



Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 6 | 9th October 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

PRAYER In Fr Jordan's worship on Monday, and Mrs Birchall's on Wednesday, we learned about the life of St Francis of Assisi. This is the famous prayer that he wrote:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, harmony; Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.



☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Explorers	Albey	
Adventurers	Ellis	
Navigators	Archie H.	Ronnie
Voyagers	Brodie	
Inspiration	Henry V.	Joseph
Curiosity	Eleanor	Harrison
Discovery	Reuben	

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

RIBBLE

Please click to find out
more about our school

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

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

John 10:10

Adventurers

Reception Class had the most amazing time this week taking part in an Adventure Bear Workshop with Kay from Tickle Pink. First, we enjoyed listening to the story 'The Everywhere Bear' by Julia Donaldson. We then followed the footprints into the hall, where we created our very own teddy bears. We stuffed our bears, placed a small heart inside and we even started giving them names!

Once we had finished, we enjoyed dressing the bears in their own personalised tops. Finally, we loved having a cuddle and a dance together to end our fantastic afternoon. Reception Class, Miss Ryan and Mrs Jennings loved this experience from start to finish! A big thank you to Kay from Tickle Pink for bringing this wonderful experience to our children!



Discovery Class

Discovery Class had a whale of a time this week, investigating Charles Darwin's theory that finches on the Galapagos Islands developed different types of beak, depending on the food available to them. The difficulty of picking up a shred of desiccated coconut with a large spoon, pretty much seemed to prove him right!



Parents' Evening

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

Parents' Evening for Inspiration Class is on **Wednesday 21st October**.

Appointments are now live to book on your Spider App.



Little Explorers

This week Little Explorers have been focusing on Autumn. They enjoyed a lovely autumnal visit to the library where they listened to some Autumn stories, used their senses to explore some autumn objects and made their own autumn craft.



Navigators

Navigators had a fantastic time on their Autumn hunt this week. Out in forest school, they worked together to find signs that autumn has begun.



Girls Football Team

Well done to the Girls Football Team who participated in the Chorley Schools Sports Partnership Central Venue League at Parklands High School.

The team played with super enthusiasm, commitment and fair play throughout the whole competition, and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves too!



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.



Adventurers/Little Explorers

EYFS are absolutely loving their new resources that they received this half term. The children were very excited to find out what had been delivered!

A huge thank you to our PTFA for funding these items that will enhance our children's experiences in school!



fun activities

Jellybeans

Jellybeans sessions for under 4s

9am to 10am

Stories

Songs

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.

Eiklan
Training to Support Children's
Language and Learning

Let's Talk with 5-11s

Sign up here!

A practical course which helps parents and carers learn how to develop and enhance children's understanding and talking.

All Eiklan courses are accredited through OCN London.

OCN
London

For more information:
email cisreferrals@highfieldocs.co.uk

Upcoming Dates

Monday 12th October	8.45am	School Photographs
Tuesday 13th October	9.45-10.45am	Voyagers Geography Fieldwork (In the village)
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 (separate letter sent)
Monday 19th October	1.10-3.10pm	Child Safe Y2/3 & Y6
Monday 19th October	2.00-7.20pm	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)
Wednesday 21st October	2.00-7.20pm	Inspiration Class Parents' Evening
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

School re-opens at 8.45am on Monday 2nd November.

Wednesday 4th November	9.00-12.00pm	Electricity Workshops Discovery CL
Wednesday 4th November	9.00-10.30am	Little Explorers Library Visit
Thursday 5th November	1.15-2.15pm	Flu Immunisations
Friday 6th November	8.45am	Voyagers Class SODA
Friday 6th November	1.15pm	NCMP YR & Y6

Letters Home

YR & Y6 National Child Health Measurement—Letter

Y6 Robinwood Residential—Letter

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**.



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS SECONDARY

APPLY NOW!

at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2027

You must apply if your child is in their last year of primary school (year 6) from September 2026.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE 31 October 2026

lancashire.gov.uk

School transport

If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.

Lancashire County Council

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

10 Top Tips For Parents and Educators

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

Spending time outdoors plays a vital role in children's health, happiness, and development. This guide explores why nature matters, the barriers families may face, and practical ways to help children reconnect with wildlife and the outdoors. Here we highlight simple activities, creative ideas, and safe approaches to encourage exploration, confidence, and a lasting love of nature in everyday life.

- 1 TIME OUTSIDE MATTERS**
Evidence shows that time in nature can benefit children's mental and physical health, learning, social development, and overall wellbeing. Nature does not need to be rare, grand, or far away to matter. Common, small, and local spaces can offer valuable opportunities too. Despite competing demands on children's time, many say being in nature makes them happy.
- 2 UNDERSTAND THE BARRIERS**
Children's outdoor play has reduced significantly in recent generations, with independent play and roaming alone becoming less common. Reasons can include alternative play options, worries about safety and risk, fewer suitable play spaces, busier roads, and increasingly structured routines. Understanding these barriers helps adults respond with practical, realistic ways to make outdoor time easier and more appealing.
- 3 TAKE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE**
Children can benefit from being in natural spaces even when engaging with nature is not the main activity. Think about everyday pursuits that could be moved outdoors, such as reading, playing cards and board games, arts and crafts, role and dress, exercising, sitting, or chatting. Involve children and young people in creating their outdoor space – for example, an upturned box can become a table, while cushions wrapped in strong bags can make temporary outdoor seating.
- 4 USE TECHNOLOGY POSITIVELY**
Too much screen time can be unhelpful, but technology can also support nature connection, particularly for older children and young people. They can use a camera to document the wildlife they find, create art projects, or record natural sounds. Apps can help identify birding, plants, insects, or stars. Older children and young people may also enjoy citizen science projects, where their observations contribute to real environmental research.
- 5 CREATE MINI ADVENTURES**
Green spaces are brilliant for exploration, observation, creativity, and problem-solving. Adventures can be small and local, such as hunting for insects, looking for natural colours, or spotting patterns. They can also be bigger, including hill walks, den building, rock pooling, or watching the sunset. These experiences can create moments of awe and leave lasting memories.
- 6 BUILD NATURE AT HOME**
Even small spaces can help children connect with nature through play and creativity. Seeds can be grown in windowsill boxes or hanging baskets, while herbs, strawberries, flowers, and cherry tomatoes often thrive in containers. Bit of earth, compost bins, and insect hotels can support local wildlife. Indoors, garden magazines, leaves, and natural textures can inspire imaginative art, story telling, and play.
- 7 EXPLORE FURTHER AFIELD**
Holidays and weekends can offer children and young people the opportunity to visit country parks, nature reserves, woodlands, and the coast. These places may create memorable "wow" moments, such as rock pooling, exploring forests, pond dipping, or simply visiting somewhere new. Local activity centres may also offer taster sessions in canoeing, climbing, or archery, helping children and young people try outdoor activities safely.
- 8 ENGAGE OLDER CHILDREN**
Teenagers may be less interested in adult-led activities designed for younger children. They often respond better to challenges, independence, skill building, and meaningful responsibility. Wildlife surveys, photography, outdoor cooking, whittling with safe tools, den building, or conservation tasks can feel more purposeful. Allowing controlled risks can support confidence, judgement, and a stronger connection with nature.
- 9 NOTICE LOCAL NATURE**
Natural spaces enable unstructured play and exploration. Adults don't need specialist knowledge to help children enjoy nature and wildlife. Start by noticing what can be heard, smelled, and seen in a garden, school grounds, local park, or on the way to the shops. Encourage walking at a slower pace, looking for birds, leaves, insects, clouds, colours, and patterns, so that nature becomes part of daily living.
- 10 MANAGE SENSIBLE RISKS**
Taking certain small risks in nature can in fact be valuable for children. Getting wet, muddy, or even stung by a nettle can help them understand the consequences of nature, cope with discomfort, build confidence by setting clear boundaries, supervising safely in future. Adults can support them in these moments by setting clear boundaries, supervising appropriately, teaching safety, and preparing children for all sorts of weather and natural noises, while still allowing their curiosity, independence, and resilience to grow.

Meet Our Expert
Kate Whitehead leads on Connecting Children with Nature for National England, the government's adviser on nature and environment. With a background in ecology and sustainable development, and a passion for education, Kate works to facilitate between the environment and education sectors, collating research and best practice to support schools to unlock the multitude of benefits nature can offer.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full references in support materials

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 29.07.2026

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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