



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

### **Curlews – Seb**

For amazing story mapping on World Book Day and being a great friend to everyone.

Well done Seb!

### **Bitterns – George**

For being so much more confident in talking about his feelings and the feelings of others.

### **Harriers – Seb**

For bringing energy and fun to our class and for trying your best in every lesson. Well done Seb!



## Spring Horticultural Show

Horticultural/Spring Flower show, with a lot of crafts. It's in the Gaskell Hall on the 12th April this year. It's one of the few events in the village which involves all age groups, from 18 months to 100+, all can take part, and there are prizes and trophies to be won and there are no costs involved to enter. All the school children take part and their entry is presented in the Gaskell Hall, which is open for all to view between 2pm and 4pm on the Saturday afternoon. The children will be bringing home a printed programme next week, and you will see that there are other classes that are open to them as individuals. Different classes for different age groups, with topics ranging from drawing and painting, to creating a miniature garden. Prize money is presented at the show, but sadly not later. Prize cards will be presented at school if your child cannot attend on the Saturday afternoon. There will be lots of flowers and brilliant crafts on display created by people in the village. The children will have their own Mini schedule, however parents and grandparents are really welcome to take part, and there will be larger schedules available in the co-op and the butchers from the weekend.

Any queries please contact Ruth  
Ruth.livesey123@gmail.com



## Rock and Roll Supper Dance

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March – 7pm till 10pm.

Tickets are available from the school office, the chemist, the Co-op and the Newsagents

Remember all proceeds will go towards the school playground equipment, and also (as we think even longer term), a school minibus.

It will be a lovely community event.

The minutes of the last committee meeting, can be found [here](#) on the website. There will

be a dance lesson from 7-8pm. Invite as many people as you can. It is going to be

FUN, FUN, FUN!!!

## OFSTED

OPEN CONSULTATION: IMPROVING THE WAY OFSTED INSPECTS EDUCATION Ofsted are asking parents, carers, professionals and learners what they think about the proposals to improve education inspections and new report cards for providers. The consultation closes at 11.59pm on 28 April 2025. Tell Ofsted what you think:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ofsted2025>

## Mathletics



Well done to Marnie for getting her first 'first' bronze award. Don't forget to help children log on to their Mathletics account, if they haven't done so already. Mathletics is a fantastic resource – one that consolidates learning in class and supports children at home.

## Friday Thought

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.

—Psalm 119:1

## Curriculum Overviews

Curriculum overviews for this half term, are now available to read on the website. Your child should have brought a paper copy home too. [Curlews](#) [Bitterns](#) [Harriers](#)

# Newsletter – WC 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

– Philippians 4:13

## Reading Corner



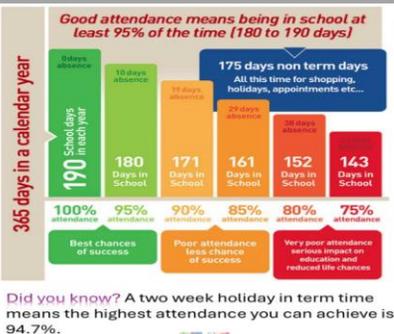
As part of our commitment to developing a culture of reading for pleasure and a lifelong love of reading, we are excited to announce that your child will be participating in Accelerated Reader, as from September. This is a program which aims for all children to experience success in achieving their reading goals.

A guide will be shared with parents in the summer term. But for now, we need books! If you have any books on the [AR book list](#), and you no longer want them, then please bring them into school. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Miss Sanderson (English lead) or visit the Accelerated Reader website at [www.renlearn.co.uk](http://www.renlearn.co.uk).

## World Book Day

Congratulations to Patrick Partington, Seb Barclay and Marnie Lethbridge. You were voted the 'most creative dressers' as part of World Book Day celebrations yesterday. The children were presented with a £10 book voucher in worship this morning.

## Attendance



A note will be going home this week to support you in tracking your child's attendance in school.

## Recruitment

There is an opportunity for someone to come and join our wonderful school family, working with our extraordinary staff and children. Click [here](#) to find out more

## Class Blog

Its Bitterns' class Blog this week. Click [here](#) to see a day in the life of a Bittern!

## Next week in school...

- 10.03.25 – Interim reviews - teaching staff
  - 10.03.25 – Mrs Tetchner EYFS cluster meeting
  - 11.03.25 – Speech and language specialist in
  - 11.03.25 – Miss Jackson maths meeting
  - 13.03.25 – Miss S HT briefing
  - 13.03.25 – Bitterns High Borrans parent meeting 15:30
  - 14.03.25 – Ian Ellershaw worship
- Please don't forget to check the [online calendar](#) for future events

## Attendance

A huge 'well done' to Harriers this week.

Curlews	86.9
Bitterns	94.6
Harriers	97.3
Average school	93.3

## SEND survey

If you are a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), or a parent carer, Lancashire County Council want to hear from you. They have created two surveys to help understand what is important to you so that they can work more effectively with you. One is for children and young people, the other for parent carers. Filling in the survey won't take too long, and you can ask someone to help you to fill it in if you like. Click [here](#) to access

## Millhead Dynamos Fundraiser

Millhead Dynamos U10s are raising money for CancerCare North Lancashire and South Cumbria. Some parents are running the 55 mile Limestone round as a relay team. The QR code to sponsor them, is attached to this newsletter. Please support this wonderful cause and get involved. Their target is £1000!

## Lunches

Week 3 WC 10.03.25



# 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.



The National College®



# Millhead Dynamos U10's fundraiser for CancerCare North Lancashire & South Cumbria

*The parents from the Millhead Dynamos U10 team will be undertaking the challenge of the 55 mile Bay Limestone Round as a relay team. Please help us raise much needed funds for CancerCare.*



Help us reach our £1,000 target!

Make a donation with **JustGiving**

# ROCK N' ROLL

**SUPPER DANCE**  
**15TH MARCH | 7-10PM**

**£20**  
per adult  
kids go free

Dance Lesson  
Pie & Peas Supper  
Fun for all the Family  
Bar Serving Drinks

