



# SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Motto:**  
Believe & Achieve

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

## Prayer

Lord our God, we thank and praise you for the greatness of your love, shown to us in Jesus Christ, who was willing to die for us.

We thank you for the new life we celebrate at Easter; help us to keep growing in the life that never comes to an end.

We pray for our families, our friends, and all those we care about: fill them with hope and happiness.

We pray for people who are unhappy today: those who are hungry, or homeless, those who fear violence or harm; may they find protection and peace.

We pray for those who are ill, or facing difficulties: may they find hope in the cross of Christ, and be strengthened by the knowledge of your love.

Lord, accept our prayers, and be with us now and for ever.

**Amen.**



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."**

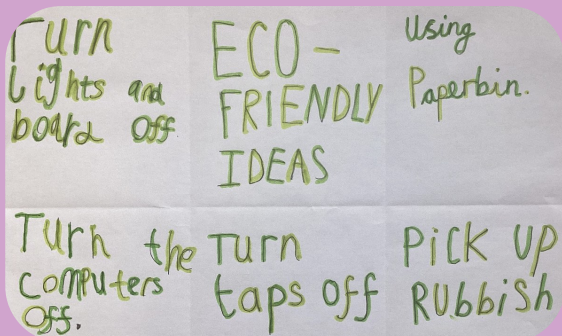
**John 10:10**

## Eco Council

This week, our Eco Council led a fun and thoughtful worship all about recycling. They reminded us how small actions—like using the right bin and picking up litter—can make a big difference to our planet.

The children shared their ideas through a short role play where some volunteers sorted rubbish into the correct bins. They also shared a poster which is displayed in each classroom to remind the children of what they can do to help.

We're very proud of our Eco Council for inspiring us all to help keep our world clean and green!



## Year 2

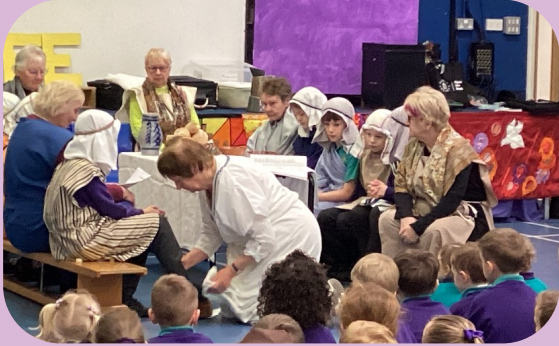
Year 2 had a fantastic time on Tuesday for Titanic Day. They enjoyed immersing themselves in the journey. Amongst the many activities throughout the day, they made Titanic crafts, learned all about icebergs and much more.

The icing on the cake, was to enjoy their Victorian afternoon tea that they had prepared earlier that day. I think you'll agree they all look amazing in their costumes!



## Year 5 & Open the Book

Pupils from Y5 were delighted to play the part of Jesus's disciples as the Open the Book team re-enacted the Last Supper for us this week. As ever, a huge thank you to the team. We always love it when you lead our Worship!



## Year 1

Year 1 have been learning all about the Easter story in RE.

They discovered that Easter is a time to think of new life and new beginnings. On Thursday, they created Easter cards for their families.

Well done Year 1, they look fantastic!



## Little Explorers

Thank you so much to all the families that joined Little Explorers for their SODA morning. The children loved sharing all our Easter activities with you!



## Easter Egg Competition

Well done to everyone who sent in their amazing egg creations.

Everyone used their imaginations and came up with some fantastic designs for their book-inspired eggs.

Our judges had an incredibly hard job choosing the winners!



## Hannah's Garden

Y5 were very excited this morning when they had the opportunity to visit Hannah's Garden, and to meet contractors Stephen and Anthony, just as work is about to get underway.

Weather-permitting, we should see massive progress over the next few weeks with completion due some time in the summer term.

Watch this space for regular updates.



## Choir Performance

On Tuesday, our KS1 & KS2 choirs performed for their friends and families after school. Thank you to all those of you who came along to support them. We hope you enjoyed listening as much as the children enjoyed performing!



## Guitar Club

On Monday our beginners guitar group played for Year 3 and our intermediate group performed in the hall at lunch time.



## School Dinners



Reminder, the price of school dinners will increase to **£3.40** after the Easter holidays.

## Upcoming Dates

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

Wednesday 15th April	9.00am	Nursery Library Visit
Thursday 16th April	4.00pm	Y6 Netball Holy Cross High School
Friday 17th April	8.45am	SODA YN
Monday 20th April	3.20-4.30pm	KS1 PTFA Movie Night
Monday 20th April	4.45-6.00pm	KS2 PTFA Movie Night
Wednesday 22nd April	9.00am	YR Worship at Church
Thursday 23rd April	All Day	Bikeability Y5
Thursday 23rd April	4.00pm	Y6 Netball Holy Cross High School
Friday 24th April	8.45am	Soda YR
Friday 24th April	All Day	Bikeability Y5
Monday 27th April	3.30-4.30pm	PTFA Meeting
Tuesday 28th April	9.05am	Open the Book
Tuesday 28th April	4.00-5.30pm	Invasion Festival Y3 & Y4 (Holy Cross High School)
Thursday 30th April	4.00pm	Y6 Netball Holy Cross High School

## Letters Home

Hi 5 Netball League, Year 6—Letter

Year 5 Bikeability—Letter

## Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtime
Wednesday	FBA UKS2	Lunchtime
Wednesday	KS1 Choir	Lunchtime
Wednesday	Netball Club Y5 & Y6	3.20-4.15pm
Thursday	Spanish Club	8.00-8.45am
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

# CELEBRATING WOMEN & GIRLS IN FOOTBALL

**Chorley FC Women vs AFC Bolton**

**Victory Park Tuesday 7th April Kick-off: 7:00PM**



We are inviting every woman and girl in Chorley to come and join us for a special evening celebrating the women's game.

Join us as our multi award-winning Chorley FC Women take on AFC Bolton.

**FREE ENTRY** for all girls and the important women in their lives — mums, carers, teachers, and role models.

Be part of something inspiring and help grow the women's game.

# A Big Thank You-PTFA

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA. They have worked incredibly hard to organise a range of fantastic events for our school, including the recent Valentine's Discos, March Munchies, and Easter Bingo, to name just a few.

We are all looking forward to the exciting events planned for next term, and we're sure you'll join us in showing our appreciation for the time, effort, and dedication they put into making these occasions so enjoyable—while also raising valuable funds for our school community.



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

School avoidance refers to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. In 2022-23, more than one in five children in England were found to be absent from school over 10% of the time. This guide focuses on school avoidance with an emotional basis, offering expert mental health advice. However, it's important to remember that school avoidance is a hugely subjective experience which requires a tailored, individual approach.

### UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

**REASONS FOR ABSENCE**  
School avoidance is sometimes understood by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or change in family dynamics, bullying and friendship difficulties at school, pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams, or moving from primary school to secondary school.

### PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is regularly absent, it's some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school to which can cause distress—such as changes to the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

### COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include tummy aches, headaches, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

### IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

#### LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

#### LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far-reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future employment opportunities, educational, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

#### CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity, creating them anxious—increasing their desire to stay at home.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is a clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintroduction. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

### FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and quiet away from screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

### MANAGE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

Acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss coping strategies together to help them manage difficulties. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk. This helps them understand that you are working together towards a common goal, and that these strategies can be used when bigger feelings arise.

### RECOGNISE POSITIVE STEPS

Drawing attention to a child's successes—be they big or small—can help to give them some much-needed confidence and motivation. Celebrate their daily victories—such as getting out of bed on time or completing school work—and don't hesitate to let the child know when you're impressed or proud of them. Such an approach can go a long way.

### Meet Our Expert

With 20 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Betts has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance)

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# Jellybeans

fun activities

Jellybeans sessions for under 4s

**10am to 11am**

at Eccleston St. Marys CE Primary School

**Every Thursday during term time**

Sessions led by our Nursery and Reception teaching staff

**£2 per family**

Refreshments will be served

stories

songs

please share this information with other families in the village.