



# SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Motto:**  
Believe & Achieve

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

## Prayer

On Tuesday in our whole school Worship, Ben Green joined us and we talked about what the words of our school prayer actually mean and how we can act them out in real life.

O Lord,  
Bless our school, that working together, and playing together  
We may learn to serve you, and to serve one another  
For Jesus Sake

Amen

## ☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Maisie	
Reception	David	Neve
Year One	Henry	
Year Two	Peter	George
Year Three	Bodhi	Robert
Year Four	Elliott	Ben
Year Five	Sophia	Jacob
Year Six	Aoife	Thomas H

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

[LOSTOCK](#)

Please click to find out  
more about our school

[Facebook](#)

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

Phil 4:13

# Welcome Week



You are warmly invited to visit  
Eccleston St. Mary's CE  
Primary School and  
Little Explorers Nursery  
week commencing 9th October



**Monday Afternoon**

**1.30pm to 3.00pm**

**Tuesday Morning**

**9.00am to 10.30am**

**Wednesday Morning**

**9.00am to 10.30am**

**Thursday Afternoon**

**1.30pm to 3.00pm**



*Our school is a very special place where children are happy in their learning with endless exciting opportunities.*



For more information please email  
[bursar@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk)  
or phone 01257 451317

*At the heart of the community for 150 years*

## Welcome Week

Every year, at this time, we invite parents, who are considering sending their children to St. Mary's, to come and take a look at us in action.

This year, we would like to extend that invitation to all our current parents too.

Please do take this opportunity to see what your child gets up to on a typical school day and maybe consider bringing a friend, who doesn't know us yet, to have a look around.

Pupils from Y5 and Y6 are already preparing to be your tour guides and can't wait to show you round!

We look forward to seeing you some time during the week beginning 9th October ie **NEXT WEEK!**

## Yogi Day

Thank you so much to Mrs Gibson from the Yogi Group who introduced the whole school to Yoga on Monday. Each class enjoyed a guided session involving breathing techniques, fun and inspiring poses and mindfulness activities. It was a great way to start the week and here are some of our Year 3 pupils in action!



## Reception Class 'Stay and Play'

We welcomed our Reception parents for "Stay and Play" on Wednesday afternoon. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite activities with their special visitors!



## Reception—'Humpty Dumpty'

Reception class have been learning lots of nursery rhymes this week. A challenge they worked hard with was building a wall for Humpty Dumpty and trying to keep him sitting up straight on the top!



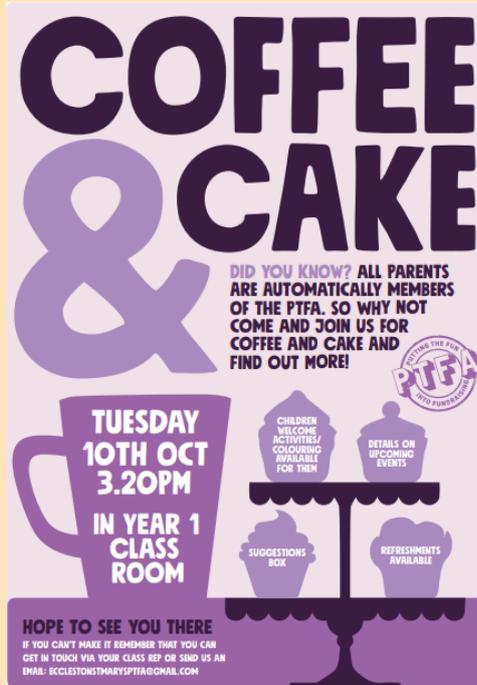
## Parents' Evening

Remember parents' evening is on Monday 16th October.



## PTFA Welcome Coffee & Cake

Please come and join the PTFA for Coffee and Cake on Tuesday 10th October at 3.20pm. Everyone Welcome!



**COFFEE & CAKE**

**DID YOU KNOW? ALL PARENTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS OF THE PTFA. SO WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CAKE AND FIND OUT MORE!**

**TUESDAY 10TH OCT 3.20PM IN YEAR 1 CLASS ROOM**

CHILDREN WELCOME ACTIVITIES/ COOKING AVAILABLE FOR TRISH

DETAILS ON UPCOMING EVENTS

SUGGESTIONS BOX

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE  
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN GET IN TOUCH VIA YOUR CLASS REP OR SEND US AN EMAIL: ECCLESTON12MARYSPPTFA@GMAIL.COM

PTFA  
PARENTS' TRUST FOR THE FUTURE

## Shoebboxes for Ukraine Appeal

Information was sent out about this worthy cause earlier this week. Please do try to support it if you possibly can.



**Chorley & District Support for Ukraine**

### Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2023

All year we have been working hard to send aid to Ukraine. This Christmas we are sending shoebox parcels of goodies so that people who have lost a lot during the conflict there, can have something for Christmas that might be useful and enjoyable. If you are able, please consider filling a wrapped shoebox of goodies and donating it to us at the 'Ukraine Unit' in Chorley town centre. The box and lid needs to be wrapped separately and closed with a rubber band around it. Please then label it to show if the contents are for a Girl, Boy, Man or Woman. If it is for a child, please also add the age group the parcel is appropriate for.

We will do the rest and make sure it gets to the people of Ukraine so they can enjoy during Christmas and the New Year.

Contents could include:  
gloves, scarf, hat, chocolate, sweets, toy, toiletries, etc... perhaps even a drawing or Christmas card ☺

\*Don't worry if you can't fill a box. If you donate what you can, we will make up the rest.

For more details, please follow our group on Facebook:  
**Chorley & District Support for Ukraine**  
Alternatively, please email: [sacieflow@yahoo.com](mailto:sacieflow@yahoo.com)

Please feel free to share this appeal with anyone or any group that you feel might be able to join with the effort.

Thank you for your support.  
Stuart A. Clewlow - Group Co-ordinator.

Please Note: We are also still accepting all other kinds of donations such as: clothing, shoes, blankets, toiletries, baby products, medical equipment, etc.

## School Photographer

The school photographer will be in to take individual and family photos on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Pupils with siblings not in school are welcome to come in from 8.30am to have their family photographs taken.



## Flu Immunisation Consent Form

Please remember to send your Flu consent forms back to school as



## Admission to Primary School 2024 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.



**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY**

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

School and Academy places September 2024

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024.

You must apply even if you also register your child at another school, or the child is already in your child's primary.

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

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

School transport  
Need transport to school?  
Please don't forget to check your eligibility for free transport.  
School transport enquirer at [lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:lancashire.gov.uk)

**CLOSING DATE 15 JANUARY 2024**

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

Lancashire County Council

## Calendar of Events

### October

Monday 9th October	8.00am	Judo Club
Monday 9th October	1.30pm	Welcome Week ( Please join us)
Tuesday 10th October	9.00am	Welcome Week (Please join us)
Tuesday 10th October	9.15am	Year 3 Bring Yer Wellies
Tuesday 10th October	3.20pm	PTFA Welcome Coffee & Cake ( In Y1—Please come along)
Tuesday 10th October	4.30pm	Spelling Bee Y5 & Y6 ( Tarleton Academy)
Wednesday 11th October	9.00am	Welcome Week (Please join us)
Wednesday 11th October	4.00pm	Girls Football League Y5 & Y6
Thursday 12th October	10.00am	Jellybeans
Thursday 12th October	1.30pm	Welcome Week (Please join us)
Monday 16th October	8.00am	Judo Club
Monday 16th October	All Week	Interfaith Week
Monday 16th October	2.00pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 17th October	9.10am	Open the Book
Wednesday 18th October	3.20pm	PTFA Doughnut Diner (Please come along)
Thursday 19th October	10.00am	Jellybeans
Thursday 19th October	2.30pm	Celebration Assembly
Thursday 19th October	3.20pm	School Closes for half-term
Friday 20th October	All Day	School Closed (Inset Day)

**SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR THE HALF-TERM HOLIDAY AT 3.20 PM ON THURSDAY 19th  
OCTOBER AND WILL RE-OPEN AT 8.45 AM ON MONDAY 30th OCTOBER**

Tuesday 31st October	8.30am	School Photos (Individual)
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### November

Wednesday 1st November	9am	Bags2School
Wednesday 1st November	9.15am	Year 5 Class Worship (Please join us)
Friday 3rd November	All Day	Victorian Day

## Calendar of Events

### November

Monday 6th November	All Day	150th Birthday Party Day
Thursday 9th November	3.30pm	PTFA AGM
Friday 10th November	10.45am	Remembrance Service (Please join us)
Tuesday 14th November	9.10am	Open the Book
Wednesday 15th November	10.00am	Nursery Visit to Library
Thursday 16th November	9.00am	Flu Vaccines
Friday 17th November	All Day	Children In Need Day
Friday 17th November	3.20pm	PTFA Movie Night
Monday 27th November	All Day	Inset Day (School Closed)
Tuesday 28th November	am / pm	Debt Awareness Y5 & Y6
Monday 4th December	10.00am	Journey to the Stable Y3 & Y 4
Tuesday 5th December	9.10am	Ben Green Worship
Friday 8th December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8th December	4.00pm	Winter Wonderland (Please join us)
Tuesday 12th December	8.20am	Prayer Stations in Class
Tuesday 12th December	9.10am	Open the Book
Wednesday 13th December	2.00pm	Junior Christmas Performance
Wednesday 13th December	6.00pm	Junior Christmas Performance
Thursday 14th December	2.00pm	Infant Christmas Performance
Thursday 14th December	6.00pm	Infant Christmas Performance
Friday 15th December	9.30am	Junior Christmas Performance
Monday 18th December	Lunch	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 19th December	All Day	Christmas Party Day
Wednesday 20th December	9.20am	Carol Service (Please join Us)
Wednesday 20th December	2.00pm	School Closes for Christmas

**SCHOOL reopens on Thursday 4th January**

## School website

We are in the process of making some exciting changes to our school website. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please bear with us—it will all be sorted very soon.

## Letters Home

Whole School—Headsup/JHD Counselling Services  
Whole School—Christmas Shoebox Appeal for Ukraine  
Whole school—PTFA Coffee and Cake  
Whole School—Calendar of Events

## Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtimes
Monday	Judo Club KS2	8.00-8.45am
Tuesday	Futsal KS1	3.20-4.20pm
Wednesday	Spanish Club Yrs1-6	8.00-8.50am
Wednesday	St Marys Singing Sensations	3.20-4.20pm
Thursday	Futsal KS2	3.20-4.20pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

## Weather

Now that the weather is starting to get a bit colder, and we've had a lot of rainy days, we would like to remind everyone to make sure children wrap up warmly and bring a coat to school. Thank you



**HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB!**  
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

**ECCLESTON ST MARYS C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
THE GREEN, ECCLESTON, CHORLEY, PR7 5TE

PRICE: £25 PER DAY OR £100 FOR FULL WEEK | 50% DISCOUNT FOR ANY EXTRA SIBLING  
1 WEEK COURSE RUNNING 23RD | 24TH | 25TH | 26TH | 27TH OCTOBER  
TIMES: 8:30AM – 4:00PM

BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE AT [WWW.JMCOACHINGACADEMY.CO.UK](http://WWW.JMCOACHINGACADEMY.CO.UK)  
OR SCAN QR CODE BELOW

**WHAT TO EXPECT**  
MULTI SPORTS GAMES | FOOTBALL | GOLF  
HANDBALL | DODGEBALL | BASKETBALL  
FRISBEE | FUTSAL | NETBALL | ATHLETICS  
GAMES | STRIKE & FIELD GAMES | CLASSIC  
HOLIDAY CLUB GAMES | AND MUCH MORE

FURTHER INFO CONTACT  
JORDAN: 07896030716

@JMCOACHINGACADEMY

## Secondary school admissions

If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary 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.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for secondary applications for September 2024 is 23:59 on 31 October 2023. For guidance on school transport see: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/school-transport/>.

Remember to check your preferred schools' websites for details of their Open Evenings.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as *The Traitors*, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

#### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

#### CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

#### GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

#### IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

#### CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

#### DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

#### AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

#### STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

#### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site *GameOn* and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including *IGN* and *TechRadar*.

