



# SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Motto:**  
Believe & Achieve

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

## Prayer

A prayer for World Book Day.

Dear God,

We thank you for the power of a good book to transport us to new places and to give us new experiences.

We thank you for the creativity of authors and illustrators in creating books for us to enjoy.  
We are thankful for our own ability to read and to imagine.

We thank you for the people who have helped us to enjoy reading and for our education.

Amen

## ☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Sienna		
Reception	Ronnie	Margot	
Year One	Arabella		
Year Two	Hunter	Stanley	Alex
Year Three	Freddie		
Year Four	Seth	Freddie	
Year Five	Harry		
Year Six	Lillia	Francesca	

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

# 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



# CERTIFICATES



**Bronze certificates are awarded for gaining 50 house points.**

## BRONZE

**Year 4 Myla**

**Year 3 Leo Sophia Isla Catriona Charlotte**

**Silver certificates are awarded for gaining 100 house points.**

## SILVER

**Year 3 Claudia Maisie**

## Year 2

Year 2 made Lego houses and investigated the best materials for a roof.

They had great fun investigating which materials were waterproof and found out that tiles were the best roofing material and paper the worst.



Year 2 have started to learn about RMS Titanic. They used play doh to make models of the ship, with many also adding the infamous iceberg!



# World Book Day-2026

Paired Reading!



Year 3 enjoyed sharing their favourite books with each other!

Year 1



A fabulous range of adjectives in Year 4!



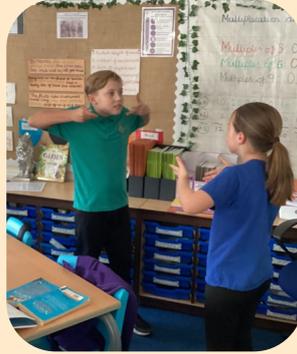
Little Explorers had a wonderful World Book Day sharing stories with their friends!

We also enjoyed a very special visit from Year 5, who joined us to read their favourite stories in small groups. The children loved listening and spending time with the older pupils. We made the most of our lovely outdoor space too — we love outdoor learning!



## Year 4

Year 4 have been getting into character this week as Lucy and Edmund from their novel, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' to capture their feelings and emotions at different parts of the story.



## Year 1

Year 1 have been getting creative in art! On Wednesday, they used oil pastels to draw their own yeti. The pastels were a little tricky to use, but the children showed fantastic perseverance and created some incredible artwork! Over the next few weeks, they'll be making clay yeti sculptures, inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy. We can't wait to see their amazing creations!



## Reception

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Reception's Book Look this morning. It was lovely to see the children so excited to show you their work.





**PUTTING THE FUN INTO FUNDRAISING**

**PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALE**

If you have any uniform that has been outgrown, but is still in good condition, we would be very grateful for the donation. Please send it in to school ready for our pre loved uniform sale on Monday 23rd March at Parent's Evening.  
Thank you!

*save money - help the environment - raise funds for school*



## Life Education

The Life Education Team are coming into school on **Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th of March.**

Children will be able to purchase bookmarks from this event for £1.00.

There will be a parent/carer session on **Tuesday 17th March between 8.45am and 9.10am**, during which you will have the opportunity to meet the Life Education Educator, find out more about the content of your child's programme and to ask any questions you may have.



**coram** Life Education **SCARF**

**We Need Your Help**

**SCRATCH ART BOOKMARKS**

Help Your School Our Charity

**£1**

Life Education  
Lancashire & Cumbria  
Charity No: 1058867

## Gift Group-Lent Promises

Our GIFT Group - Growing in Faith Together Group - have shared an activity that they invite all pupils to consider to mark the season of Lent. They would like each child to reflect on these hands and consider five ways they can give over the next few weeks. This could be donating items to charity, giving of their time to help others, or the sharing of their toys etc.



The children are also being encouraged to be more prayerful, by selecting five different intentions and committing to praying for these over the coming weeks of Lent.

These sheets have been shared in classes and we encourage families to discuss these and take part, if possible. Any completed hands would be gratefully received by our GIFT group when we return to school after Easter.

## Upcoming Dates

Tuesday 10th March	2.30-3.20pm	Parent-School Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 11th March	9.00am	Year 1 Worship at Church
Wednesday 11th March	1.15pm	Mini First Aid Year 3
Thursday 12th March	All Day	Choir at Lancashire Sings
Friday 13th March	8.45am	Y5 Book Look with Parents
Monday 16th March	All Day	Life Education
Tuesday 17th March	All Day	Life Education
Thursday 19th March	9.00-10.00am	Y2 Compass Bloom Workshop
Thursday 19th March	4.00pm	Y5 & 6 Cross Country Cluster (Bishop Rawstone)
Friday 20th March	9.00am	Y1 Class Worship (Please Join Us)
Monday 23rd March	2.00-7.30pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 24th March	All Day	Y2 Titanic Day
Tuesday 24th March	9.05am	Open the Book
Thursday 26th March	3.30-4.30pm	Choir Concert for Parents
Thursday 26th March	5.30-7.30pm	Easter Bingo
Friday 27th March	8.45am	YN SODA
Friday 27th March	9.00am	Easter Service at School (Please join us)

**School Closes for Easter at 2.00pm on Friday 27th March-There will be no after school ACE club on this day.**

**School reopens at 8.45am on Monday 13th April.**

## Letters Home

Whole School Life Education—Letter

## Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtime
Tuesday	Multi Sports	3.20-4.10pm
Tuesday	Choir KS2	3.20-4.15pm
Wednesday	FBA UKS2	Lunchtime
Wednesday	KS1 Choir	Lunchtime
Wednesday	Reading & Craft Club YN & YR	3.20-4.15pm
Thursday	Spanish Club	8.00-8.45am
Thursday	Girls Football	3.20-4.10pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

## Parents' Evening

Parents' evening is on **Monday 23rd March, 2-7.30pm.**

Appointments will be open to book from 6.00pm on Monday 9th March, and will close at 12.00pm on Monday 23rd March.



## School Dinners

We have been notified by Lancashire County Council that, due to rising costs, the price of school dinners will increase to **£3.40** in April.



This rise will take effect after the Easter holidays. A Spring/Summer menu will also be introduced when we return to school after Easter with some delicious and nutritious new meals.

## 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.



# PTFA—UPCOMING EVENTS

Our PTFA has two exciting events coming up—please see below for more information. Tickets for the Easter Family Bingo can also be purchased using the following link:

<https://st-marys-eccleston-pta.sumupstore.com/product/easter-family-bingo>



**ST MARY'S PTFA BRINGS YOU...**

**MARCH MUNCHIES!**

**FIND US IN THE PLAYGROUND EVERY FRIDAY DURING MARCH WITH SWEET TREATS READY FOR THE WEEKEND!**

Prices and ingredients lists will be displayed alongside the products each week.



**Easter Family Bingo**  
Thursday 26th March

**£2.50pp Entry** (includes bingo game books)  
**£2 per additional game book to up your odds!**

**Leave dinner to us!**  
Hot dogs, snacks, sweets and drinks available to purchase!

**5.30pm Entry**  
**6pm Eyes Down**  
**7.30pm Raffle Draw**

Come along and join in the Easter family fun with free activities for the kids and games from £1!

**It's sure to be a cracking evening out!**



**South Ribble**

# STEP UP TO YOUTH WORK

Wednesday's (term time only)  
3:30pm - 5pm  
for young people aged  
8 - 11 Years

Have Fun → Food →  
Meet Youth Workers → Games & more →  
Meet new people →

Join us at West Paddock Family Hub, West Paddock, Leyland, PR25 1HR

For more information please contact [SouthRibble.TYS@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:SouthRibble.TYS@lancashire.gov.uk)

**LEARN AND GROW**

**FAMILY HUBS** Lancashire County Council



**Jellybeans** fun activities

Jellybeans sessions for under 4s  
10am to 11am  
at Eccleston St. Marys CE Primary School

**Stories** **Songs**

**Every Thursday during term time**

Sessions led by our Nursery and Reception teaching staff

**£2 per family** Refreshments will be served

Please share this information with other families in the village.

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

### 1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

### 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

### 3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

### 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

### 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

### 6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

### 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

### 8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

### 9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

### 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

## Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



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