



# SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Motto:**  
Believe & Achieve

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

## Prayer

A prayer especially for our Year 6 pupils ahead of their SATS next week.

Dear Lord

Thank you for always loving me.

I know that you want me to do my best in my SATS, but I also know that your love for me does not depend on my results.

Help me to feel calm, to stay focused and give it my all.

In Jesus name

Amen

## ☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Ronnie</b>	
<b>Reception</b>	<b>Sansa</b>	<b>Alexander</b>
<b>Year One</b>	<b>Charlotte</b>	
<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Ben</b>	<b>Austin</b>
<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Pippa</b>	<b>Bodhi</b>
<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Isla</b>	<b>Jacob</b>
<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Nyla</b>	<b>Harrison</b>
<b>Year Six</b>	<b>Alpha</b>	<b>Leo</b>

**WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK**

**LOSTOCK**

Please click to find out more  
about our school

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

Phil 4:13

## Shining Stars

Congratulations to this week's Shining Stars for their outstanding work in PE, English and handwriting, along with excellent behaviour, concentration, attitude and—Mrs Birchall's favourite word—perseverance! Well done, all of you!



## Fencing

On Tuesday, the juniors had a visit from Wayne Lomax who came in to talk about a fencing club which begins after half term. They enjoyed learning a little about what fencing is and some children had a go at using some of the fencing equipment too!

The club is now full, but there will be another chance next year for younger pupils who didn't manage to get a place.



## Y6 Tag Rugby

On Tuesday evening, the Year 6 Tag Rugby team played in a cluster tag rugby tournament against 5 other local schools. They played incredibly well, showing some speedy tries and excellent defending. Although they didn't win the tournament overall, a win in the Eccleston derby was a bonus!

All children involved represented school exceptionally and should be very proud of themselves.





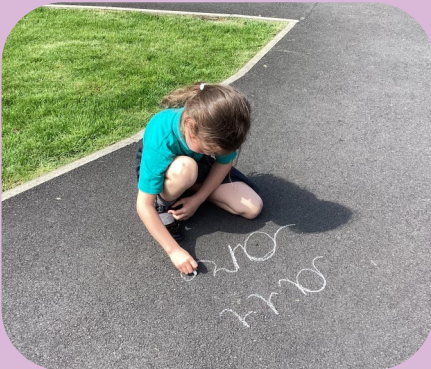
## Little Explorers

This week Little Explorers enjoyed exploring in Forest School and going on a shape hunt!



## Reception

Reception class have been practising their tricky words outside with the chalks!



## Ace Club

Are you interested in some extra hours working in our ACE Club before or after school?

Please speak to the school office if you would like more information.





## School Census Meal

Our next school census meal is on Thursday 16th May. The money the school receives from the government to pay for the infant school meals is based on an average of the number of meals taken on census days.

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

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

**Jellybeans** fun activities

Jellybeans sessions for under 4s  
10am to 11am  
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.

Chorley Council | LEISURE

**May Half Term**  
**Intensive Swimming Lessons**

27th — 31st May

0800-0830 - Stage 1  
0830-0900 - Stage 2  
0900-0930 - Stage 3  
0930-1000 - Stage 4

Book now to secure your place with Hazel for just £27.50 with a member of the team in centre,  
by email - [allseasons@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:allseasons@chorley.gov.uk)  
or by phone - 01257515533

## Upcoming Dates

### MONDAY 13th May

Monday 13th May

Wednesday 15th May

### ALL WEEK

1.30pm

9.00am

### SATS WEEK

Y4 Swimming

Nursery Library Visit

Monday 20th May

Monday 20th May

Tuesday 21st May

All Week

1.30pm

4.00-6.00pm

Arts Week

Y4 Swimming

Y5/6 Cluster Netball  
(here at school)

Wednesday 22nd May

Friday 24th May

Monday 3rd June

4.00-6.00pm

3.20pm

All Day

Y5/Y6 OAA Competition  
(Astley Park)

School Closes for Half-term

Inset Day

**School re-opens on at 8.45am on Tuesday 4th June**

## Letters Home

Nursery/Reception/Y1—Smithills Farm Trip Letter

KS2 Choir—Concert ticketing letter

Y5/Y6—Orienteering Competition Letter

## Sports and Social Clubs

Monday

Guitar Lessons KS2

Lunchtimes

Tuesday

Brilliant Book Awards

Lunchtimes

Tuesday

Athletics EYFS & KS1

3.20-4.20pm

Wednesday

Spanish Club—All years

8.00-8.50am

Wednesday

KS2 Choir

3.20-4.15 pm

Thursday

Athletics KS2

3.20-4.20pm

Friday

Brass Club

3.20-4.15pm

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, *Helldivers 2* had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

### PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, *Helldivers 2* carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

In *Helldivers 2*, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

### VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

*Helldivers 2* is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

### FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to *Helldivers 2*'s appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

### LACK OF ACCESS



The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as *Helldivers 2*.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### GIVE IT A GO FIRST



*Helldivers 2* is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

### SET EXPECTATIONS



At the time of writing, *Helldivers 2* costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether *Helldivers 2* is really the game for them.

### CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



If playing on Xbox – where *Helldivers 2* isn't available – consider something like *Halo: The Master Chief Collection* as an alternative. One of its game modes – *Firefight* – replicates *Helldivers*' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted *Deep Rock Galactic*, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

### KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS



Many titles offer in-game purchases, but *Helldivers 2*'s are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

### MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS



Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to *Helldivers 2* as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.

