



Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 3 | 19th September 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto: Believe & Achieve Our Mission Statement: Through Jesus we love, learn and grow

Prayer

Father God.

We thank you for the gift of our friends and classmates. We are so grateful to be able to play and share together. At times, we know we may not be the best version of a friend that we can be. Help us to have patience and show kindness to others

Amen

☆☆☆ SHINING STARS ☆☆☆

Nursery **Ellis** Reception Elijah Aspyn Year One Luna **Year Two** Ruairi **Archie Year Three** Maisie **Year Four Austin** Teddy A. **Year Five** Violet Harry Year Six Tilly **Amy**

WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

RIBBLE

Please click to find out more about our school

Facebook Twitter

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

> > Phil 4:13

Open the Book

It was lovely to welcome the Open the Book team back into school for the first time this year. They performed the story of Moses in the bulrushes, with the help of Year 1, who did a fantastic job of playing their parts.

We look forward to seeing the team again soon!



Little Explorers

This week ,Little Explorers have been focusing on colours. They were very excited to go on a colour hunt around school and found lots of different colours! Later in the week they did a colour experiment with some skittles and explored colour mixing and how colours change.

They were very surprised when it turned into a rainbow!









Reception

Reception Class have been learning about colour mixing this week. We found out that the primary colours are red, blue and yellow. We loved painting our hands two different colours and we soon discovered the new secondary colour they made by rubbing our hands together. Finally, we loved creating our own handprint pictures.







Exciting New Reads for KS2!

We're thrilled to share a snapshot of our KS2 children enjoying our *brand new reading books*, which have already made a huge impact in our classrooms! These fantastic resources have been generously funded by our wonderful PTFA – **thank you so much for your continued support**.

With a wide range of genres now available, from gripping adventures and laugh-out-loud comedies to heartwarming stories and thrilling mysteries, our pupils are enjoying a rich and varied "reading diet." It's been wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm growing, as children explore new stories, recommend books to friends, and dive into their next reading adventure.

Book talk is alive and well at school, and it's lovely to hear the lively discussions happening around favourite characters, unexpected plot twists, and "must-read" titles.

Thank you again to the PTFA – you've helped spark a real buzz around reading!





Charity Walk-Hannah's Memorial Garden

Local company, Heyes Boilers and Heating, are planning a sponsored walk and would like to donate all the proceeds to Hannah's Memorial Garden Fund. Details of the walk can be found on the leaflet, which was sent out earlier this week.

Please scan the QR code if you would like to sponsor them or visit their JustGiving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/heyes-boilers?utm_medium=CR&utm_source=CL

They would be delighted to have members of our school community join them on the walk so if you'd like more information please contact Rachel McGoff or the school office. Thank you.



St Mary's School Open Days

You are warmly invited to come along to our school open days.

The evening session (2nd October) will be an opportunity to see the school environment and talk with staff and governors.

In addition, during the following two sessions (7th November and 1st December) you will be able to visit each of our classrooms whilst lessons are in progress and speak, not only to staff, but to the pupils too.

Staff and governors will be on hand to guide you around and answer any queries you may have. Mrs Birchall, our headteacher, will also be available to speak to you, should you have anything you wish to discuss.

We look forward to showing you around our wonderful school!



Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 24th	4.00-6.00pm	Y6 Girls Football League (Parklands)
Thursday 25th September	4.00-6.00pm	Y5/6 Boys Football League (Holy Cross)
Friday 26th September	8.45-9.15am	SODA Y6
Thursday 2nd October	All Day	School Census
Thursday 2nd October	4.30-6.00pm	Open Evening
Friday 3rd October	9.30-10.30am	Harvest at St Mary's Church
Monday 13th October	8.00am	School Photographs
Friday 17th October	8.45-9.15am	SODA Y5* (please note the change of date)
Monday 20th October	2.00-7.00pm	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 21st October	9.05-9.30am	Open the Book
Thursday 23rd October	1.30-2.30pm	Y2 Fire Safety Talk
Friday 24th October	2.00pm	Celebration Assembly (Please join Us)

School Closes for Half Term on Friday 24th October at 3.20pm and re-opens on Monday 3rd November at 8.45 am.

Letters Home

Whole School—PTFA Christmas Card Design Template

Sports and Social Clubs

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



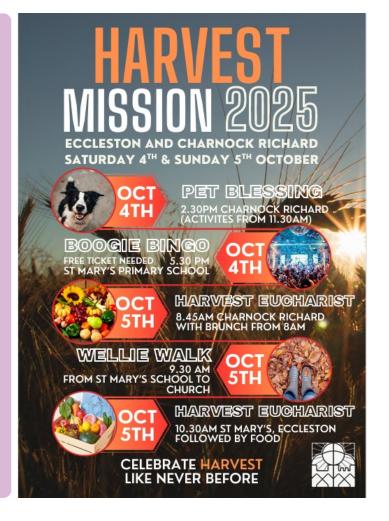


Boogie Bingo

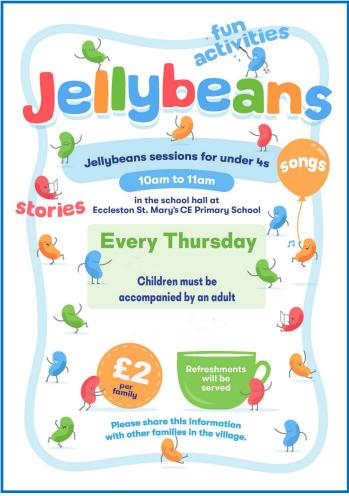
Tickets are still available for the church's Boogie Bingo on Saturday 4th October. Tickets are free but you will require a ticket to attend. There is no limit per family.

https://tinyurl.com/dtp6pvad













What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEO

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narrotives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM **TRAPS**

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify

MENTAL HEALTH

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, o particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

I WANT TO BELIEV

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

72 Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintai ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.



Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care

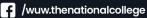


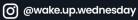


National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories









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