logo on their playing shirts. They have committed to multiple events throughout the next two seasons.

On Saturday, three boys from Y4 (once again!) braved heavy rain in Manchester to complete their second event for the same charity. The 'Night of Neon' marks World Cancer Day and is a night walk with a carnival atmosphere with everyone dressing in neon. The weather couldn't dampen their spirits with everyone smiling to the very end.

They are now approaching £400 raised and would be grateful of any support parents may be able to offer through donating or sharing on social media.



<https://www.justgiving.com/page/mawdesleyjuniors>

Upcoming Dates

**School Closes for Half Term on Friday 13th February at 3.20pm
and reopens at 8.45am on Monday 23rd February**

Monday 23rd February	All Week	Pools to Schools
Monday 23rd February	3.20pm	PTFA Meeting (Please join us)
Tuesday 24th February	9.05am	Open the Book
Friday 27th February	8.45am	Y1 Book Look with Parents
Thursday 5th March	All Day	World Book Day
Thursday 5th March	9.00am	Celebration Assembly (Please Join Us)
Thursday 5th March	4.00pm	Y3/Y4 Glow Dodgeball (Albany Academy)
Friday 6th March	8.45am	YR Book Look with Parents

Letters Home

KS1 Singing Club—Letter

Choir Lancashire Sings—Letter

Y2, Y3 and Y4 Swimming Lessons—Letter

Whole School—PTFA Meeting Agenda

Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtime
Tuesday	Tri Golf	3.20-4.10pm
Tuesday	Choir KS2	3.20-4.15pm
Wednesday	FBA UKS2	Lunchtime
Wednesday	Reading & Craft Club YN & YR	3.20-4.15pm
Thursday	Girls Football	3.20-4.10pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

World Book Day

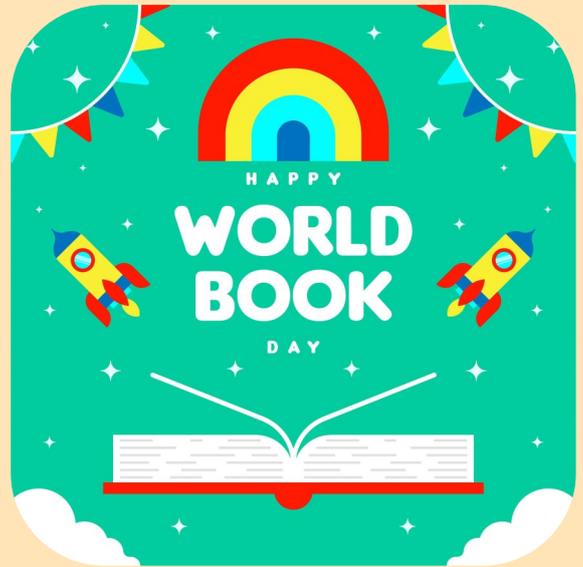
Thursday 5th March 2026

As ever, we would like to mark World Book Day by dressing up but we also know how difficult and / or expensive this can prove to be.

Therefore, we have tried to keep it simple again this year and are asking all the children to come dressed as an **adjective**.

This allows for some children to really let their imaginations run wild but also allows for simpler options such as coming as a colour—red, blue, orange, purple etc. You could also consider being sporty, scary, posh (or are we sounding a bit too much like Spice Girls there?!)

Anyway, the choice is yours and we look forward to seeing what you come up with on Thursday 5th March.



Easter Competition

In keeping with tradition, we will be inviting families to decorate eggs and bring them into school during the last week of term (week beginning 23rd March.)

As 2026 is the National Year of Reading, we would like the eggs to be on a book-related theme eg your favourite book character.

Obviously, this is still a few weeks away but we thought you might appreciate an extra bit of thinking time.

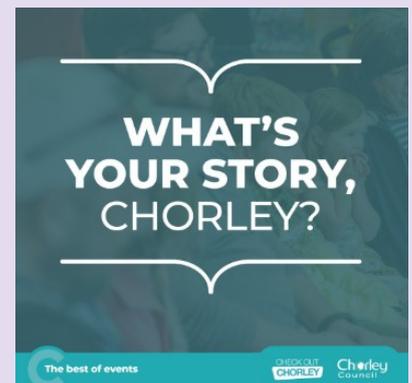


What's your Story Chorley?

What's your story, Chorley? returns this year for the month of March, with lots of activities for all the family.

Please follow the link below for more information about all of the events:

<https://checkoutchorley.com/whatsyourstory>



fun activities

Jellybeans

at
Eccleston St Mary's Primary School

ALL CHILDREN AGED 0 - 4

songs

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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lawri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, "how-to" and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College