

Newsletter – WC 15th 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 - JAX

For your enthusiasm in English when exploring the story of Harry the Happy Mouse.

You are a superstar!

Bitterns' class - SCOUT

Excellent start to bitterns. Funky moves in music and brilliant bowling! So focussed!

Harriers' class - ALICE

Great start to Silverdale St John's. What a super friend and student you are!

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! All welcome to attend. Support your child by helping them to choose a poem/rhyme, practise it at home and prepare to perform on **Thursday 2nd October. Please email Miss Sanderson to inform us of their choice so that we can prepare a running order for judges by Tuesday 30th September**

Lunches

Week 1 WC 22.09.25



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.

Open Day

There will be an open day for existing and prospective parents on **Thursday 6th November**. 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.

PTA events

Thanks to those who attended on Tuesday at the Silverdale Hotel. Here are some diary dates for now...

- 04.10.25 – Coffee Morning Gaskell hall (check with Laurel)
- 19.10.25 Grounds morning
- 21.10.25 – Autumn Disco (see flyer)
- 04.11.25 – PTA Meeting
- 28.11.25 – Christmas Markets
- 09.12.25 – Christmas movie night (straight after school)
- 10.02.26 – Valentines Disco
- 24.04.26 - PTA Easter bingo

Attendance

A huge 'well done' to Curlews this week.

Curlews	95.7%
Bitterns	94.7%
Harriers	94.1%
Average school	94.6%



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Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for a parent governor on our governing board. Anna McCoy has been wonderful in supporting school in her role as parent governor for the past 3.5 years. Her term was coming to an end in March 2026 anyway, but she has decided to resign now, as she takes on other commitments. We thank Anna for her support and attendance at meetings. Her input has been invaluable. A letter regarding the role has gone home. Please consider if you would like to be a parent governor. A parent perspective is really important as you hold school to account, along with other governors. We look forward to the process and hearing why you would like to be a parent governor. Please read the information carefully. Particularly, the time scales.

Friday Thought

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. — Psalm 23:4

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to all those who attended 'Meet the teacher' on Wednesday. It was a good turn out and great to share how your children have settled into new routines and with their new teachers and class mates. If you would like the PPT for the evening, it can be [found here](#). As always, if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Class Blog

It's Bitterns this week

<https://www.silverdale.lancs.sch.uk/2025/06/06/class-blogs/>

Coffee morning

School coffee morning on Saturday 4th October. Gaskell Hall. Lorraine Greenall is holding a MacMillan coffee morning at Gibraltar farm, on Friday 26th September at 10am. All welcome!

Next Week...

22.09.25 – Harriers Residential
23.09.25 – parent governor letter to be returned
23.09.25 – Curlews forest school
24.09.25 – Harriers residential returns
24.09.25 – Dallam Open Evening
25.09.25 – Flu Vaccinations Nursery – Year 6
26.09.25 – Harvest festival/school council tea party
26.09.25 – After School Club interviews
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.

School Applications

The application process for both secondary and primary school places for September 2026 is now open. To apply use this online form, please [click here](#). Secondary applications close on 31st October 2025 and Primary applications close on 15th January 2026.

Autumn Horticultural Show

Molly Cartledge and Alfie Park got first prize for their miniature garden. Flynn Mason got a third for his vegetable. Alfie got a first for his flower biscuits. Molly got the first prize for the butterfly she had drawn

Vacancies

https://schooljobs.lancashire.gov.uk/nt_vacancyDetails.asp?id=66320
Check out this opportunity to work in school

COFFEE MORNING

Sat 4th October

09:00 - 12:00

Silverdale Gaskell Hall

We need...

Cakes (please list ingredients)

Tombola prizes (small)

Raffle Prizes (larger)

**Clothes and toys for the Bric-a-
Brac**

Help on the day!



**Fundraising for
Silverdale School**



Tuesday 21st October 2025

6pm until 7.30pm

**At Silverdale St Johns
School.**

**Entry £1 – All funds raised for the
PTA**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

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

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