



Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 4 | 25th September 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for all the wonderful things You have given us.

Thank You for the food we eat, the people who care for us, and the beautiful world You have made.

As we look forward to our Harvest Festival next week, help us remember to be thankful for all our blessings.

Help us to think about people who may not have enough food or the things they need.

Show us how we can share, help others, and be kind.

Bless everyone who will take part in our Harvest Festival and make it a happy time of celebration and thankfulness.

Amen.



☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Explorers	Ottie	
Adventurers	Sofia	
Navigators	Elijah	Ethan
Voyagers	Charlie	
Inspiration	Stanley	Cassie
Curiosity	Emily	Rory
Discovery	Florence	

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

DOUGLAS

Please click to find out
more about our school

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)

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

John 10:10

Little Explorers

Little Explorers have been focusing on 'colours' this week. They enjoyed doing a colour hunt in Hannah's garden where they had to spot the different colours and tick them off on their sheets.

They have also painted some colourful rainbows to display in the classroom.



Discovery Class

Discovery Class are so excited to now have buddies in Adventurers Class. It would seem the Adventurers are quite keen on the arrangement too!



Open the Book

This week we welcomed the Open the Book team back to lead our worship.

They shared the story of Abraham and Sarah with us.



Inspiration Class

On Tuesday, Inspiration Class were delighted to welcome Rachel from Let's Go Sing, who led our very first singing rehearsal.

We had a fantastic time learning together and are already excited to perform next year alongside other schools at King George's Hall!



Voyagers

Voyagers have been investigating features of the school grounds and had to decide what was natural or man-made. It was lovely to spend some time in the sunshine for this Geography fieldwork activity.



Navigators

This week Navigators class have enjoyed lots of maths learning. They have using Blockzilla from Numberblocks to help remember $<$, $>$ and $=$ symbols and have also enjoyed playing Numbots on iPads to embed their number facts knowledge. Great maths skills, Navigators!



School Census

Our next Census Meal is on Thursday 1st October.

The money school receives from the government to pay for the infant school meals is based on an average of the number of meals taken on census days.

It would really help us if your child were to have a school meal on this day.

To encourage children to join us for lunch, we are offering a special menu with some lunchtime favourites.



Harvest

You are warmly invited to join us for our annual Harvest Service at **9.45 am on Thursday 1st October at St. Mary's Church**. In the event of rain, we will hold the Service in the school hall at 9.05 am.

We would be really grateful if you could provide your child with a small, non-perishable Harvest gift to present at Church - dried pasta, rice or tinned goods such as soup, baked beans, etc are the most suitable (and easiest to carry!)

Thank you so much in advance and we look forward to seeing you there!



School Photographer

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 12th October to take individual and family photos. Pupils with siblings not in school are welcome to come in from 8.30am to have their family photos taken.

Children in Year 2 and Year 5, who have PE on Mondays, should come to school wearing their school uniform on this day and bring their PE kit with them to change into after the photo session.



Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening is on **Monday 19th October**.

Appointments will go live to book on your Spider App, at **6.00pm on Monday 5th October**.

The booking system will close at 12.00pm on Monday 19th October.



The Big Future-Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, is carrying out a national survey for school-aged children called **The Big Future**.

The survey aims to gather children's views, experiences and aspirations to help shape decisions that affect young people across England.

With hundreds of thousands of children and young people already taking part across England, we would really like to make sure as many of our pupils as possible have the opportunity to add their voices.

If your child would like to take part, please visit the link below for more information and to access the survey:



<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Upcoming Dates

Monday 28th September	All Day	School Council Elections
Tuesday 29th September	1.15-2.15pm	Inspiration visit to Methodist Church
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
Tuesday 13th October	3.30-4.30pm	PTFA AGM (Everyone Welcome)
Wednesday 14th October	9.00-10.30am	Inspiration Class Worship at Church
Friday 16th October	8.45-9.15am	Curiosity Class SODA
Friday 16th October	3.30-6.30pm	Disco Friday (more info to follow)
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 (Please join Us)
Thursday 22nd October	1.00pm	Library Book Bus Visit
Friday 23rd October	8.45-9.15am	Inspiration Class SODA
Friday 23rd October	3.20pm	School Closes for Half Term

Letters Home

PTFA AGM Agenda—Whole School

Sports and Social Clubs

Tuesday	Multi Sports YR, KS1 & KS2	3.20-4.10pm
Wednesday pm	Woodwind lessons	1– 2.30 pm
Wednesday pm	Rock Steady Bands	1—3.15pm
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



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY SOUTH

Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2027 and living in Lancashire?

Closing date: 15 January 2027

You must apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

Apply for a school place now by scanning the QR code or visit lancashire.gov.uk/schools

If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, please check the guidance on our website, or call 01772 532109.

Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces and click 'school admission policies'.

lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council

Primary School Admissions – Reception Intake September 2027

If your child is in their final year of pre-school or nursery, you can now apply for their primary school place for September 2027 at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

The application process is quick and easy, and you'll receive an email confirmation once submitted.

You must apply even if your child already has siblings attending the school.

If you live in Lancashire, you can include out-of-area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for applications is **23:59 on 15 January 2027**.



Jellybeans HARVEST CELEBRATION

at Eccleston St. Marys CE Primary School

Thursday 1st October

9am to 10am

Sessions led by our Nursery and Reception teaching staff

£2 per family

Refreshments will be served

HARVEST DONATIONS WELCOME

please share this information with other families in the village.

JIGSAWS

VEGETABLE PRINTING

FRUIT/VEGETABLE THREADING

HARVEST STORY



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real-time distraction. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messaging, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people find their tribe, especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may also encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord Nitro, a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if young people are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret, share their home or school details, or reveal their location. Report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Verge, and The Evening Standard, and The New York Times.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full report at www.wake-up-weds.com

[@wake-up_weds](https://www.wake-up-weds.com) www.thenationalcollege.com www.wakeupwednesday.com www.wakeupweds.com

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.09.2020

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