



# Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 14 | 13th December 2024

# SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Motto:**  
Believe & Achieve

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

## Prayer

Dear Lord

As we enter the last week of term, we give thanks for the fun and learning that has taken place. We are sorry for the times when we have not made very good choices. Please bless us all as we enjoy more performances and parties next week.

Amen

Please click to find out more  
about our school

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

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

John 10:10

## Cinderella Pantomime

We all had lots of fun at the pantomime this morning and there was even a special volunteer up on stage helping with the dancing!

Thank you to all of our extra helpers for accompanying us and giving up their time.



## Ice Cream Lunchtime!

There was lots of excitement and festive fun on Monday as **Martin's Whippy** came to school with free ice creams! Even Mr Gatefield gave them the seal of approval!

Thank you so much to **Martin's Whippy** for your time and generosity and for all you are doing in supporting **Derian House** and good luck with the remainder of your fundraiser!



## Open the Book

It was the turn of Year 5 to help tell our Open the Book story and, of course, it was the story of Jesus' birth that was shared.

We all enjoyed singing along with Little Donkey, Away in a Manger and Starry Night too.



## Winter Wonderland—Thank you!

What a fantastic time we had at our Winter Wonderland last Friday! We raised a grand total of **£1778.60!**

Even though the beginnings of Storm Darragh drove us inside, there was still a wonderful festive buzz around so thank you so much to everyone who came along and made it such a memorable occasion.



## Infant Nativity

What a treat we had in store when the Infants took to the stage this week to perform 'Honky Tonky Donkey' - a very original take on the Christmas Story. They spoke clearly and sang and danced with enthusiasm, resulting in a show that the whole audience loved. Anyone who was there will be humming the theme tune for weeks to come—what an earworm! Well done, Infants!



## Christmas Jumper Day

This year's Christmas Jumper Day has raised an incredible **£139.50** for the **Save the Children Appeal**.

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations for this worthy Charity.





## Carols in the Community

The Choir will be performing a special selection of Christmas songs and carols on Wednesday 18th December, outside Caffe Manna at the Carrington Centre. The children will be singing at 10.30 am. Please come and join us for this memorable festive tradition!



## Upcoming Dates

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)
Wednesday 18th December	10.30am	Choir Performing Carols at Caffe Manna (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)
<b>Friday 20th December</b>	<b>2.00 pm</b>	<b>School closes for Christmas</b>

## Letters Home

Whole School—Mrs Scard Retirement Letter

Whole School—GIFT Group Letter

## Sports and Social Clubs

Tuesday	Choir	3.20-4.15pm
Wednesday	Spanish Club-All Years	8.00-8.45am

**HOME START**  
Central Lancashire

**Dads & Male Carers Brunch Club**

Children and Family Wellbeing Service

**FREE**

Duke Street Family Hub  
(Duke St, Chorley, PR7 3DU)

Quality time & FUN  
With your Children  
0-11yrs

Saturday 1st Feb  
Saturday 1st March  
Saturday 5th April  
9.30am till 11.30am

**NO BOOKING NEEDED!**

**FREE BREAKFAST!**

Call **01257 516316**  
for more info

LANCASHIRE FAMILY HUB NETWORK

Lancashire County Council

**RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE**

Rainbow Hub will collect & recycle your real Christmas tree to save you time & hassle  
Collecting Friday 10th - Sunday 12th January 2025

To book your tree collection, please scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://www.rainbowhub.org>

We will be collecting trees in the following postcode areas:  
PR1, PR2, PR4, PR5, PR6, PR7, PR8, PR9, PR25, PR26, WN6, WN8, L39, L40, BL6

With thanks to our event sponsors:

fletchers group TMT YB

01704 823276 [rainbowhub.org](https://www.rainbowhub.org) [e.parish@rainbowhub.org](mailto:e.parish@rainbowhub.org)

**RAINBOW HUB**  
Every day is a life changing day

Rainbow Hub,  
Salt Pit Lane, Mawdesley,  
Ormskirk, L40 2QX

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## Derian House

We are supporting Derian House Children's Hospice again this year by selling their Jolly Jingles. These will be on sale in the school office and cost £3.00 each.



## Admission to Primary School 2025 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.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2025 is 23.59pm on 15th January 2025.

**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.

**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.

**CLOSING DATE 15 JANUARY 2025**

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

Lancashire County Council

# ECCLESTON METHODIST CHURCH ANGEL FESTIVAL



## COME AND CELEBRATE

**Angel displays in Church**  
**Write a message of love on angel wings**  
**Angel Scavenger Hunt**  
**Angel craft stalls in the Church Hall**



## CHURCH OPEN

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 4pm**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 12.30pm – 4pm**

**Tickets Adults £3 each**

**Children FREE when accompanied by a paying adult**

**Refreshments Included**

**Tickets can be purchased from Eccleston Post Office, a member of our Church, or you can pay on the door.**



Eccleston Methodist Church, 10 Bradley Lane, Eccleston, PR7 5TQ

## South Ribble and Chorley Family Hub SEND Drop-in event

A drop-in session for parents, carers, professionals and anyone supporting a child or young person with a Special Educational Need and/or Disability or on the pathway. Meet services, groups and organisations supporting young people with SEND and find out about what support there is for children with additional needs.

Tea & coffee, hot chocolate and Christmas snacks provided. Christmas activities and quiet space available for children. Parking at the

Plus many more...

**West Paddock Family Hub, Leyland, PR25 1HR**  
**Date: 11th December 2024**  
**Time: 9.30am—12.30pm**

Adobe Stock #233955948

LANCASHIRE MUSIC SERVICE

# • SOUTH FOR THE WINTER •

DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> 2024  
 ST. MICHAEL'S C.E HIGH SCHOOL, PR7 1RS

JOIN LANCASHIRE MUSIC SERVICE FOR THEIR WINTER CELEBRATION IN THE SOUTH. FEATURING: LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS JAZZ ORCHESTRA, LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS CONCERT BAND & YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE, CHORLEY YOUNG VOICES, POP-INSPIRE, BRASS WIND PERCUSSION INSPIRE.

DOORS OPEN AT 2PM FOR 2.30PM START.

## LANCASHIRE MUSIC SERVICE Wind Instrument Petting Zoo

St. Michael's C.E High School, PR7 1RS

**14 DEC** 12PM - 2PM

Embrace your hidden or undiscovered musical talents! Come and try out a selection of wind instruments on the LMS Mobile Music Vehicle. Maybe you already play a wind instrument, but you are interested in trying one of our more exotic and endangered instruments? This is your chance!

The instrument petting zoo is open to any young person to try out a wind instrument. Come along between 12-pm and 2pm, and at 2.30pm enjoy a fantastic performance from the Lancashire County Jazz Ensemble, and Concert Bands.

LANCASHIRE MUSIC SERVICE  
 Lancashire County Council

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

### Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>