



SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Prayer

Today is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi

Dear Lord,
Thank you for the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who showed us how to love and care for all of creation. Help us to be kind, gentle, and humble, just as he was. Teach us to see the good in every person we meet, and to be peacemakers in our school and with our friends. Help us to care for the earth, the animals, and all that you have created.
Amen.

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

| | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| Nursery | Aspyn | |
| Reception | Brodie | Ellie |
| Year One | Elijah | Neve |
| Year Two | Charlotte | Jackson |
| Year Three | Bobby | Peter |
| Year Four | Hannah | Cassidy |
| Year Five | Isla | Macauley |
| Year Six | Thomas T | Freddie |

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

YARROW

Please click to find out more
about our school

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

'I came to give life - life in
all its fullness.'

John 10:10

Little Explorers

Little Explorers have enjoyed reading 'Handa's Surprise' this week. They had fun exploring, chopping and tasting different fruits from the story and making their own fruit kebabs for afternoon snack.



Year 4

As part of their Geography topic about North America, Year 4 have been exploring the landmarks of New York City using Google Earth's "street view".



Year 4 also spent a creative time in Forest School this week, making their own artwork inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. The ideas - including using berry juice as a glue - as well as the teamwork, were truly fantastic. Well done, Year 4!



Rosh Hashanah

On Thursday, the whole school learned about the Jewish Festival of Rosh Hashanah which has been celebrated by Jewish families across the world this week.

Classes took time to find out about the traditions which form part of the celebration and look further into the symbolic meaning behind prayers said during Rosh Hashanah. There were some super questions asked and explanations offered in all classes.



SODA-Year 5

Year 5 had a fantastic SODA morning today. They embraced some tricky maths challenges and, with some perseverance from the parents and pupils, they managed to solve them!

Thank you so much to everyone who joined us!



Harvest

Thank you so much to all the family and friends who joined us for our Harvest Celebration last week and to all of you who donated Harvest gifts.

Your kind donations will be shared between the Chorley Homeless and St Laurence's Foodbank.



School Photographer

The school photographer will be in on Tuesday 22nd October to take individual and family photos. Pupils with siblings not in school are welcome to come in from 8.30am to have their family photographs taken.



Upcoming Dates

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--|
| Tuesday 8th October | 3.30pm | PTFA AGM (Please Join Us) |
| Wednesday 9th October | 8.30am | Y5&Y6 Trip to Westholme School |
| Thursday 10th October | 4.30—6 pm | School Open Evening |
| Friday 11th October | 9.00am | Start of the Day Activity—Y4 (Please Join Us) |
| Monday 14th October | All day | Y3 Trip to Bring yer Wellies |
| Friday 18th October | 9.00am | Start of the Day Activity—Y3 (Please Join Us) |
| Monday 21st October | 2pm-7pm | Parents' Evening |
| Tuesday 22nd October | All Day | School Photographs |
| Wednesday 23rd October | 1.00pm | Fire Safety Talks Y2 |
| Thursday 24th October | 2.00pm | Celebration Assembly (Please join us) |

**School closes for pupils for half-term on Thursday 24th October
(Staff INSET day—Friday 25th October)**

Sports and Social Clubs

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Monday | Guitar Lessons KS2 | Lunchtime |
| Tuesday | Futsal After School Club | 3.20-4.20pm |
| Tuesday | Choir | 3.20-4.15pm |
| Wednesday | Spanish Club-All Years | 8.00-8.45am |
| Wednesday | Judo Club-KS2 | 8.00-8.45am |
| Thursday | Girls Football After School Club | 3.20-4.20pm |
| Friday | Brass Club | 3.20-4.15pm |

Mrs Jones

As many of you will know, Mrs Jones has now left St. Mary's to pursue a new career with Lancashire Police.

We would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years—as a student teacher in Y4, a fully-fledged teacher in both KS1 and KS2 and, finally, as the welcoming face of St. Mary's in the school office.

Goodbye, Mrs Jones—we wish you the very best of luck as you begin your next big adventure.



Parents Evening

Parents' Evening is on Monday 21st October 2-7pm.

Appointments will go live to book on Tuesday 8th October at 6.00pm.



Lunchtime Welfare Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a lunchtime welfare assistant.

If you or someone you know would like to be part of our friendly team, please phone or call into the school office for more information.



Presented By Comedian Brendan Riley

Friday 18th October
**Eccleston St Marys
Primary School**

Doors 7pm Show 7.30pm Tickets £14 Includes Snack Box
Ticket requests through school in an envelope
Please put child's name and class on, clearly marked 'Comedy Bingo'
Or Call: Lucy Allen 07919 027 672
Eccleston St Marys Primary School, The Green, Eccleston, PR7 5TE



St Mary's School Open Days



You are warmly invited to visit our school on the following days:-

Thursday 10th October 4.30pm to 6.00pm

Friday 8th November 9.30am to 11.00am

Tuesday 3rd December 1.30pm to 3.00pm

The evening session (10th October) will be an opportunity to see the school environment and talk with staff and governors.

In addition, during the following two sessions (8th November and 3rd December) you will be able to visit each of our classrooms whilst lessons are in progress and speak, not only to staff, but to the pupils too.

Staff and governors will be on hand to guide you around and answer any queries you may have. Mrs Birchall, our headteacher, will also be available to speak to you should you have anything you wish to discuss.

We believe our school is a very special place where children are happy in their learning and have a full range of activities to enjoy.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY



APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2025

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

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

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
15 JANUARY 2025

lancashire.gov.uk >>>>

Lancashire
County Council

School transport 

Need transport to school? Please don't forget to check your eligibility for free transport. Search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS SECONDARY



APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2025

You must apply if your child is in their last year of primary school (year 6) from September 2024.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school.

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

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
31 OCTOBER 2024

lancashire.gov.uk >>>>

Lancashire
County Council

School transport 

Need transport to school? Please don't forget to check your eligibility for free transport. Search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

INTRODUCING LOOSE PARTS PLAY

Loose parts play is becoming more popular across early years settings. Our guide will help you to define what loose parts are, how they can benefit children and why they're important for development at the early years stage. We also have tips on introducing loose parts and storing them in your setting, allowing you to provide an engaging environment for playing and learning.

LOOSE PARTS THEORY

Loose parts are materials with endless possibilities, allowing children to freely explore and implement ideas in their play. The theory's originator, Simon Nicholson, said:

"In any environment, both the degree of inventiveness and creativity, and the possibility of discovery, are directly proportional to the number and kind of variables in it. As long as materials can be moved, redesigned, put together and taken apart in a variety of ways, they are classified as loose parts."

1 RECOGNISE WHAT LOOSE PARTS ARE

Loose parts are primarily materials and resources that are open ended, moveable, can be combined with other materials, taken apart and be used for any purpose by children. This doesn't include toys or objects which only have a single pre-defined purpose, such as a train set or model farm (and their related accessories).

2 GO GRADUALLY

When bringing loose parts into a setting or classroom, always start with smaller quantities to avoid anyone (children or adults) feeling overwhelmed. It's most effective to introduce a limited number of loose parts, so you can observe how the children use them. Only increase the number when you observe children actively using loose parts in their play.

3 BE DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE

Not all loose parts will be appropriate for each age group. Younger children, for example, will probably not need as many loose parts when they're first introduced. As a guide, infants and toddlers only require a handful of parts in a maximum of around five containers. At ages 3 to 4, children will benefit most from around ten containers (or baskets) with 10-15 loose parts in each.

4 FIND A LOCAL SCRAP STORE

Scrap stores are a fantastic source of loose parts, which are starting to become more commonly available. These stores tend to receive regular donations, so there'll usually be many types of objects to choose from. They often require you to sign up for a membership, which normally involves a fee but gives you access to a variety of resources per visit. Art and craft shops can also be a treasure trove of loose parts.

5 ENGAGE WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Parents and families are a great source of loose parts. Once you explain their benefits in relation to children's play, then you can start putting out requests for loose parts. Be precise about the type and condition of the resources and materials that you need; you could even provide a list of suitable examples for extra clarity.

6 KEEP THINGS TIDY

When you're beginning to integrate loose parts into your setting, show the children that all the materials they're using have a specific home. Little ones will usually need support and good modelling while they learn to return what they've used. Ultimately, your aim should be to ensure the children can access and identify where all of the loose parts are kept.

7 BABIES AND LOOSE PARTS

Babies and children under 3 will benefit hugely from using loose parts. Children in this age group need loose parts to be larger (so as not to present a choking hazard) and to provide a sensory experience. At this stage, treasure baskets are a great way of introducing loose parts during supervised play; they should also be available in containers that are kept at (or near) ground level.

8 KNOW THE TYPES OF LOOSE PARTS

Roughly speaking, loose parts can be classified into one of eight categories: nature based; wood; metal; ceramic; glass; fabric; packaging; and plastic.

9 UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS

There are numerous benefits in enabling children to play with loose parts. It allows them to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, while promoting creativity and imagination. Such free-form play provides opportunities for little ones to test out their ideas and learn to assess risk – as well as supporting their social-emotional development through collaboration, negotiation and teamwork.

10 RECYCLE AND USE

There are many companies selling loose parts kits or boxes. Often, however, the best loose parts are those which are inexpensive or free. Think about packaging that comes with deliveries (such as the humble cardboard box), or twigs and leaves that have fallen off trees (providing they're clean, of course). The possibilities are endless, which is a key strength of loose parts play.

Meet Our Expert

Tracy Hilton is a Curiosity Approach Ambassador who delivers discovery sessions on all aspects of the approach. She has 17 years' experience in early years positions including pre-school manager, deputy head of a nursery school, and a deputy manager of a school-based pre-school. In 2022, Tracy published a book titled 'Again! 50 Picture Books Children Will Want You to Read ... Again!'



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/loose-parts-play