



# SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Motto:**  
Believe & Achieve

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

## Prayer

In Worship on Wednesday we learned about Brother Andrew, who smuggled Bibles into countries where Bibles were banned.

Father God,

We give thanks for the gift of the Bible. We are so grateful to be able to hear the stories of the prophets as well as the messages that Jesus told. Help us to make more time to read your words and reflect on them. We offer our prayers to those who are persecuted for their beliefs and who cannot worship freely. Amen

## ☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Coco	
Reception	Maisie	Arabella
Year One	Maevy	Ruairi
Year Two	Catriona	
Year Three	Rory	Emily
Year Four	Florence	Violet
Year Five	Eliza	Freddie
Year Six	Ted	Alex Cr

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

**LOSTOCK**

Winning house Half Term

**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

## SODA Year 3

The children and parents of Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed an interactive SODA session this morning. The varied Maths related activities certainly kept everyone busy and super problem-solving skills were put into action all around the classroom. It was great to see everyone getting involved and working together to find solutions. Well done to everyone!



## Year 3 Trip

Year 3 enjoyed a fun-filled and action-packed day at 'Bring Yer Wellies' on Monday.

In the morning, the children discovered how to be archaeologists, found out all about life during the Stone Age and investigated decomposition in a wormery. Following a picnic in the sunshine, they then went on to solve a giant dinosaur puzzle and used their teamwork skills to build a den in the woods!

Well done to Year 3 for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout all the activities, and a big thank you to Melissa and Nigel for a super educational visit!



## Little Explorers



Little Explorers enjoyed going into Forest School to find sticks and leaves to create patterns in the wooden frames. They then had lots of fun playing on the swing, balancing on the tree trunks and throwing the autumn leaves into the air!



## Open the Book

Thank you to Year One for helping our Open the Book friends to tell the story of Jacob's ladder during worship on Tuesday morning.



## Upcoming Dates

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)
<b>School closes for pupils for half-term on Thursday 24th October (Staff INSET day—Friday 25th October)</b>		
Monday 4th November	1pm-1.30pm	Flu Vaccines in School
Tuesday 5th November	9.30-10.30am	School Nurse YR & Y6 NCMP
Friday 8th November	9.30-11.00am	School Open Day
Thursday 14th November	10.00-3.00PM	Y6 Boys& Girls Football Tournament (Westway, Chorley)
Friday 15th November	All Day	Children in Need
Friday 15th November	9.15am	Year 3 Class Worship (Please join us)

## Dates for your Diaries

As December is a busy time for everyone, we want to share some important dates for you to add to your diaries. These dates can also be found on our website.

Friday 6th December	4.00pm	Winter Wonderland (Please join us)
Wednesday 11th December	9.45-10.45am	EYFS/KS1 Dress Rehearsal
Thursday 12 December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 12th December	2.00pm & 6.00pm	EYFS/KS1 Performance (Please join us)
Friday 13th December	Whole School	Pantomime-Cinderella (Blackburn)
Friday 13th December	12.30pm	Christmas Lunch
Monday 16th December	9.30am	KS2 Dress Rehearsal
Monday 16th December	6.00pm	KS2 Performance (Please join Us)
Tuesday 17th December	9.30am	KS2 Community Performance (Please join Us)
Tuesday 17th December	2.00pm	KS2 Performance (Please join Us)
Thursday 19th December	9.30am	KS2 Party Day
Thursday 19th December	1.00pm	KS1 Party Day
Thursday 19th December	5.30pm	Carol Service St Marys Church (Please join us)
Friday 20th December	2.00 pm	School closes for Christmas

## Letters Home

YR & Y6—NCM Letter	Whole School—PTFA AGM Minutes
Y6—Health Needs Letter	Y3—SODA Email/Text
Y2—Letter regarding Mr Lyons' absence—Email	

## Sports and Social Clubs

This is a quiet week for clubs with it nearly being half-term. Don't worry—normal service will be resumed after the holidays!

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtime
Tuesday	Choir	3.20-4.15pm

## 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.



## Parents Evening

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

Appointments are now live to book on our School Spider app.



## 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.



**Jellybeans** fun activities

Jellybeans sessions for under 4s

10am to 11am

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

Stories songs

**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.

A colorful poster for "Jellybeans fun activities" for children under 4s. The poster features the word "Jellybeans" in large, colorful letters. Below it, it says "Jellybeans sessions for under 4s" and "10am to 11am". The location is "in the school hall at Eccleston St. Mary's CE Primary School". There are icons for "Stories" and "songs". The text "Every Thursday" is in a green box. Below that, it says "Children must be accompanied by an adult". There is a price tag for "£2 per family" and a green cup icon with "Refreshments will be served". At the bottom, it says "Please share this information with other families in the village." The poster is decorated with various colorful jellybean characters.



# St Mary's School Open Days



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

**Friday 8th November**                      **9.30am to 11.00am**

**Tuesday 3rd December**                **1.30pm to 3.00pm**

During these sessions 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.**

We look forward to welcoming you. No booking is required, please just turn up.

**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY**



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

**School transport** 

Need transport to school? Please don't forget to check your eligibility for free transport. Search 'school transport' at [lancashire.gov.uk](http://lancashire.gov.uk) or scan the QR code.



**Lancashire County Council** 

**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS SECONDARY**



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

**School transport** 

Need transport to school? Please don't forget to check your eligibility for free transport. Search 'school transport' at [lancashire.gov.uk](http://lancashire.gov.uk) or scan the QR code.



**Lancashire County Council** 

# RAINBOW SPRINKLE DONUTS

Will be for sale on Thursday  
24th October at 3.20pm in  
the playground.

**£1 each**



**PLEASE NOTE THESE DONUTS CONTAIN ALLERGENS INCLUDING  
WHEAT, SOYA, DAIRY.**

**Prepared in open kitchen so cannot guarantee suitability for  
people with allergies**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

## CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

- U: Suitable for all ages
- PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them
- 12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references
- 15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above
- 18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

### FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

### PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

TOO SCARED?

### CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

### REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them: this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

### DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

### Meet Our Expert

John Insley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>



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