Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 11 | 20th November 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Prayer

This week, as we officially opened Hannah's garden, we remember her in our prayer:



Lord Jesus,

We give thanks for Hannah and for all the happiness and joy she brought into our lives. We are so grateful for the memories we have of her.
Although we miss her very much and wish she could still be here with us, we know that the happiness she brought us will always remain in our hearts.

Please stay close to Hannah's mum, dad and wider family, and to everyone in school who love and miss her.
Especially be with her classmates, friends and teachers.
Help us to comfort one another when we feel sad and to find happiness in sharing our memories of Hannah.
Thank you, Lord, for the gift of living forever with you in heaven, and for the hope that this brings us.

We ask you to bless Hannah's special garden at school. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make this garden possible, from those who organised fundraisers to the volunteers and everyone who helped to create this beautiful space. We are incredibly thankful that we have somewhere so special to come, to think about Hannah, remember her and feel close to her.

May her garden be a place of peace, happiness and reflection. May it be filled with laughter, friendship and beautiful memories. May this garden be a lasting reminder that Hannah will always be loved, always be remembered and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Amen

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Explorers	**Oliver**	
Adventurers	**Hallie**	
Navigators	**Ruby**	**George**
Voyagers	**Amicia**	**Reggie**
Inspiration	**Elodie**	**Charlotte**
Curiosity	**Max**	**Hugh**
Discovery	**Maia**	

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

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

Opening Hannah's Garden

Yesterday, the whole school took time to remember Hannah in a service of remembrance, worship and prayer. This was then followed by an official blessing of the garden by Fr Jordan for our Year 6 pupils and their families. Many thanks to all who came along and could be part of this special occasion.







A gift for all pupils

Ben and Ruth Green, Hannah's parents, have kindly given a small token gesture to each child in school. We shared this poem with the children yesterday, which help explains the reason behind the gift.

In November we pause and remember,
A girl so precious, our sweet Hannah forever.
We miss her so dearly, our hearts feel it true,
But Heaven is joyful, and God watches too.
Jesus is holding her safe in His care,
In a wonderful place beyond worry and fear.
And this little pink badge, so special and small,
Helps us to remember Hannah's love and joy most of all.



Inspiration Class

Inspiration class had lots of fun in Science.

We used our friends and bin bags to label the human skeleton!





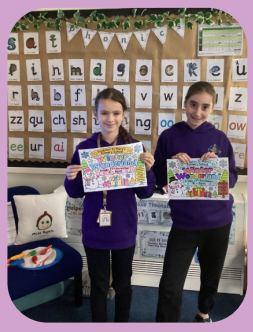
Open the Book

This week, Inspiration Class helped the Open The Book team tell the story of Joseph and his brothers.

School Council

School Council have been busy over the past couple of weeks preparing for Winter Wonderland. We created some posters to advertise our school event that will be taking place on Friday 27th November. We have now displayed them around school to remind everyone about this special evening.







We are looking forward to running our very own stall on the night and we are excited to find out how much money we will raise for school!

Navigators

It was fantastic to see so many of our families from Navigators class today at their SODA morning.
Families spent the first half hour of the day with their children, reading some of the class's favourite books and playing lots of fun phonics games, whilst enjoying breakfast together.

Thank you so much to all who attended.



Upcoming Dates

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
Friday 4th December	8.45-9.30am	Jingle Jog Café (Please join us)
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	10.30am	Choir at Caffe Manna
Thursday 17th December	9.00am	KS2 Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December	1.00pm	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Party
Friday 18th December	9.05 am	Carol Service in school (all welcome)
Friday 18th December	**2.00pm**	**Break up for Christmas**

School re-opens at 8.45am on Monday 4th January.

Children In Need

We are pleased to announce the total amount raised for Children in Need was a fantastic **£236.40!**
Thank you to everyone for their kind donations towards this worthy charity.

Sports and Social Clubs

Tuesday	Archery Games	3.20-4.10pm
Tuesday	KS2 Choir	12.35—1.05pm
Wednesday pm	Woodwind lessons	1.00-2.30 pm
Wednesday pm	Rock Steady Bands	1.00-3.15pm
Thursday	Spanish Club	8.00-8.45am
Thursday	Guitar Lessons	12.30-1.30pm
Thursday	Girls' Football	3.20-4.10pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

Letters Home

Inspiration Class Let's Go Sing—Letter

Winter Wonderland



Please come along to our wonderful Winter Wonderland at 4pm on Friday 27th November—one of the highlights of our school year.
There will be stalls galore, the Grotto, hamper raffle, refreshments and performances from our music groups.
It promises to be a fantastic occasion—perfect for getting you into the Christmas spirit.
Looking forward to seeing you all there!

PTFA-Thank you

A huge thank you to our retiring PTFA members, Suzanne, Rachel and Megan.
Their dedication and hard work over the years has helped to raise valuable funds for our school.

We are delighted to welcome our new PTFA committee, Abbie, Lucy, Jenny and Tiff.
We're looking forward to an exciting year of fundraising ahead, with lots of fun ideas and events to support our school and children.



Remember, all parents are part of the PTFA, and everyone is welcome!
Please do come along, share your ideas and get involved – every little bit of support makes a difference.

Parent Governor Vacancy



We have a vacancy for the role of Parent Governor.
If you are interested and would like more information, please email:
head@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk
If we receive more than one application, the candidate will be chosen by a vote.


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.
Have your say
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


St Mary's Players presents
Let's Get FIZZICAL
at St Mary's Primary School
Sweat Laughs Repeat!
Gym Hair Don't Care!
Work Hard... Party Harder!
Adults Only (No kids, just fizz!)
Friday 29th January
Saturday 30th January
Friday 5th February
Saturday 6th February
7.30pm until Late
Hot Supper Included
Fully Licensed Bar
Tickets £20
For Tickets Contact
Rachel at Eccleston Post Office
or Message 07747088689
All Proceeds to St Mary's Primary School


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 nationalcollege.com.
What Parents & Educators Need to Know about
GRAND THEFT AUTO VI
WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
Grand Theft Auto 6 (also stylised as GTA VI) has been one of the most highly anticipated games of this generation, following GTA V, one of the best-selling video games of all time. Set in the fictional state of Leonida, including Vice City, it follows criminal partners Jason and Lucia as they become embroiled in a wider conspiracy. Although GTA VI is intended for adult audiences, its enormous popularity means that younger people may still encounter gameplay footage online or express an interest in playing it.
AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 18
EXTREMELY VIOLENT CONTENT
GTA VI is rated PEGI 18 for a reason. Players may encounter weapons like guns, knives and explosives, with violence portrayed in highly realistic ways. As in previous GTA games, players may also encounter violence involving vehicles and other characters. The game is categorically not for younger audiences, with blood, gore, and intense violence clearly identified in its official content
SENSITIVE SOCIETAL TOPICS
Like other games in the Grand Theft Auto franchise, GTA VI uses satire to explore aspects of society and contemporary culture. Its exaggerated characters and situations are fictional and may be intended to challenge or mock particular attitudes rather than endorse them. Younger viewers, however, may struggle to recognise this context and could misunderstand jokes, stereotypes, or social commentary without guidance from a trusted adult.
TALKING TO STRANGERS ONLINE
GTA Online, the multiplayer experience associated with GTA V, allows players to communicate with others online. GTA VI has been announced as a single-player experience at launch, so the same in-game chat risks should not yet be assumed. Children may still discuss the game through other online platforms potentially encountering strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes.
DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE
Throughout GTA VI's storyline, drugs and alcohol form part of the game's criminal world. The official content rating identifies the use of both, while Rockstar's character descriptions reference drug runners and dealers. Earlier titles also showed substance use affecting how characters see and move around the world. Younger viewers may struggle to understand these portrayals in the context of a fictional crime story, particularly without guidance from a trusted adult.
NUDITY AND SEX
CENSORED
Relationships and sexual themes feature in GTA VI, while previous GTA titles have allowed players to visit strip clubs and solicit sex workers. It should also be recognised that GTA VI's graphics aim to be realistic, meaning depictions of nudity and sexual content may be explicit. Official ratings confirm nudity and strong sexual content, although details of specific scenes should not be assumed from earlier games.
OPTIONAL IN-GAME PURCHASES
As with its predecessor, GTA VI includes optional in-game purchases that use real-world money. While these purchases are not necessary to play the game, the appeal of additional content may encourage some players to spend more. Younger players may not fully appreciate the cost or how quickly small payments add up.
Advice for Parents & Educators
PARENTAL CONTROLS
Parental controls can block age-restricted games, but they won't remove GTA VI's adult themes from elsewhere online. On PS5, go to Settings > Family and Parental Controls > Family Management, select the child and choose your restrictions. On Xbox Series X|S, use Settings > Account > Family settings, or the Xbox Family Settings app, to manage age restrictions and screen time.
LIMIT ACCESS TO BANK DETAILS
Limiting access to banking details helps prevent accidental or unauthorised purchases. Avoid storing payment details on a child's account and require approval before spending. On PS5, parents and carers can set a monthly spending limit through Family Management. On Xbox Series X|S, the Ask to Buy feature can request adult approval for purchases, helping children and young people understand their real-world cost.
COMMUNICATION RESTRICTIONS
On PS5 and Xbox Series X|S, parental controls can restrict voice chat, messages, friend requests, and communication with other players. Parents and carers can limit interactions to approved friends or prevent communication altogether, depending on the available settings. These restrictions are especially helpful for reducing children's exposure to strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes through console chats or other multiplayer games.
MAKE THIS A CONVERSATION
Even if a child is not playing GTA VI, they may still watch gameplay clips, livestreams or trailers shared by friends and content creators. It's important to talk openly with children about why GTA VI has an adult age rating and discuss its violence, crime, strong language, sexual themes, satirical lens, and other mature content. Ask what interests them about the game and what they already know. Talk about the difference between fictional behaviour and real-world consequences.
Meet Our Expert
Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 12+ years as a journalist, editor and social media expert. He's travelled the world playing video games and working with publishers and developers to fine tune their audience messaging. When he's not gaming, he can be found watching horror and sci-fi movies, TV series, listening to music or deciding which world marathon to plod around.
See full reference list on our website
#WakeUpWednesday
The National College
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/www.thenationalcollege
@wake.up.wednesday
@wake.up.weds
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fun activities
Jellybeans
Jellybeans sessions for under 4s
songs
9am to 10am
stories
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.