



Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 19 | 9th February 2024

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Prayer

Dear Lord,
Thank you for the upcoming half-term and what will come with it. We pray that everyone in our school has a magical holiday and enjoys the time we have out of school. We pray that all come back safely in a week's time. Let's be thankful that we can spend time with our families.

In Jesus' name
Amen
(Written by Grace and Lily-Ann from the GIFT group)

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Everley	
Reception	Olivia	Ruairi
Year One	Joseph	
Year Two	Freddie	Emily
Year Three	Reuben	Lola
Year Four	Isla	Archie
Year Five	River	Leah
Year Six	Daniel T	Alpha

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

YARROW & DOUGLAS

WINNING HOUSE THIS HALF TERM

YARROW

Please click to find out more about our school

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)

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

Phil 4:13



CERTIFICATES



Bronze certificates are awarded for gaining 50 house points.

BRONZE

Year 6	Grace A	Aoife		
Year 5	Freddie	Alex Cr	Rohan	River
Year 4	Lucianna	Isla	Ella	
Year 1	Charlotte	Henry	Cassie	

Silver certificates are awarded for gaining 100 house points.

SILVER

Year 6	Theo N	Lilly-Ann
Year 3	Bodhi	
Year 2	Pippa	Bronte

World Book Day—Let's have a magical day on 7th March!

We are going to celebrate World Book Day in style this year and are planning a 'magical' theme. Enrich Education are coming to school on Friday 8th March to lead us in a Quidditch Day so we thought we'd think about Harry Potter and all things magical on WBD.

We'd love everyone to dress up as a character from a book featuring magic—think of Harry Potter, Peter Pan, The Wizard of Oz, The Worst Witch, The Magic Faraway Tree, Matilda, The Magic Tree House, Room on the Broom. The possibilities are endless and we can't wait to see what you come up with!



PTA Show

Our amazing PTA Players put on another wonderful show this year! Thank you SO much to everyone involved either on stage, behind the scenes or helping front of house. Thank you also to all of you who came to support each night. We raised a phenomenal **£14044.00**, for which we are extremely grateful!



Carabao Cup Final Tickets— Silent Auction

Thank you so much to Mr Neary for sourcing the Carabao Cup Final tickets and to everyone who took part in the Silent Auction.

Congratulations to Mrs Eccles, whose daughter is in Nursery, who submitted the winning bid. We hope she has a wonderful day out—even if she does have to watch Liverpool!

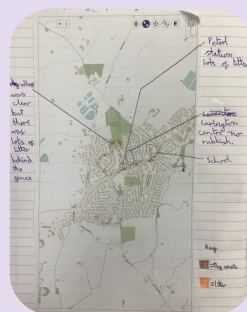


Year 4

Year 4 have been investigating pollution in the village this week. They used their mapping skills to plot a route, then investigated predicted hotspots around the village.

Then, they put posters up in the areas where the litter and dog waste were worst, hopefully encouraging people to use the bins provided!

Keep your eyes peeled for the posters around the village!



Reception Balance Bikes

On Thursday, some of our Reception Class children represented school at a Balance Bike Festival and had a wonderful time. We were very proud of their behaviour and effort.



Year 5 Viking Day

Year 5 had a very exciting visit from Hrothgar the Viking on Monday! They learned all about weapons and armour; acted out some stories of the Viking Gods; lit a fire; played a Viking game of hnefatafl; and learned about a chieftain's burial. They asked excellent questions and got stuck into lots of activities throughout the day - well done year 5!



Break the Rules Day for Leukaemia UK

Don't forget the first Friday back after half-term—23rd February—is Break the Rules Day. All money raised will be going to Leukaemia UK so the children will be encouraged to break as many rules as they can!

More details can be found on the flyer later on in this Newsletter.

Friday 23rd February

BREAK THE RULES DAY!

- Trainers instead of school shoes
- Chocolate or sweets for snack
- Nail varnish
- Hoodie instead of school jumper
- Temporary hair dye or crazy hair
- Fruit juice in water bottles
- Face paint

50p per rule!

Mini First Aid Y1, Y3 & Y5

Yesterday, Y1, Y3 and Y5 took part in a very informative Mini First Aiders Course. Y1 learnt many useful First Aid skills, learning how to put on a plaster correctly, how to call for help in an emergency and dial 999. They also learned how to put someone in the recovery position.

All the children listened with interest and thoroughly enjoyed practical tasks helping them to learn all about the important skills of First Aid. Well done to all of the children involved and thank you to Andrea for her wonderful input.



Upcoming Dates

Monday 19th February	1.30-3.20pm	Y4 Swimming Begins
Tuesday 20th February	9.10am	Open the Book
Wednesday 21st February	3.20-4.15pm	Choir Recommences
Friday 23rd February	All Day	Break the Rules Day
Monday 26th February	1.30-3.20pm	Y4 Swimming
Monday 26th February	4-5pm	Y5/6 Cross Country (Bishop Rawstorne)
Thursday 29th February	2.30pm	YR Stay & Play (Please join us)

Letters Home

EYFS/KS1—Frisbee Games After School Club Y/6—After School HI 5 Netball Club
KS2—Ultimate Frisbee After School Club

Sports and Social Clubs— Week Commencing 19.2.24

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtimes
Tuesday	Tri-Golf KS2	3.20-4.20pm
Tuesday	Y5/6 HI5 Netball Club	3.20-4.15pm
Tuesday	KS2 Coding Club	3.20—4.15pm
Wednesday	Spanish Club—All years	8.00-8.50am
Wednesday	Singing Sensations Choir	3.20—4.15pm
Thursday	Tri-Golf EYFS & KS1	3.20-4.20pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

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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 MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a fake date of birth)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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