



# Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 4 | 29th September 2023

# SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Motto:**  
Believe & Achieve

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

## Prayer

Today is the holy day, Michaelmas, remembering St Michael, the Patron Saint of Police Officers.

Almighty God we pray to you, in heaven up above,  
Watch over all police officers and protect them with your love.  
Please guide them as they keep us safe both in the night and day,  
And hold them firmly in your care should danger come their way.  
Give them true strength and courage as they serve til duty's end  
And one more thing we ask dear Lord, protect their family and friends  
Amen

## ☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Alfie	
Reception	Elijah	Rosie
Year One	Joseph	
Year Two	Poppy	Seth
Year Three	Pippa	Lola
Year Four	Lillia	Freddie
Year Five	Elouise	Nyla
Year Six	Sophia	William

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

**DOUGLAS**

Please click to find out  
more about our school

[Facebook](#)

'I can do all things  
through Christ who  
strengthens me.'

Phil 4:13

# Welcome Week



You are warmly invited to visit  
Eccleston St. Mary's CE  
Primary School and  
Little Explorers Nursery  
week commencing 9th October



**Monday Afternoon**

**1.30pm to 3.00pm**

**Tuesday Morning**

**9.00am to 10.30am**

**Wednesday Morning**

**9.00am to 10.30am**

**Thursday Afternoon**

**1.30pm to 3.00pm**



*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](mailto:bursar@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk)  
or phone 01257 451317

*At the heart of the community for 150 years*

## Welcome Week

Every year, at this time, we invite parents, who are considering sending their children to St. Mary's, to come and take a look at us in action.

This year, we would like to extend that invitation to all our current parents too.

Please do take this opportunity to see what your child gets up to on a typical school day and maybe consider bringing a friend, who doesn't know us yet, to have a look around.

Pupils from Y5 and Y6 are already preparing to be your tour guides and can't wait to show you round!

We look forward to seeing you some time during the week beginning 9th October.

## Little Explorers

"Little Explorers" had a lovely visit to the library. They listened to some Autumn stories, made an Autumn craft and then chose a book each to bring back to school. They also stopped to see the ducks on the way back!

We had a lovely time getting out and about in the community!



## Let's Go Sing

Year 3 enjoyed their first 'Let's Go Sing' workshop with Rose on Tuesday and they thoroughly enjoyed being introduced to lots of new songs! Excitement is already building for the concert at King George's Hall, Blackburn in March next year!

Thank you to Rose and we are looking forward to welcoming her back to school soon!



## Parents Evening

Parents' Evening is on Monday 16th October.

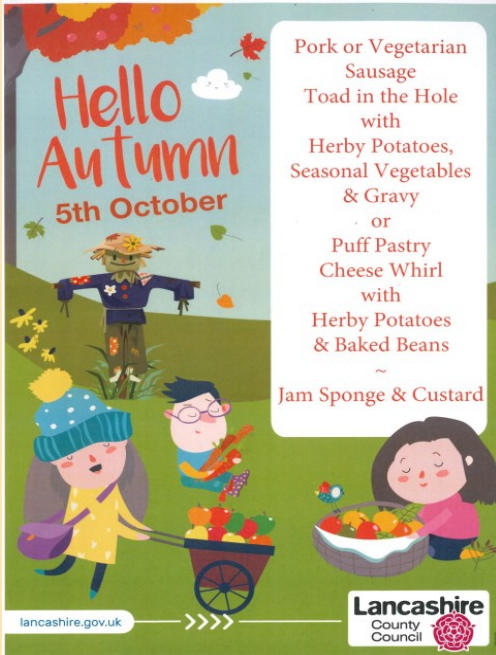
Appointments will go live on Monday 2nd October at 4.00pm. A link will be sent to you via text and email. Please click on the link and book your slot.



## Weather

Now that the weather is starting to get a bit colder, and we've had a lot of rainy days, we would like to remind everyone to make sure children wrap up warmly and bring a coat to school. Thank you





## School Census

### Next Thursday is the Autumn School Census.

The money the school receive from the government to pay for the Infant schools meals is based on an average of the number of meals taken on the census days in October and January.

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

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

## Shoe boxes

Please hold on to unwanted shoe boxes—all will be explained next week!



## School Photographer

The school photographer will be in to take individual and family photos on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Pupils with siblings not in school are welcome to come in from 8.30am to have their family photographs taken.



## Flu Immunisation Consent Form

Please remember to send your Flu consent forms back to school as soon as possible and by Friday 13th October at the latest. Thank you.



## Admission to Primary School 2024 is now open.

If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)  
It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

**The closing date for primary applications for September 2024 is 23:59 on 15 January 2024.**



## School website

We are in the process of making some exciting changes to our school website. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please bear with us—it will all be sorted very soon.

## Christmas Cards

Please remember to return your Christmas card designs to school by Friday 6th October. Thank you.



## Secondary school admissions

If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for secondary applications for September 2024 is 23:59 on 31 October 2023.

For guidance on school transport see: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/>.

Remember to check your preferred schools' websites for details of their Open Evenings.

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB!**  
**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE**

**ECCLESTON ST MARYS C.E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
THE GREEN, ECCLESTON, CHORLEY, PR7 5TE

PRICE: £25 PER DAY OR £100 FOR FULL WEEK | 50% DISCOUNT FOR ANY EXTRA SIBLING  
1 WEEK COURSE RUNNING 23RD | 24TH | 25TH | 26TH | 27TH OCTOBER  
TIMES: 8:30AM - 4:00PM

BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE AT [WWW.JMCOACHINGACADEMY.CO.UK](http://WWW.JMCOACHINGACADEMY.CO.UK)  
OR SCAN QR CODE BELOW

**WHAT TO EXPECT**  
MULTI SPORTS GAMES | FOOTBALL | GOLF  
| HANDBALL | DODGEBALL | BASKETBALL |  
FRISBEE | FUTSAL | NETBALL | ATHLETICS  
GAMES | STRIKE & FIELD GAMES | CLASSIC  
HOLIDAY CLUB GAMES | AND MUCH MORE

FURTHER INFO CONTACT  
JORDAN: 07896030716 @JMCOACHINGACADEMY

## Special Dates—Early warning!



We have a number of special events coming up before the end of term, which we thought you'd appreciate knowing about, sooner rather than later.

3rd November—Victorian Day—to mark our 150th Anniversary, we'd like everyone to dress up in Victorian costume. If you're stuck for ideas, please ask.

6th November—Party Day—our official 150th birthday—party clothes all round!

17th November—Children in Need Day—we'll be wearing something spotty or Children in Need merchandise (or both!) to raise money for this wonderful cause.

8th December—Winter Wonderland Enterprise Event and Christmas Jumper Day. Wear your Christmas jumper to support Save the Children and come along to see the amazing ways in which the children have been enterprising! We will be asking for raffle prizes and donations for the chocolate tombola just after half-term so your support would be much appreciated. Thank you.

## Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtimes
Monday	Judo Club KS2	8.00-8.45am
Tuesday	Futsal KS1	3.20-4.20pm
Wednesday	Spanish Club Yrs1-6	8.00-8.50am
Wednesday	St Marys Singing Sensations	3.20-4.20pm
Thursday	Futsal KS2	3.20-4.20pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

## Upcoming Dates

Monday 2nd October	All Day	Yogi Day
Tuesday 3rd October	9.10am	Ben Green Worship
Tuesday 3rd October	2.30pm	Reception Class Stay and Play (Please join us)
Thursday 5th October	10.00am	Jelly Beans
Monday 9th October	1.30-3.00pm	Welcome Week (Please join us)
Tuesday 10th October	9.00-10.30am	Welcome Week (Please join us)
Tuesday 10th October	All Day	Yr3 Trip ( Bring yer Wellies)
Tuesday 10th October	3.20pm	PTFA Welcome Coffee/Tea and Cake (Please come along)
Wednesday 11th October	9.00-10.30am	Welcome Week (Please join us)
Thursday 12th October	1.30-3.00pm	Welcome Week (Please join us)

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

### GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying. It intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

### SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of menacing zombies or creepers damaging your builds.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (@clare\_godwin) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Unlabeled Learning and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday