



Eccleston St Mary's
C of E Primary School

Newsletter 2 | 11th September 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

PRAYER

A prayer for perseverance

Dear Lord,
Thank you for always being with me.
Help me keep trying when things feel hard.
Give me courage when I want to give up.
Teach me to be patient while I learn and grow.
Remind me that mistakes help me become stronger.
Help me encourage others to keep going too.

Amen.

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Explorers	Jasper	
Adventurers	Harvey	
Navigators	Archie G.	Ella
Voyagers	Ellie	
Inspiration	Whole Class	
Curiosity	Teddy A.	Seth
Discovery	April	

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

RIBBLE

Please click to find out
more about our school

[Facebook](#)

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

John 10:10

Adventurers

Reception Class loved their first PE session this week!

We listened perfectly to each instruction that was given to help us get dressed into our PE kits. We then enjoyed moving around the hall in different ways to warm up. Finally, we had so much fun playing parachute games as a whole class.



Navigators

Navigators class have enjoyed their space role play areas this week as they begin their new book, Astro Girl, in English.



Voyagers

Voyagers class have been busy in their Maths lessons using lots of practical resources to represent numbers to 20 in different ways.



Brass Club

Mr Waltho came to give an exciting brass demonstration to Inspiration Class.

Anyone in Year 3 or 4 who would like to learn a brass instrument with Ecclestone Training Band, free of charge, is invited to Brass Club on Friday after school.



Consent Forms

Please remember to send your completed data and consent forms back to school as soon as possible. Thank you



Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 16th September	1-3.20pm	Rock Steady Music
Monday 21st September	All Day	School Council Manifesto Deadline
Tuesday 22nd September	9.00am	Open the Book
Monday 28th September	All Day	School Council Elections
Thursday 1st October	All Day	School Census
Thursday 1st October	9.45am	School Harvest in Church
Thursday 1st October	4.30-6.30pm	Open Evening
Sunday 4th October	10.45-11.45am	Harvest at St Mary's Church
Monday 5th October	1.00-3.20am	Adventurer Class Bear Workshop
Friday 9th October	8.45-9.15am	Discovery Class SODA
Monday 12th October	8.45am	School Photographs
Wednesday 14th October	9.00-10.30am	Inspiration Class Worship at Church
Friday 16th October	8.45-9.15am	Curiosity Class SODA
Monday 19th October	1.10-3.10pm	Child Safe Y2/3 & Y6
Monday 19th October	2.00-7.00pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 20th October	9.00-9.30am	Open the Book
Wednesday 21st October	9.00-10.00am	Inspiration Class Worship
Thursday 22nd October	1.00pm	Library Book Bus Visit
Friday 23rd October	8.45-9.15am	Inspiration Class SODA

Letters Home

Girls Football After School Club YR, KS1 & KS2—Flyer
Multi Sports After School Club YR, KS1 & KS2—Flyer

Scrooge Trip YR, KS1 & KS2—Letter

Sports and Social Clubs

Tuesday	Multi Sports YR, KS1 & KS2	3.20-4.10pm
Thursday	Guitar Lessons KS2	12.30-1.30pm
Thursday	Girls Football YR, KS1 & KS2	3.20-4.10pm
Thursday	Spanish Club	8.00-8.45am
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

fun activities

Jellybeans

Jellybeans sessions for under 4s
9am to 10am
songs

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

Please share this information with other families in the village.

stories

You are invited to our

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

OPEN DAY

at Eccleston St Mary's CE Primary School and Little Explorers Nursery

Thursday 1st October 4.30-6.00pm

Friday 13th November 9.30-11.00am

Meet our Headteacher, Mrs Birchall

Visit our classrooms

See lessons in action

Chat with our friendly staff and pupils

Enjoy refreshments in the school hall

Our school is a very special place where children are happy in their learning with endless exciting opportunities.

For more information please email bursar@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk or phone 01257 451317

At the heart of the community for 150 years

All 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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personality engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a personal conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Some may role-play as a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distracting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start feeling like a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, education, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, losing interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, financial information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process. Educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Children are available on 0800 111 and the NSPCC helpline on 0800 800 5050.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 18 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. There is also a 17+ review a different experience built around guided 'stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Cross is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

see full reference list on our website

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.09.2025

Eccleston & Heskin Football Club

There are spaces available with Eccleston & Heskin's new U7s (school year YR 2) football team, for girls and boys wanting to play football with a team.

This is the first season of 3v3 football so the U7s will be playing on Saturday mornings, with home games at Eccleston Rec and training currently 5.15 - 6.15 on Wednesdays (which may move to Tuesdays in the future).

Contact Club Secretary **Steve Hollinghurst** on **07545 678495** if you want any more information about your child playing, getting involved coaching or helping with the team.

WANT TO PLAY?

See you on the pitch!