



Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 8 | 23rd October 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Prayer

This week's prayers were read by Inspiration Class pupils for their Class Worship.

Dear God

Thank you for all the beautiful and sacred places where people can go to find and worship you across the world. Amen.

Dear God

Help us to remember that the church is made of people, not just stones. Help us to build a kind community at school and wherever we are. Amen.

Dear God

Give us faith like Peter. Help us to be strong like rocks when we stand up for what is right and fair. Amen.

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Explorers	Leah	
Adventurers	Robin	
Navigators	Axton	Florence
Voyagers	Maisie	Ruairi
Inspiration	Levi	Maisie
Curiosity	Pippa	Ally
Discovery	Thea	

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

LOSTOCK

WINNING HOUSE THIS TERM

LOSTOCK

Please click to find out
more about our school

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

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

John 10:10

Voyagers

It's been a busy week for our Voyagers! On Monday, Lancashire Fire Service visited to teach the children about fire safety in our homes. The highlight was role playing an emergency!



On Wednesday, in Science, the children worked with partners to finish off their habitat creations, which look fabulous!



Inspiration Class

On Wednesday morning, Inspiration Class thoroughly enjoyed explaining all about Places of Worship during their Class Worship. Well done to all the children involved and thank you to everyone who was able to join us.



A huge thank you to everyone who joined Inspiration Class for our SODA this morning!

With great enthusiasm, children and adults worked together to take part in a Roman numerals-themed orienteering activity. Everyone enjoyed the challenge and it was lovely to see so much teamwork and problem-solving from both the children and adults.



Adventurers

Reception Class have loved exploring the story 'Owl Babies' over the past couple of weeks. Last week, we went into Forest School because Miss Ryan had seen something unusual on her way into school. This is when we discovered an owl under the tree with a special message. We got to work straight away creating a nest for the owl. We used our knowledge of the story to talk about what materials we needed and then we worked together to find sticks, leaves and feathers. At the end, we loved making the owl all comfy in his nest!



Little Explorers

Little Explorers have enjoyed reading 'Room on the Broom' this week. They have had fun pouring and mixing to make their own potions, used play dough to make spiders and created their own magic wands.



Navigators

Navigators have had lots of fun creating their own alien puppets this week. They then wrote stories all about them taking inspiration from the story of Beegu. Very creative, Navigators!



Advance Notice (more details to follow) - Jingle Jog 2026!

Save the dates—week commencing Monday 30th November and each morning that week, we will be encouraging children, parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to take part in our latest Jingle Jog! The event will culminate with a coffee / hot chocolate and a well-deserved sit-down in the school hall at 8.45am on Friday 4th December.

This will be a sponsored event and all money raised will go directly into the School Fund, for the benefit of all the children in school. So dust off your running shoes and join us on 30th November!



A Baby Girl!

Sending our love and congratulations to Mrs Kamel and her family on welcoming baby Francesca into the world on Thursday! Wishing you all lots of love, happiness and precious moments together. We can't wait to see you both soon!



CrafterSchool CLUB
by Tickle Pink

Slime & Squishies
AFTER SCHOOL WORKSHOP

1 Make Your Own Slime!
Choose colours, textures and add-ins!

2 Decorate Your Own Mystery Dumpling to Take Home!

3 Spin to Win!
Spin the wheel to win another mystery squishy to take home!

Monday 16th November 3:20pm - 4:30pm Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary

£12.99 per child

Book Now
Limited Availability!
ticklepink.co.uk/schools/crafterschool-club

fun activities

Jellybeans

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

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



Poppies and poppy merchandise will be on sale in school, to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, from Monday 2nd November. Please send change into school with your child.

Pencil	.50p
Reflector	.50p
Wrist band/ Friendship Bracelet	£1.00
Snap Band	£1.50
Lapel Pin Badge	£5.00
Paper Poppy	Donation

Special Menu-Bonfire Night

BONFIRE NIGHT
5th November

Firecracker Sausage in a Bun
served with
Crispy Onions & Tomato Ketchup
or
Catherine Wheel Pizza Whirl
served with
Smokey Ridge Fries
Garden Peas or Baked Beans
or
Oven Baked Jacket Potato
served with
Choice of filling & Salad Selection
~
Sparkling Toffee Cake

Lancashire County Council
LANCASHIRE CATERING SERVICE

Flu Immunisation

The school nursing team will be in school on Thursday 5th November, to administer vaccines for all children whose parents have requested it.



Upcoming Dates

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
Monday 9th November	1.15-2.15pm	LGS Rehearsal Inspiration Class
Wednesday 11th November	10.30-11.15am	Remembrance Service in School
Friday 13th November	All Day	Children in Need
Friday 13th November	9.30am	Open Morning
Monday 16h November	3.20-4.30pm	Slime/Squishies Workshop
Tuesday 17th November	9.00am	Open the Book
Friday 20th November	8.45-9.45am	Navigators Class SODA
Monday 23rd November	All Day	Staff Inset Day
Friday 27th November	4-6.00pm	Winter Wonderland
Monday 30th November	All Week	Jingle Jog
Wednesday 2nd December	9.30am	Curiosity Class Worship-Church
Wednesday 2nd December	2.30-3.15pm	Rock Steady Concert for Parents
Thursday 3rd December	9.00-10.00am	Jellybeans Christmas Party
Thursday 10th December	8.30-2.00pm	Scrooge Panto in Blackpool
Friday 11th December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 11th December	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner
Friday 11th December	8.45am	Adventurers Class SODA
Friday 11th December	8.45am	Little Explorers Class SODA
Friday 11th December	10.00am	KS1 Dress Rehearsal
Monday 14th December	10.00am	KS2 Dress Rehearsal
Monday 14th December	2.00pm	KS1 Performance
Monday 14th December	6.00pm	KS1 Performance
Tuesday 15th December	9.00am	Open the Book
Tuesday 15th December	2.00pm	KS2 Performance
Tuesday 15th December	6.00pm	KS2 Performance
Wednesday 16th December	TBC	Choir at Caffe Manna
Thursday 17th December	9.00am	KS2 Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December	1.00pm	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party
Friday 18th December	2.00pm	Break up for Christmas

Letters Home

Whole School Slime and Squishies After School Workshop—Flyer

Sports and Social Clubs

Wednesday pm	Woodwind lessons	1.00-2.30 pm
Wednesday pm	Rock Steady Bands	1.00-3.15pm
Thursday	Guitar Lessons KS2	12.30-1.30pm
Thursday	Spanish Club	8.00-8.45am
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

School Photographs

Please remember to send your school photograph order, along with payment, back to school by **Friday 6th November**. Thank you.



Let's Talk with 5-11s

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

Sign up here!



All Eiklan courses are accredited through OCN London.



For more information:
email cissreferrals@highfieldcps.co.uk



[Click here to sign up.](#)

Would you like support with developing your child's speech and language skills at home?

This practical course is designed for parents and will enable you to learn how to develop your child's understanding and talking.

The course workbook is full of strategies and activities that can be used with your child at home and at school

What the experts say

'Early language is the single most important factor in influencing literacy levels at age 11'. (The Lost Boys report, Children's Society, 2016).

Children with poor vocabulary at age 5 are more than twice as likely to be unemployed at age 34 and 1.5 times more likely to have mental health difficulties than those with typical development (Talking About a Generation, Gascoigne, M & Gross, March 2017, The Communication Trust)

When will it take place?

The course will run for 6 weeks starting on Wednesday 4th November and finishing on Wednesday 9th December.

Sessions will be held from 6.15pm - 8pm every Wednesday

Where will it take place?

The course will be held at Eaves Green Community Centre, 35 Cottage Fields, Chorley PR7 3QE

How much will it cost?

This course is free for parents to attend!

For more information:
email cissreferrals@highfieldcps.co.uk

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.

At the heart of the community for 150 years

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

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHAT'S REAL ONLINE

Children are growing up in a digital world where seeing and hearing no longer mean they can always believe. One major emerging concern is what UNESCO describes as 'synthetic media': AI-generated audio, images or video, including deepfakes, that can convincingly imitate a person's voice or likeness. As these tools become easier to access, children may encounter manipulated content, cloned voices, and fabricated messages that appear or sound real. Parents and educators therefore need to help them question what they experience online, which can often feel harder when we're experiencing it for the first time, too.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI-GENERATED CONTENT

Artificial intelligence can now create realistic images, audio, video, and text in a very short time. Online, children may encounter fabricated news clips, AI 'influencers', fake celebrities, or entirely invented events without ever realising they are fake. The real challenge is that this content often looks polished and convincing. Parents and educators need to help children understand that professional-looking content is not automatically reliable and that all digital material should be questioned before it is trusted or shared.

DEEPFAKES LOOK CONVINCING

'Deepfakes' use AI to alter or create images and videos that appear to show a real person doing or saying something that never happened. They are sometimes used to spread false information, embarrass someone, or target people through bullying or sexual abuse. Even when widely shared, deepfakes can still be significant - and, in some cases, potentially life-threatening. Deepfakes therefore need to be treated as both a digital literacy and safeguarding concern.

FALSE INFORMATION SPREADS

Misinformation is false or misleading information shared without necessarily intending harm. While disinformation is deliberately created to deceive others. Both types can spread quickly through social media, messaging apps, and video platforms. Their popularity, repetition, and confident presentation can make these false claims feel true. Children may also be more likely to trust content shared by friends, influencers, or family accounts, making source-checking and verification essential parts of developing their digital literacy.

VOICES CAN BE CLONED

AI tools can copy someone's voice using only a short audio sample. A child may receive a call or voice note that appears to come from a parent, friend, teacher, or trusted adult, but the audio is not genuine. These messages can be used to create panic, request money, obtain information, or pressure a child into secrecy. Hearing a familiar voice is no longer enough to confirm someone's identity, especially when a message is urgent or unusual.

ACCOUNTS MAY BE FAKE

Not every online profile represents the person it claims to be. Fake accounts may impersonate another pupil, a teacher, a family member, or someone connected to the school. They can be used for acts such as bullying, scams, grooming, or manipulation. A convincing photograph, username, or message history does not prove that an account is genuine. Children should be cautious when someone asks for their or someone else's personal information, images, passwords, money, or access to service accounts.

ALGORITHMS INFLUENCE REALITY

Many online platforms, such as social media, are shaped by algorithms that recommend content based on what users like, search for, and share. This means children do not see a neutral or balanced version of the world. They may repeatedly encounter similar opinions, misleading claims, or increasingly extreme content. Over time, this repetition can make an opinion feel more common or credible than it really is, because the child may never see this opinion opposed or countered.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PAUSE, CHECK, COMPARE

Teach children not to accept content as true simply because it looks professional, sounds confident, or has been widely shared. Encourage them to pause, identify the original source, check the date, and compare the claim with another reliable source. Ask questions such as: 'Who created this? What evidence is provided?' Could anything have been altered? What is the real motive? Regular, age-appropriate practice helps children develop the critical thinking needed to navigate their online worlds.

KEEP TALKING OPENLY

Create regular, non-judgmental conversations about what children see, hear, and experience online. Make sure you use parental controls where appropriate and understand each platform's age restrictions. Asking children about new platforms, influencers, unusual messages, or content they are unsure about can help open up valuable conversations. Respond immediately if a child reports their device, as this may discourage them from discussing their concerns in the future.

VERIFY ANOTHER WAY

A familiar face, voice, or account is no longer enough to confirm someone's identity. If a message is unusual, urgent, or asks for secrecy, money, personal information, or immediate action, children should verify it through a separate route. They should be encouraged to call the person directly using a known number, speak to them face to face, or check with another trusted adult. Families can also agree a private 'code' phrase to help them differentiate genuine emergency messages from each other. This should be something random, non-personal, and known only to the family.

SAVE, REPORT, SUPPORT

When fake content, impersonation, or manipulation targets a child, take it seriously, even if the material is fabricated. Save relevant messages, usernames, links, and screenshots without sharing the content any further. Report it through the platform, follow safeguarding procedures, and escalate concerns involving threats, grooming, sexual content, coercion, or sextation. Remind children that creating or sharing this content, even as a 'fun' joke, can have serious consequences for them and others, and may be difficult to remove once shared online.

Meet Our Expert

Phillipa Wainwright is an educator, author and digital transformation specialist with expertise in digital safeguarding, e-safety, AI in education, and whole-school digital strategy. She is the founder and CEO of Education and works with schools, organisations and policymakers to help create safer, more ethical and more effective digital learning environments for children and young people.

See full reference list on our website

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#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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'.

Have your say

lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council

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