



# Newsletter – WC 23rd September 2024

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

– Philippians 4:13



**A massive St John's well done to all our Silverdale Stars this week.**

**Curlews' Class - Patrick**

For some amazing writing about the little red hen, but with an alternative ending!

**Bittern's Class – Seb**

For self-regulating throughout the day. Well done for getting on GOLD!

**Harriers' Class – Solomon**

For writing an excellent legend in English

## Forest School

The children have all settled well into new classroom routines over the last few weeks, so we can therefore restart our forest school sessions, next half term. Class teachers will send out details of kit nearer the time.

## Outdoor Education

We will be taking the children on outdoor education trips in the spring term. It is looking likely that it will be WC 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Please look out for letters next week.

They will run as follows...

Nursery and Reception Day 1

Year 1 and Year 2 – Day 2

Year 3 and Year 4 – Day 3 and 4

The year 3/4 trip will be an overnight residential.

## Lunches

**Week 1 WC 30.09.24**



## School applications

The application process for both secondary and primary school places for September 2025 is now open. To apply use this online form, please [click here](#). Secondary applications close on 31st October 2024 and Primary applications close on 15th January 2025

## Poetry Day

All children are encouraged to join in with this, writing or reciting a poem and sharing it in a creative and imaginative way... actions, expression, rhythm, rhyme and props. Learning it off-by-heart is also encouraged. All classes will be learning a poem to perform together on the day too.

This is a 'House Team' competition and everyone who enters gains house points for their team. There are also prizes awarded to each year group as well as 'special effort/outstanding performance' prizes. We have a cracking line up of VIP judges this year who can't wait to see what we can do!

Parents, grandparents and friends of the school are very welcome to attend –we will provide cups of tea and biscuits at the interval!

Support your child by helping them to choose a poem/rhyme, practise it at home and prepare to perform on Thursday 3rd October. Please email Miss Sanderson to inform us of their choice so that we can prepare a running order for judges by Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## FOSS

Please read the FOSS Autumn update that was sent out on Wednesday, with all the exciting fundraising events that are happening this term. You can read the update [here](#). Please, please sign up and help wherever you can. ALL parents/carers are part of FOSS. It isn't just a select few.

## Mathletics

A new year, means a new start with Mathletics. Well done to all children that received certificates last year! For information, Mathletics certificates are now included within the annual data reset. This year, the data reset took place on Monday 29th July 2024. This means that certificate achievement levels are reset, so that children start from Bronze again. The idea is to improve motivation and engagement across the Mathletics community. Any certificates awarded during the 2023-2024 school year will still be accessible in the Teacher and Student Centres.

The words of Jesus: Our Christian Value this week is Thankfulness



A book about a famous person	A book with no pictures	A comic book	A book with more than 10 chapters	A magazine
A book with more than 100 pages	Your favourite book	A book with a character just like you	A non-fiction book	A book about the environment
A book about space exploration	A fairy tale with an unexpected ending	Free space	Your parent/carer's favourite book	A book that is part of a series
A book about a journey	A news article	A book about weather	A book about an invention	A book set in another country
A book with beautiful illustrations	A book about a natural disaster	A book by your favourite author	A funny book	A book based on a fable

Try this reading Bingo game or design your own version. How many can you cross off?

## Fashion Show

The Friends of St John's have a fundraising fashion show with Kitty Brown on Thursday **24th October at the Institute**. Diane Smillie is asking for models and help with selling tickets. If you can support (money raised goes to school and church) Please can you email Miss Sanderson on head@silverdale.lancs.sch.uk

## Morecambe Bay Day

This year marks 250 years since the words 'Morecambe Bay' appeared on a map! To mark the occasion, schools are being invited to celebrate a special 'Morecambe Bay Day'. By taking part, our school will be helping to raise money for local charities Morecambe Bay Partnership and Bay Search and Rescue who help people, nature & heritage around Morecambe Bay.

## Open Day

We are excited to announce that we are holding an open day for existing and prospective parents on **Tuesday 15th October**. There will be three 'tours' throughout the day. **09:30, 10:45 and 13:30**. Our School Council will be helping show case our wonderful school. Please spread the word about open day to anyone you think might be interested.

## Class Blog

It's Harriers' this week! Click [here](#) for an insight to a week in the life of being a Harrier!

## Next Week...

**PUPIL PROGRESS MEETINGS THIS WEEK**  
 01.10.24 – Chocolate and Chat with Year 7  
 02.10.24 – Miss Sanderson to see school adviser  
 03.10.24 – Poetry day in school 0915 in the hall  
 04.10.24 – Harvest Festival in church 0930  
 05.10.24 – GROUNDS DAY 1000-1200. Bacon Butties provided  
 CHECK THE SCHOOL [WEBSITE CALENDER](#) FOR FUTURE DIARY DATES

## Harvest

As always at this time of year, we are collecting produce for the food bank in Morecambe. A box will be in the foyer for the next two weeks.

Please can we have your non perishables, in particular

Tinned chicken meals.

Biscuits.

Tinned Ravioli.

Tinned Steak meal.

Cereal.

Toothpaste.

Toothbrushes.

Tinned Macaroni Cheese.

**Please come and join us for our Harvest festival at St John's church at 09:30 on Friday 4th October. All welcome.**



## Friday Thought

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

## Parent Meetings

These will take place just after half term.  
 Harriers will be on the 5th November  
 Bitterns will be on the 6th November  
 Curlews on the 7th November.  
 Letters will go home nearer the time.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about LEGO FORTNITE

Epic Games have recently introduced three new game modes to Fortnite: Rocket Racing, Fortnite Festival and, finally, Lego Fortnite: a survival game using official Lego characters. There are lots of great mechanics that encourage creativity in children, but – as with any online game – it's important to stay aware of the potential risks.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MONETISATION

Lego Fortnite utilises a similar online item shop to the main Fortnite game. When this title was released, the makers introduced thousands of Lego versions of the original game's character skins. While these character skins have remained the same price, this piece of downloadable content effectively doubled the cosmetics available, creating even more opportunities to spend real money on these in-game accessories.

### ONLINE PLAY

Just like Fortnite itself, Lego Fortnite can be played online against other people. Players can invite anyone to play with them, so there's always a chance of strangers (including much older ones) ending up on a child's server. Thankfully, Epic Games has implemented a solid reporting system, as well as tools to kick other players from the game.

### FEAR FACTOR

There is no explicit violence in Lego Fortnite, but there is a lot of combat. While the battles in Lego Fortnite remain very cartoonish and child-friendly, a lot of the action unfolds inside dark caves, with spiders, skeletons or scary-looking monsters. The game can get a little spooky at times, which could potentially scare younger players.

### COMPLEX GAMEPLAY

Lego Fortnite is a survival game, though it's not as simple as something like Minecraft. There are lots of different crafting stations and loads of items to use or combine (including various rarities to seek out and harvest). The gathering and crafting elements of the game can get quite complicated and confusing, which could be a source of frustration for some younger players.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEGO IS FRIENDLY

Much like real Lego, this game is incredibly inviting. It's friendly, fun and accessible: a younger player could still enjoy this title even if they'd never played Fortnite before. With sanitised violence, it's a far more family-friendly gaming experience all round – worth bearing in mind if you're concerned about children and young people being exposed to violent or frightening content.

### PLAY TOGETHER

Parents could take some time to have fun playing the game with their child. Besides helping with some of the more complicated tasks, playing with family members also reduces the need for younger players to find strangers to enjoy the game with. Playing Lego Fortnite with a child also lets parents control the length of gaming sessions. Instead of "switch it off", parents can now say "let's play some more later!"

### SET LITTLE CHALLENGES

As we've noted, the game is a lot more difficult than it may seem, which could be frustrating or upsetting for some younger players. While the game does a good job of setting realistic targets for players, it can still feel overwhelming. If parents suggest smaller challenges – such as building a house – children can flex their creativity, express themselves with their builds and feel a real sense of accomplishment.

### MONITOR SPENDING

As with the main version of Fortnite, it's worth parents staying aware of how much a child is spending on V-Bucks, the in-game currency. It can be a temptation for young players to buy character skins in Lego form, as a way of expressing themselves and making their characters look cool and unique. As these digital skins tend to cost between £8 and £18, outlay can add up very quickly if it's not tracked and limited.

### Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality, augmented reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and V0247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



#WakeUpWednesday

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