Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 39 | 17th July 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto: Believe & Achieve

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

PRAYER

Emilia, Tilly and Ella from Gift Group wrote prayers for the Year 6 Leavers' Assembly. Here is one of them.

Dear God

Thank you for the years we have spent learning, growing and making memories here.
We are grateful for teachers, friends and all who have cared for us along the way.
As we step into a new chapter give us courage to face new challenges, kindness to make new friends and wisdom to choose what is right.

Amen

Wishing our families and friends a wonderful summer.

See you all when school reopens on **Wednesday 2nd September!**

Please click to find out more about our school

[Facebook]

"I came to give life—life in all its fullness."

John 10:10

Year 1

Year 1 have loved getting creative in Design & Technology! Inspired by the Great Fire of London, they designed and built their own Tudor houses, carefully choosing the materials for their models. We think they've done a fantastic job!

Rounders

On Tuesday evening, a group of our Year 6 children represented St Mary's at the Cluster Rounders Competition against other local schools. Despite the hot weather, they played brilliantly throughout the event, showing excellent determination, teamwork and sportsmanship. There were some fantastic batting and fielding performances, including several impressive catches and well-earned rounders.

A huge well done to Team St Mary's for finishing **3rd overall**—a fantastic achievement! We are incredibly proud of you all.

Year 4

Year Four have painstakingly created these marvellous mosaics to complete all of their recent learning about the Romans.

Aren't they fantastic?

School Council

A huge well done to our fantastic School Council Team for everything you have achieved this year!
You have made such a positive contribution to our school by organising a successful cake sale, raising money for Hannah's Garden, planning a whole-school Kindness Day, and creating important posters for our local village. You have all worked incredibly hard with Miss Ryan, and your efforts have made a real difference.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, commitment, and hard work throughout the year – you should all be incredibly proud of yourselves!

Year 5—Letter from the King!

As you may remember, Y5 recently sent poems about their concerns for the Amazon Rainforest to the Prime Minister and the King. As they were based on the poem, 'Give and Take' by Roger Mc Gough, we also sent them to him.

We were thrilled to receive an email response from the poet, below:

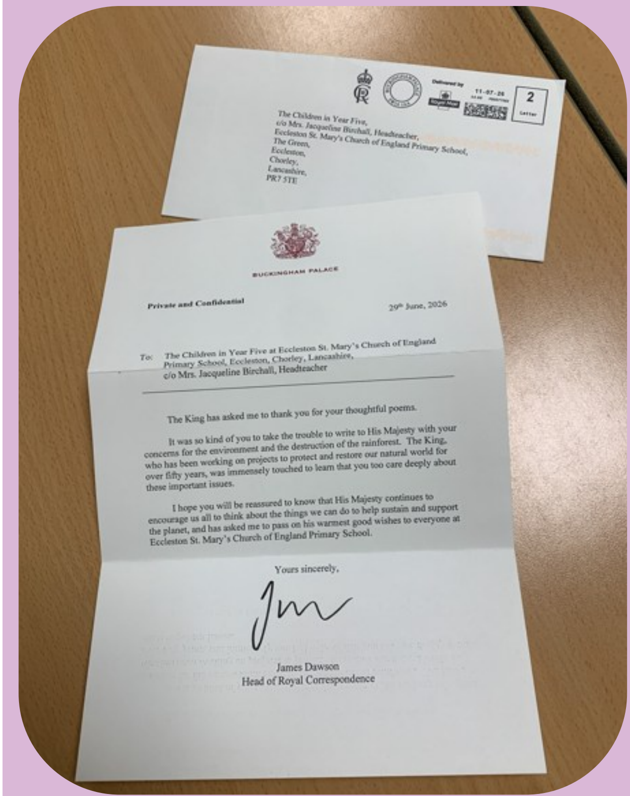
Dear Mrs Birchall,
Thank you so much for sending me Y5's poems. Very, very impressive, and so encouraging to know that young people are picking up the baton and running with it. I seldom, if ever, think about the effect my poems have on readers, and so I was touched and honoured to read such an array of moving poems.
My thanks to the young poets, and to you

Roger

We could not, then, contain our excitement when we received a response from Buckingham Palace on behalf of the King! He said he was touched when he read our poems; that he shares our concerns for the environment; and that he wants to encourage everyone to do all they can to help sustain our planet. He also passed on his warmest best wishes to everyone at Eccleston St. Mary's CE Primary School. Wow!

Sadly, we haven't had a response from Sir Keir Starmer but we feel he may have been a bit busy recently!

Well done, Y5 - your poems have certainly met with an appreciative audience. You should all be very proud of yourselves!



The Children in Year Five,
c/o Mrs. Jacqueline Birchall, Headteacher,
Eccleston St. Mary's Church of England Primary School,
The Green,
Eccleston,
Chorley,
Lancashire,
PR7 5TE

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Private and Confidential

29th June, 2026

To: The Children in Year Five at Eccleston St. Mary's Church of England Primary School, Eccleston, Chorley, Lancashire,
c/o Mrs. Jacqueline Birchall, Headteacher

The King has asked me to thank you for your thoughtful poems.

It was so kind of you to take the trouble to write to His Majesty with your concerns for the environment and the destruction of the rainforest. The King, who has been working on projects to protect and restore our natural world for over fifty years, was immensely touched to learn that you too care deeply about these important issues.

I hope you will be reassured to know that His Majesty continues to encourage us all to think about the things we can do to help sustain and support the planet, and has asked me to pass on his warmest good wishes to everyone at Eccleston St. Mary's Church of England Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

James Dawson
Head of Royal Correspondence

The Big Soccer Challenge

Poppy, in Year 4, will be taking part in an exciting world record attempt at Chorley FC on Sunday 19 July 2026.

The event will raise money and awareness for Down Syndrome International and High Five Lancashire, a local charity that supports children with Down Syndrome and disabilities, as well as their families.

The challenge is to set a new world record for the number of socks kicked into washing machines within one hour. There will be 21 washing machines in total, with the number 21 chosen to represent the extra copy of chromosome 21 associated with Down Syndrome.

Poppy will work alongside her teammates, kicking rolled-up socks into their own washing machine. Together, they are aiming to successfully kick more than 1,000 socks into the machines during the hour—and hopefully many more!

The event will take place at Chorley FC's Victory Park stadium, and they would love to see members of our school community there to support the participants and these two wonderful charities

Age UK Lancashire

This Summer Age UK are introducing **The Great 8** for Age UK Lancashire.

The Great 8 takes place on the 8th Month – August and runs for the whole month. Anyone can take part and all we ask is that it involves the number 8 and of course raise funds to support our work locally.

It could be a;

Sponsored 8 mile walk
Sponsored bike ride
A kids party on the 8th Day
Cake Bake Sale 28th August
Walking 8000 steps a day.

There are countless things you could do!

If you would be interested in getting involved, please see the link below.
http://www.ageuklancs.org.uk

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.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

EDUCATING CHILDREN ON SPENDING AND SAVING

Evidence shows that children's spending habits begin to form as early as seven years old. With primary schools in England not required to teach financial literacy, many young people are reaching adulthood without knowing the basics of budgeting. This guide explains how to teach young people about money in a practical way, giving them the understanding to become savvy spenders and savers.

1 PROVIDE POCKET MONEY

Giving children money – even a small amount – can help them learn to make their own budgeting decisions about how to spend or save it. Research shows that youngsters who receive pocket money are more likely to become adults with strong financial skills and significantly less debt.

2 USE A PREPAID CARD

Being able to pay by card is essential these days, with some retailers not accepting cash since the pandemic. Prepaid debit cards are available for children from the age of six, allowing them to get used to spending like they will as adults with no risk of dipping into an overdraft. Learning about money is like learning to swim – you need to get in the pool and have a go!

3 PRACTISE BORROWING

Although official borrowing is only available to over 18s, kids need to understand how debt and interest works before they become adults and are exposed to credit cards or 'buy now, pay later' schemes. For a safe means of teaching them about this, parents could offer them extra pocket money but explain that it needs to be paid back by a certain date, plus an extra couple of pounds as interest.

4 ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATION

Chatting about money and how much things cost will teach children that finance is a part of everyday life and not some "scary adult thing". Parents can involve them in budgeting for the weekly shop, for example, working together to get everything on the list while keeping the total below a certain number. Letting young ones make spending decisions in a safe space can build up their confidence regarding money.

5 DISCUSS THE PRESSURE TO SPEND

Whether it's YouTube ads or a hint of envy at a friend's recent purchase, spending triggers are everywhere. Encourage children to notice how clever shop design (like placing sweets at the checkout) and offers such as '2 for 1' deals entice us to spend more. Challenge them to resist impulse buys by getting them to sleep on it before deciding to spend.

6 TELLING 'NEED' FROM 'WANT'

Learning how to prioritise spending is an important life skill: the difference between life's essentials and "nice to haves" is key to budgeting. If children pester you for treats while shopping, it's the perfect time to say "That's a want. We're getting our needs first." You could show how you budget for food, electricity and so on before buying fun things.

7 ENCOURAGE SAVING

Getting children saving early can set them up with a useful habit for their adult life. Suggest that they set something aside every time they receive money and help them set a target for how much to put away, so they feel motivated to continue. For example, encouraging them to save for a friend's birthday gift can get children much more invested in what they buy.

8 SPARK INTEREST IN INTEREST

Motivate children by telling them about interest; you can describe it as a reward for saving money. Explain how everything they put away will grow over time. As an exciting example, explain that 1p doubled every day for a month would amount to approximately £10 million. Some prepaid cards for young people also offer interest; parents and carers could also add a little to supplement what their child saves and show how it works.

9 PAYING FOR CHORES

This is a complex debate with no right or wrong answer: it depends on what works for each individual family. However, it can be one of the best ways to teach children that money needs to be earned and helps to create more mindful spenders. If parents aren't keen on paying for everyday chores, they could ask the children to suggest their own ideas for earning a little extra.

10 PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SCAMS

Scams are a terrifyingly easy way to lose money, and children are generally more likely to be taken in due to a lack of experience with these financial criminals. As a minimum, make sure they're aware of the most common scams they could be exposed to – by text, email and phone, for instance. Young people should tell a trusted adult about any unexpected message or call and *never* give out their personal information.

Meet Our Expert

GoHenry is a prepaid debit card and financial education app with a mission to make every young person smart with money. Co-founder and CEO Louise Hill is a passionate campaigner for better financial literacy among school children and strongly believes that money management is a crucial life skill.

gohenry

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/spending-and-saving