



Eccleston St Mary's
C of E Primary School

Newsletter 30 | 9th May 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:

Believe & Achieve

Our Mission Statement:

Through Jesus we love, learn and grow

A prayer for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day (8th May 2025)

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those men and women
who have died in active service,
particularly in the Second World War,
whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.

Amen.

As we honour their courage
and cherish their memory,
may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope
now and forever.

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery	Charlotte	Archie G.
Reception	Everley	
Year One	Alexander	Archie
Year Two	Charlotte	Henry
Year Three	Eleanor	Pippa
Year Four	Starssi	Zach
Year Five	Annie	Saffron
Year Six	Monty	Thomas F.

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

DOUGLAS

Please click to find out more
about our school

[Facebook](#)
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'I came to give life - life in all
its fullness.'

John 10:10

Open the Book

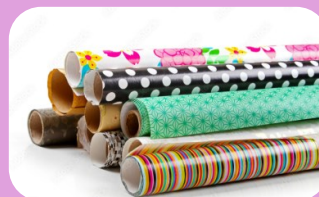
Thank you, once again, to the Open the Book team, who joined us this week to tell us about the times when Jesus appeared to his friends after Easter. They were ably assisted by pupils from Y4, who made excellent disciples! We love our Open the Book Worships and look forward to their next visit.



Arts Week—19th-23rd May

Plans are well underway for this year's Arts Week and we'd be really grateful if you could help us out by collecting any old newspapers, magazines, wrapping paper, cards etc. and sending them in to school.

It promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable week, which will culminate in a special assembly on Friday 23rd May at 2.15pm. We'd love to see as many of you there as possible so we hope you'll be able to join us.



Joyfest for Hannah Summer Fair—27th June

If you would like to help plan our 'Joyfest for Hannah', please come along to a planning meeting in school on Thursday 15th May at 3.25pm. Everyone welcome!

If you are unable to attend but have any good ideas or would like to offer to help, please contact Mrs Mellor in Little Explorers or email the school office : a.kent@st-mary-eccleston.lancs.sch.uk Thank you!



Little Explorers

If your child would like to start our Little Explorers Nursery in September, please remember to contact our school office, so that their name can be added to our list.

You can find more information regarding fees, how to apply and a booking form on our website at:

www.ecclestonstmarysprimary.com/page/little-explorers

Year 6 Orienteering Team

Two weeks ago, our Year 6 Orienteering team took part in the Chorley Sports Partnership OAA competition.

In pairs, they went off into Astley Park with a map and had to find and collect all the controls and return to the starting point in the shortest time.

Out of 15 schools competing, our St Mary's team WON, for the second year in a row! Their teamwork and determination shone through and certainly paid off in the end.

Go Team St Mary's!



Reception Class

Thank you to all the Reception parents who came to join us this morning for our SODA (Shared Start of the Day Activity).

We enjoyed showing you around our classroom and completing a range of different challenges. We loved creating flowers using paper plates for our garden topic this half term.



Upcoming Dates

Monday 12th May	All Week	SATS Week
Thursday 15th May	All Day	School Census Day
Thursday 15th May	All Day	Science Festival Y5 (UCLAN)
Thursday 15th May	4.00-6.00pm	Netball Y6 (Holy Cross)
Friday 16th May	9.00am	SODA Y1
Monday 19th May	All Week	Arts Week
Tuesday 20th June	4.00-6.00pm	Golfways Y3/Y4 (Holy Cross)
Thursday 22nd May	4.00-6.00pm	Netball Y6 (Holy Cross)
Friday 23rd May	2.15 pm	Celebration Assembly

School Closes on Friday 23rd May for Half Term and re-opens on Monday 2nd June

Wednesday 4th June	All Day	Y1 & Y2 Trip—Martin Mere
Thursday 5th June	4.30-9.30pm	New Intake Meeting (Bishop Rawstorne)
Friday 6th June	9.45am	Junior Sports Day
Friday 6th June	2.00pm	Infant Sports Day

Letters Home

Half Term Holiday Club Flyer—All Years	Chester visit—Y4
Nursery & YR Trip to Windmill Farm—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

SODA Sessions

Our start of the Day activity sessions will be starting again each **Friday** (8.50—9.20 am) from the 9th May. The schedule of dates for each class is as follows:

Year 1 16th May

23rd May—no session because of Arts Week.

6th and 13th June—no sessions because of Sports Day and Reserve Sports Day

Year 2 19th June—Please note the change from Friday to Thursday

Year 3 27th June

Year 4 4th July

Year 5 11th July

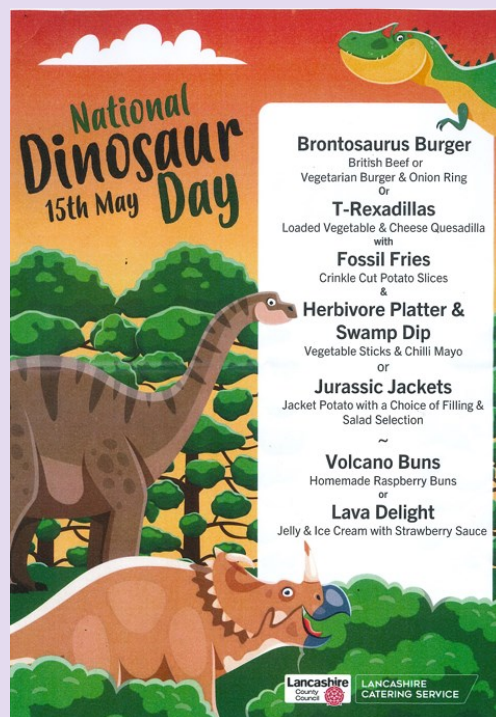
Year 6 - Y6 will look forward to welcoming their family and friends into school for the End of Year Play and Leavers' Assembly during the last week of term (15th and 17th July, respectively.)

School Census Meal

Our next school census meal is on Thursday 15th May. The money the school receives from the government to pay for the infant school meals is based on an average of the number of meals taken on census days.

It would really help us if your child were to have a school meal on this day.

To encourage children to join us for lunch, we are offering a special menu with some lunchtime favourites.



Early Years Playground

Our early years staff would greatly appreciate any donations of bark chippings to replace the bark in our Little Explorers playground. Thank you.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



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