

Newsletter – WC 8th September 2025

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 - AXEL

For fantastic work in Maths and always bringing happiness to our class. Amazing effort Axel!

Bitterns' class - MOLLY

For an excellent start to Year 4. Molly is learning ready and has improved her handwriting – well done!

Harriers' class - FINLEY

For making a great start in Year 6. He's put a lot of effort in to all of his work. Keep it up Finley!

Meet the Teacher

Meet the teacher is on **Wednesday 17th September**. Miss Sanderson will be sharing the headlines of data, all the new initiatives we have put in place and sharing the school improvement plan for this year. Class teachers will then be available to talk about routines for class for this academic year. **The time slots are 17:00-17:20 with Miss Sanderson in the hall, and then each teacher will hold a 17:20-17:40 and a 17:40-18:00 slot.**

Westmorland Show

Harriers' class had a fantastic day yesterday. It rained and we got VERY muddy. But it was smiles all round for nearly 5 hours. Food, fun, and lots of furry things to take photos of. Thankyou to Beetham school again for loan of their minibus.

Vacancies

https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=66320

Check out this opportunity to work in school

Fair Trade Fortnight

It's Fairtrade Fortnight, starting 22nd September to the 5th October 2025
The theme for Fairtrade Fortnight 2025 this year is "Brew it Fair," which centres on supporting tea farmers facing the impacts of the climate crisis and rising costs by encouraging people to host tea parties, learn about ethical sourcing, and call for change in the tea industry.

Our school council will be holding a tea party in school on Friday 26th September straight after the Harvest Service.

Sponsored run

This is the last opportunity to send sponsor money. We will be handing over the cheque to Growing Well on Friday 17th October.



Playground

It is with a heavy heart that we share that there has been another delay with this installation of the new play equipment and shelter. We have had some issues with planning. This will quickly be resolved, and will hopefully be done and finished this term, if not this half term.

Secondary Open Evenings

QES for year 6 on
11th 17th September – click [here](#) to book
Dallam for Year 5/6
18th 24th September – click [here](#) to book

Lunches

Week 3 WC 15.09.25



McMillan Coffee morning

Lorraine Greenall is holding a coffee morning at Gibraltar farmhouse on Friday 26th September at 10am . All welcome!

Newsletter – WC 8th September 2025

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

- Philippians 4:13



Welcome back to reading corner. We hope you have all had a lovely summer. Please see below some links to some brilliant return to school books that might inspire your child to read more:

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/blog/60brilliant-back-to-school-books-for-the-start-ofthe-new-term-6420>

Harriers' Brathay info evening

TONIGHT . The Brathay Hall residential information evening will be on **FRIDAY 12TH September at 15:30**. All welcome.

Accelerated Reader

The children have been doing their Star reader tests this week, ready to get their Zone of Proximal Development (their book level). They have enjoyed the assessments and are keen to get started – choosing a book at their level and reading it at their own pace. When finished, they will take a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood. There will be more information about Accelerated Reader at the Meet the Teacher evening.

PTA

We will be having a PTA meeting on **Tuesday night at the Silverdale hotel at 18:00**. Please come along. We will be talking about plans for the coming academic year and discussing fundraising opportunities. All welcome.

Class Blog

It's Curlews this week
<https://www.silverdale.lancs.sch.uk/2025/06/06/class-blogs/>

Next Week...

15.09.25– Mrs Hodgkinson and Mrs Kitchen spelling training
16.09.25 – Speech and Language therapist in school
16.09.25 – PTA Meeting 18:00. Silverdale Hotel
17.09.25 – Meet the Teacher evening 17:00
17.09.25 – QES Year 6 Open Evening 17:30
18.09.25 – Dallam Open Evening 17:00
CHECK THE SCHOOL [WEBSITE CALENDER](#) FOR FUTURE DIARY DATES

Harvest

We will be collecting for Morecambe Foodbank again this year, as we thank God for His provision and share it with others. The foodbank box is in the reception area. They desperately need UHT milk, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tinned meat meals, and long-life fruit juice. They also request instant mash, jam, peanut butter, tinned fish, biscuits, and pasta sauce to help create a three-day supply of non-perishable food for people in crisis. We will take all the food collected to church for the harvest service. Curlews and Bitterns will be leading this on Friday 26th September in church at 09:30. All welcome.

Mrs Forster

Our lovely Mrs Forster will be leaving us at the end of October. Mrs Forster has supported our children and staff for the past 2 years and has been a huge asset to school. Fortunately for her, she is looking forward to early retirement - seeing friends and 'being' for a while. We wish Mrs Forster well and thank her for her contributions to school. She will be sorely missed. If you would like to make a contribution to a leaving gift for Mrs Forster, then please see the office.

Friday Thought

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. —Romans 6:11-12

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

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 narratives 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 their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH 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.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

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

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.

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

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 to explain your answers and reasoning.

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, maintain 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.



The National College®

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