



# SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Motto:**

**Believe & Achieve**

**Our Mission Statement:**

**Through Jesus we love, learn and grow**

## **Prayer—A Poppy Prayer for Remembrance**

Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers. Let us give thanks to God for the lives of those who have died in war, remembering all the joy they brought to family and friends, and all the good things they did for their home and their country.

The poppy's petals are red. Red reminds us of danger and harm. We ask God to be close to those who are facing danger today, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East. We ask also that He give courage to the armed forces and compassion to all who help others.

Poppies are fragile and need to be handled gently. God cares for those who are hurting and those who are sad and we ask that He will comfort all who are grieving.

As we think of the whole poppy, we think of the whole world and our part in it. We ask God to help each one of us to play our part in working for peace in the world. Amen

## ☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Karlie</b>	
<b>Reception</b>	<b>Anna</b>	<b>Henry</b>
<b>Year One</b>	<b>Leo</b>	
<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Mia</b>
<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Daniel</b>	<b>Penny</b>
<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Amy</b>	<b>Jacob</b>
<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Emily</b>	<b>Harrison</b>
<b>Year Six</b>	<b>Olivia</b>	<b>Leo</b>

**WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK**

**YARROW**

**Please click to find out  
more about our school**

[Facebook](#)

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

**Phil 4:13**

## A Day of Celebrations...

Following our wonderful Victorian Day last Friday, Monday continued the theme of the Victorians with a visit from Joan from the Museum of Wigan Life, who taught us all about what life would have been like for children in Victorian times.

We then took the opportunity of our school birthday to party, party, party—singing celebration songs, making bunting and birthday cards and—of course—who could forget the Great Birthday Bake Off? We were overwhelmed by the amazing response and can't thank everyone enough for using their baking skills to help us celebrate this most special of birthdays.



The Infants were enthralled by the Victorian toys..



The School Council show off the Time Capsule



The Happy Winners



Thanks to Angela from Caffe Manna for judging the cakes



Cakes as far as the eye can see!

## Time Capsule

As the culmination of our celebrations for our 150th birthday, we finally sealed the Time Capsule during our Celebration Assembly. As Daniel shares his birthday with the school, it seemed only right that he put the final item (some School Council and House Captain badges) inside and then put the lid on. Thanks, Daniel—maybe you can be the one to open it back up again in 2073!



## Little Explorers

On Wednesday, Little Explorers enjoyed a walk to see the Remembrance Day displays in the village.



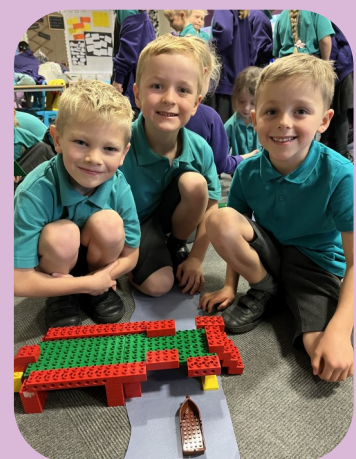
Then they enjoyed hot chocolate and a play in Forest School!

Thank you to Roger for coming with us and helping us cross the road safely.



## Construction Club

Some fantastic bridges were built in Construction Club this week. The bridges were tested with cups of marbles, and most were found to be sturdy and strong. The children had great fun and were all proud of their efforts.





## Winter Wonderland

Our Winter Wonderland Enterprise Event will now be held on **Friday 1st December**. Please put this date in your diaries and come along to support this fantastic event!

It promises to be a lovely start to the Christmas festivities.

## Remembrance Sunday

This year, Remembrance Sunday is on 12th November. The procession leaves Ecclestone Primary School, Doctors Lane, at 10.15am arriving at St Mary's Church for an outside service starting at 10.45am.

Please join us if you possibly can.



## Shoeboxes for Ukraine Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in a filled shoe box to support this worthy cause.

It's not too late to get involved, though, as we will be collecting boxes throughout November, in preparation for them being sent to Ukraine in early December.

If you would like to help out but feel you couldn't fill a whole shoe box, we would be happy to receive individual items, which can then be grouped together to form extra boxes. Thank you!

**Chorley & District Support for Ukraine**

### Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2023

All year we have been working hard to send aid to Ukraine. This Christmas we are sending shoebox parcels of goodies so that people who have lost a lot during the conflict there, can have something for Christmas that might be useful and enjoyable.

If you are able, please consider filling a wrapped shoebox of goodies and donating it to us at the 'Ukraine Unit' in Chorley town centre. The box and lid needs to be wrapped separately and closed with a rubber band around it. Please then label it to show if the contents are for a **Girl, Boy, Man or Woman**. If it is for a child, please also add the age group the parcel is appropriate for.

We will do the rest and make sure it gets to the people of Ukraine to enjoy during Christmas and the New Year.

Contents could include:  
gloves, scarf, hat, chocolate, sweets, toy, toiletries, etc... perhaps even a drawing or Christmas card ☺

\*Don't worry if you can't fill a box. If you donate what you can, we will make up the rest.

For more details, please follow our group on Facebook:  
**Chorley & District Support for Ukraine**  
Alternatively, please email: [saclewlow@yahoo.com](mailto:saclewlow@yahoo.com)

Please feel free to share this appeal with anyone or any group that you feel might be able to join in with the effort.

Thank you for your support.  
Stuart A. Clewlow - Group Co-ordinator.

Please Note: We are also still accepting all other kinds of donations such as: clothing, shoes, blankets, toiletries, baby products, medical equipment, etc.

## School Photographs

Please remember to return your school photograph requests along with payment by Friday 17th November. 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.

**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY**

**APPLY NOW!**  
at [lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://lancashire.gov.uk/schools)

School and Academy places September 2024

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024.

You must apply even if you already attend or will be attending the school, or the school's catchment area.

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

Please visit the admission website for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from here.

School transport  
Need transport to school? Please don't forget to check your eligibility for free transport. Contact the transport officer at [lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:lancashire.gov.uk)

**CLOSING DATE**  
**15 JANUARY 2024**

[lancashire.gov.uk](http://lancashire.gov.uk)

Lancashire County Council

## Head Lice

There has been a case of head lice in school. Please remember to check your child's head regularly and use the appropriate treatment. Thank you.



## Upcoming Dates

Sunday 12th November	10.15/ 10.45am	Remembrance Day Procession and Service
Tuesday 14th November	9.10am	Open the Book
Wednesday 15th November	10.00am	Nursery Visit to Library
Thursday 16th November	9.00am	Flu Vaccines
Friday 17th November	All day	Children in Need Day (wear something spotty!)
Monday 20th November	3.15pm	PTFA Uniform Sale (please come along)
Monday 27th November	All Day	INSET Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 28th November	am/pm	Debt Awareness Y5 & Y6
Thursday 30th November	All Day	Sean Perkins Author Visit
Friday 1st December	4pm	Winter Wonderland

## Letters Home

Yr 5—Clarinet Letter

## Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtimes
Tuesday	Construction Club KS1	3.15-4.00pm
Tuesday	Dodgeball KS2	3.20-4.20pm
Wednesday	Spanish Club Yrs1-6	8.00-8.50am
Wednesday	St Marys Singing Sensations	3.20-4.20pm
Thursday	Multi-Sport Skills KS1	3.20-4.20pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

fun activities

# Jellybeans

Jellybeans sessions for under 4s

songs

10am to 11am

Stories

in the school hall at  
Eccleston St. Mary's CE Primary School

Every Thursday

Children must be  
accompanied by an adult

£2  
per  
family

Refreshments  
will be  
served

Please share this information  
with other families in the village.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

### PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

### DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

### AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

### SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

### CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

### (GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

### STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

### WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



**NOS**  
National  
Online  
Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday