



SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Prayer

A prayer for Year 6 ahead of an important week, next week.

Oh Lord,
We pray for our Year 6 friends who will be doing SATs next week.
We hope they do their best and we wish them good luck.
Help them to keep calm, even with tricky questions!
Thank you God, for the teachers who have helped them.
Amen

Written by Alice, Isla, Pippa and Poppy from our GIFT group.

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Erin	
Reception	Luca	Esme
Year One	Amicia	Alfie
Year Two	Maevy	Nyla
Year Three	Cassie	Joseph
Year Four	Amelia	Mia
Year Five	Violet	
Year Six	Thomas T.	Eliza

WINNING HOUSE THIS TERM

DOUGLAS

Please click to find out more
about our school

[Facebook](#)
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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 3 Jackson Jaxon Spencer
Year 1 Charlie Amicia

Silver certificates are awarded for gaining 100 house points.

SILVER

Year 3 Leo
Year 2 Levi Neve Henry Ruairi

Good Luck—Year 6

Wishing all our Year 6 children the very best of luck for their SATs, which start on Monday.

You are all amazing, and we are so proud of how hard you have worked. Believe in yourselves, stay positive, and try your very best — you are going to smash it!



Reception

Reception Class have been enjoying our topic 'In the Garden' this half term. A couple of weeks ago, we loved planting our own sunflower seeds. We then worked on writing our own instructions on how to grow and take care of our sunflower plant.

Since then, we have enjoyed watching them grow over the past week and soon they will be ready for us to bring home.



Year 1

This half term, Year 1 are learning all about seaside holidays in the past as part of their History topic.

This week, they learned that children watched Punch and Judy puppet shows on the pier or promenade. They then had a go at making their own puppet shows and performed them for the class. It was lots of fun!



School Council

School Council have been hard at work over the past few weeks planning and creating their own poster. This week, we finalised our designs and made them bright and colourful to ensure they stand out. Over the next few weeks, we will start putting these up in our village and around school. Make sure you keep a look out for our posters!



Year 6 Tag Rugby

What a fantastic Tuesday evening for our Year 6 Tag Rugby team!

A group of our brilliant pupils headed to Croston for a Tag Rugby tournament against other local primary schools - and they were amazing! From lightning-fast tags to some incredible tries, the team showed skill, determination, and great sportsmanship throughout. This paid off with a fantastic 2nd place overall.

Huge well done to Team St Mary's - you did us proud!



Year 6 Netball Team

Over the last four weeks, our Year 6 netball team have been taking part in the Chorley Sports Partnership netball league. Each and every one of them showed fantastic determination, sportsmanship and incredible netball skills! We are so proud of them. Go Team St Mary's!



Upcoming Dates

Monday 11th May	All Week	SATs Week
Thursday 14th May	10.15am	Jellybeans (later start due to SATs)
Thursday 14th May	4.00pm	Golfways Y3 (Holy Cross High School)
Friday 15th May	3.20pm	Freeze Friday
Monday 18th May	1.45-3.10pm	Wigan Ukulele Band Performance
Tuesday 19th May	9.15am	Fencing Assembly
Wednesday 20th May	All Day	Orienteering Y6 (Astley Park)
Wednesday 20th May	9.30-11.15am	Cricket Y3/Y4
Friday 22nd May	9.05am	Y5 Class Worship (please join us)
Friday 22nd May	3.20 pm	Break up for half-term holiday

Letters Home

Y4 (Selected Pupils) Golf Competition—Letter

Y6 (Selected Pupils) Orienteering Competition—Letter

Whole School Half Term Holiday Club—Flyer

Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtime
Tuesday	3.20-4.15pm	KS1 Construction Club
Tuesday	3.20-4.10pm	Athletics Games Club
Wednesday	KS1 Choir	Lunchtime
Thursday	Spanish Club	8.00-8.45am
Thursday	Times Table Club Y4	3.20-4.00pm
Thursday	Girls Football	3.20-4.10pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm



Eccleston St Mary's
Church of England Primary School
Headteacher: Mrs J Birchall



VACANCY

School Cleaner Required ASAP

4.00pm to 6.00pm, Mon to Fri
Permanent Part-time Position, Term-time,
(plus 3 weeks during holidays)
Foundation Living Wage, £13.45 per Hour

Please contact school for further details.
Thank You



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Free School Meals



When your child moves up to Year 3 they will no longer be eligible for the universal free school meals, provided by the government, for all infant children.

If you think you may be eligible for help with free school meals from Year 3 onwards, please check out the Lancashire County Council Web page, for more information and how to apply at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals>

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, links and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD

Neurodivergent people tend to be early adopters of technology, and many influential innovators in this space are neurodivergent themselves. It is therefore likely that a neurodivergent child or young person may be drawn to the online world from an early age. This isn't a concern in itself, but understanding both the benefits and potential risks is essential. Here are ten key considerations to support safe and positive online experiences for neurodivergent children.

- TREAT ONLINE LIKE THE REAL WORLD**
You wouldn't allow a child to cross a road without guidance – you'd hold their hand, use a pedestrian crossing, and model safe behaviour. In the same way, a neurodivergent child's first experiences online should be supported by onlookers who can guide and explain safe and responsible digital behaviour to them from the outset.
- MODEL RESPONSIBLE USE**
Children learn from what they see. Show all children, regardless of neurotypicality, what responsible internet use looks like. Reflect on your own use of social media and AI. Consider how often you use them and your own understanding of these platforms. Talk openly about when and why you use these tools, helping all children develop a balanced and informed approach.
- KNOW YOUR LIMITS**
Current government guidance suggests no solo screen use before the age of five, with a maximum of one hour per day for five- to five-year-olds. Screen time can support communication and connection when shared with an adult. However, passive watching can affect neurodivergent children's attention and language skills. Focus on the type of content they watch, encouraging slower-paced and meaningful material rather than fast-paced, overstimulating content.
- CONSIDER AGES AND STAGES**
For older children and teenagers, agreed limits are important. Screen time can be beneficial, but it should form part of a balanced lifestyle. Neurodivergent children may find social communication easier than real-world conversation, supporting their social interaction. However, it should be their option. Encourage a range of activities, including creative play, physical exercise, and opportunities for real-world connections.
- KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN**
Discussions about online safety should begin early and continue as children grow. However, neurodivergent children may worry about getting things wrong or being misjudged. Having these kinds of conversations should feel open and fun, rather than like a lecture. If a child has a problem – such as a scam or inappropriate content – they need to feel able to speak to a trusted adult without fear of judgement or embarrassment.
- BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**
You aren't expected to be an expert, but it's important to stay informed about the platforms, games, or apps neurodivergent children use in order to provide practical support. Social media platforms have age limits, and many apps and games offer parental settings that can control access. Schools and families should work together to understand these tools, helping neurodivergent children use them safely while keeping up to date with new features and changes.
- SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**
Children and young people often know more about current technology than adults, meaning it's important to establish boundaries that can't be bypassed. Clear, predictable boundaries should be used, based on trust and consistency. Involving children in discussions that affect them helps them feel heard. This is particularly important for neurodivergent children, who may respond strongly to perceived unfairness.
- UNDERSTAND AI CONTENT**
The internet now includes large amounts of AI-generated content, including images, videos, and stories. These can be difficult to identify. Children should be encouraged to question what they see and check the information using trusted sources. Neurodivergent children may interpret content literally, meaning adult guidance is important in helping them recognise what's real and reliable – and what isn't.
- EXPLAIN AI LIMITATIONS**
AI isn't the same as a search engine. It generates responses based on prompts and patterns, and its accuracy depends on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unreliable information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.
- CLARIFY AI RELATIONSHIPS**
AI can feel conversational and personable, but it's not capable of real relationships. It learns from patterns in user input rather than human experience. Some neurodivergent children may experience a sense of connection with AI chatbots, particularly if they find social situations challenging. It's therefore important to explain that these are simulated conversations and aren't a substitute for real, human relationships.

Meet Our Expert
Caitlin Lovell is a neurodivergent former SENCO and Advisory Teacher who works with nurseries, schools, colleges, and businesses to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She is the founder and Director of NeuroDiversity and the author of "The Other 28 – How Supporting Your Neurodivergent Learner Can Improve Teaching and Learning for the Whole Class".

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | #wake.up.weds

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fun activities

Jellybeans

Jellybeans sessions for under 4s

10am to 11am

at Eccleston St. Marys CE Primary School

Stories

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.

songs