SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

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

Dear God,

During this time of Lent, help us to focus our hearts and minds on you. Help us to be kinder, looking for opportunities to help other people and to help the planet.

Help us to see this Lenten time as a time to draw closer to you, through our thoughts, our words and our actions.

In Jesus's name we pray.

Amen

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	**Margot**	**Luca**
Reception	**Charlotte**	
Year One	**Oscar**	
Year Two	**Isla**	
Year Three	**Arlo**	**George**
Year Four	**Bodhi**	
Year Five	**Holly**	**Macauley**
Year Six	**Alex Cr.**	**Reuben**

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

RIBBLE

Please click to find out more about our school

Facebook
Twitter

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

John 10:10

Pancake Day

As ever at St. Mary's, we really embraced Shrove Tuesday with a variety of pancake-related activities.

The favourites, of course, were racing with them and eating them!

My pancake is flat,

My pancake is yummy.

My pancake is scrummy,

But the best thing of all is putting it in my tummy!

**My Pancake
A Poem By
George Y3**

Parents' Evening

Please note for your diaries, Parents' Evening will be held on **Monday 31st March.** Bookings can be made through the School Spider App. More information to follow.

Parents Evening

Lost Property

We have an increasing amount of lost property in school including school uniforms, PE kits, trainers, coats, hats, gloves and more! Therefore, we will be holding a 'Claim Your Lost Property' session on the playground on **Friday 14th March, from 3.15pm - 3.30pm.** These items will then be moved indoors for Care Club parents to access for the rest of the evening. Any unclaimed items remaining after this time will be donated to charity.

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March

Paired Reading

Year 2 & 4

Year 3 & Year 1

Year 5 & Reception Class

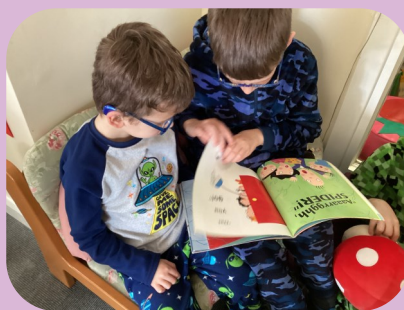# World Book Day - Thursday 7th March

Paired Reading

Year 6 & Little Explorers

Year 1

Year 1 loved paired reading with Year 3, dressing up in their pyjamas and creating planets as part of the Space book they enjoyed reading entitled "How to Catch a Star".

Year 2

Year 2 had a fantastic time making puppets of their favourite book characters and then creating puppet shows for the rest of the class to enjoy.

Little Explorers

Nursery had a lovely time in Forest School. They heard the story of Goldilocks and The Three Bears then had lots of fun having a coloured bear hunt.

We also took part in pancake activities with the whole school and World Book Day activities.

Carabao Cup Draw

Thank you so much to everyone who bought tickets in the raffle for Carabao Cup Final tickets.

Claudia drew the winning ticket this morning and the lucky winner has been informed.

Thanks to Mr Neary for providing the tickets and to all of you for taking part.

The raffle raised a phenomenal £960 for PTFA funds. Amazing!

Eccleston St Mary's
Church of England Primary School
Headteacher: Mrs J Birchall

VACANCY

Welfare Assistant Required ASAP

11.50 to 13.10
Permanent Position, Term Time Only, Foundation Living wage
£12 per hour

Please contact school for further details. Thank you

The Green, Eccleston, Chorley, Lancashire, PR7 5TE.   Telephone: 01257 451317
Email: head@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk   bursar@st-marys-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk
www.ecclestonstmarysceprimary.com

Upcoming Dates

Monday 10th March	All Day	Author Visit to school
Tuesday 11th March	1.15-8.50pm	Y3 Let's Go Sing
Wednesday 12th March	9.30am	Y5 Worship (St Mary's Church)
Friday 14th March	3.20pm	Uniform Amnesty
Monday 17th March	All Day	Coram Life Education
Tuesday 18th March	All Day	Coram Life Education
Tuesday 18th March	9.05am	Y5 Class Worship (Please join us)
Thursday 20th March	1.30-8.30pm	Primary Dance Competition (Blackburn Empire)
Thursday 27th March	4.00-5.30pm	Cluster Tag Rugby Y5/Y6 (Trinity & St Michaels)
Friday 28th March	9.05am	Y1 Class Worship (Please join us)

Letters Home

Whole School—Author Visit

Whole School—Home/School Communication Letter

Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtime
Tuesday	Multi Sports All Years	3.20-4.20pm
Tuesday	Choir—postponed for this week only	
Wednesday	Spanish Club-All Years	8.00-8.45am
Wednesday	Dance Rehearsals	3.20-4.15pm
Thursday	Girls Football	3.20-4.20pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®