



# SCHOOL NEWS

**Our Motto:**  
Believe & Achieve

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

## Prayer

As it's Mothering Sunday this week, we share a prayer for our mothers:

Dear God, thank you for our mums and all the people who care for us. Thank you for their love and kindness and all the support they give us.

We pray also for all children who have lost their Mum and Mums who have lost a child.

Please draw near to them at this time and surround them in your loving care.

In Jesus's name we pray.

Amen

## ☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Aspyn	Axton
Reception	Maisie	
Year One	Whole Class	
Year Two	Charlotte	Jaxon M.
Year Three	Olly	Mia
Year Four	Cassidy	Lola
Year Five	Francesca	Thomas B.
Year Six	Louie	Felix

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

**DOUGLAS**

WINNING HOUSE THIS TERM

**LOSTOCK**

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 enjoyed a visit to the library.

They listened to some stories, made a lovely craft and chose some books to bring back to school.



## Jellybeans

Jellybeans enjoyed an Easter session this week. They had an "eggciting" time in Forest School taking part in a chocolate Easter Egg hunt!!



## Pre-loved Uniform Sale

Our PTFA pre-loved uniform sale will be in the hall during Parents' Evening.

There will be an honesty box-please bring change.



### PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALE

Uniform will be on sale during parents' evening on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Please bring change as there will be an honesty box for payment. Thank you :)

*save money - help the environment - raise funds for school*



## Spring Watch

Saffron in Year 5 has produced a Spring Watch spotting sheet on behalf of the Eco Council.

She would like children and families to go out for a walk over the weekend or after school and try to spot some signs of Spring which are on her sheet.

The Eco Council would love to hear what children have found on their Spring watch walks!

Well done, Saffron and Happy Spotting, everyone!



## Year 1

Year 1 did incredibly well in their class worship this morning. They spoke clearly and were very brave to stand up in front of family, friends and the whole school. They gave lots of lovely ideas for how to say thank you to our mothers and the people who care for us this Mother's Day. Well done Year 1!



## Guitar Group

The guitarists have been practising to play for some of the classes next week. They are so excited to perform for everyone!



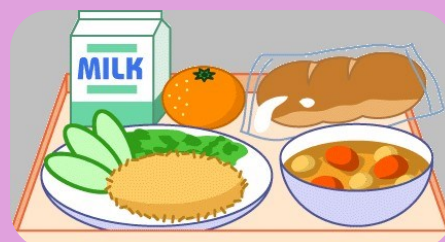
## Tag Rugby

Massive congratulations are in order for the Year 6 tag rugby team who came second overall in their tournament on Thursday night! They competed against local schools and were just 2 points behind the winners. The whole team showed excellent sportsmanship and they gave their all in each of the matches. Overall, they scored 16 tries - an excellent achievement across 4 games. Go Team St Mary's!



## School Lunches

We have been notified by Lancashire County Council that, due to ever rising costs, the price of school dinners will increase in April to **£2.90**.



This rise will take effect after the Easter holidays. A Spring/Summer menu will also be introduced when we return to school after Easter, with some delicious and nutritious new meals. A paper copy of the new menu will be coming home with your child next week. This can also be found on our website.

## Parents' Evening

Remember, Parents' Evening is on **Monday 31st March**. Please book your appointment on the School Spider App, if you haven't already done so!



## Eccleston County Cricket Club

Eccleston CC have launched their Allstars & Dynamos programmes for 2025. Allstars is for children aged 5-8 years of age, Dynamos for children aged 8-11. Please see the links for more information.



Allstars: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Book/bc67f68c-c67a-4e81-8fbf-3fbe09584466?venue=eccleston>

Dynamos: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Book/3a396ba9-e082-42a3-9152-c692f594b80b?venue=eccleston>

## Upcoming Dates

Monday 31st March	2.00-7.00pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 1st April	9.05-9.30am	Open the Book
Wednesday 2nd April	All Day	Y5 Trip to Liverpool Cathedral
Thursday 3rd April	All Day	Hannah's Dance for Joy
Friday 4th April	9.00-10.00am	Easter Service (Please Join Us)

**School Closes at 2.00pm on Friday 4th April for the Easter Holidays  
Remember there will be no Care Club on this day!**

**School Reopens at 8.45am on Tuesday 22nd April**

Wednesday 23rd April	4.00-6.00pm	Orienteering Y5/Y6 (Astley Park)
Thursday 24th April	2.00-3.00pm	Compass Bloom Y6
Wednesday 30th April	8.50-10.40am	YR Worship at Church
Thursday 1st May	4.00-6.00pm	Netball Y5/Y6 (Holy Cross)

**Monday 5th May School Closed for Bank Holiday**

## Letters Home

Year 4 Parents' Evening—Letter      Whole School Staffing—Letter  
Y6 Tag Rugby Tournament—Letter

## Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtime
Tuesday	Multi Sports All Years	3.20-4.20pm
Tuesday	Choir	3.20-4.15pm
Wednesday	Spanish Club-All Years	8.00-8.45am
Thursday	Girls Football	3.20-4.20pm
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

## Could You Become a Home Start Volunteer?

- Do you or a family member have 2-3 hours per week to spare?
- Do you have parenting experience or experience with children?
- Do you want to give something back to our local community?
- Do you have skills, knowledge or talents that could benefit another family in need of support?

If so get in touch today about volunteering with Home-Start Central Lancashire

### Available Roles

**In-Home Support Volunteer:** Providing hands on support within the family home over a 12 week period to work towards aims and goals. Full training is provided.

**Social Media Content Volunteer:** We are looking for a talented social media content writer to enhance our social media platforms and to engage with followers.

**Befriending Volunteers:** to offer telephone companionship to families in the local area, who have been identified as requiring support.

**Administration Volunteers:** To assist the office manager and family support team, answer calls and administration duties

Get in touch with us



[volmanager@homestartcentrallancs.org.uk](mailto:volmanager@homestartcentrallancs.org.uk)



01257 241636

### Volunteer Qualities

- Must be over 18 years old to volunteer
- Have a positive attitude and a caring nature
- Good communication and interpersonal skills
- Passionate about supporting, enabling and empowering people who are vulnerable, isolated or in need of support
- Have a non-judgemental attitude to working with people of any, gender, family status, sexual identity, ethnic origin, culture, religion or disability.
- You must understand that some of our families are vulnerable, and it would be an advantage if you had an awareness of key issues such as alcohol, drug abuse and mental health; however, this is not a compulsory requirement as training is provided.
- You must always apply the strictest confidence with regard to the sensitivity of those that you are supporting.
- You must be able to provide a clear DBS, if you do not have a current certificate this can be applied for.

### Training and on going support for volunteers

Volunteers are thoroughly trained and supported before and during their time supporting families. You can expect:

- Self-directed and instructor-led induction program training, that is delivered both online and in person.
- Ongoing training in specific areas including trauma-informed practice, domestic violence, abuse, and attachment theory.
- Annual refresher training to ensure you are up to date with all statutory requirements
- Regular support and supervision sessions with an experienced family support coordinator
- Paid expenses when you complete your training and are actively supporting a family within their home

**Areas we cover:** Chorley, Preston, South Ribble and West Lancashire



To find about volunteering or to complete an expression of interest please scan the QR code which will take you to our website.

**TUESDAYS STARTING 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL**

# FREE BABYSENSORY CLASSES!

**10.00 - 10.35**

**BABYBELLS**  
join your baby on a sound journey and sensory treasure play!

0-6 months

**10.45 - 11.20**

**BABYBEEPS**  
BIG puppet and colour fun!  
speech and language development

6+ months

First session free then £6.50 thereafter

scan here to book

contact: [rebecca.brook@hartbeeps.com](mailto:rebecca.brook@hartbeeps.com) Sessions taking place at:  
[bursar@st-marys-ecleston.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@st-marys-ecleston.lancs.sch.uk) Eccleston St Marys' CE Primary School  
The Green PR75TE

## EASTER 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  
2 WEEK COURSE RUNNING APRIL 7TH | 8TH | 9TH | 10TH | 11TH | 14TH | 15TH | 16TH | 17TH  
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

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP



With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

### NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

### INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

### TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

### DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

### ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

### RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.



### LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.



### ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.



### KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.



## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>



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