

Newsletter – WC 22nd 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.

Jamie Harrison

For incredible contributions to the business committee on the SSJ governing board. Jamie brought perspective to our meetings, and would often see the 'bigger picture' in terms of finance and premises

Anna McCoy

For incredible contributions to the Quality of Education committee on the SSJ governing board. Anna's love for the outdoors and for learning has permeated throughout this committee.

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.

There are prizes awarded to each year group as well as 'special effort/outstanding performance' prizes.

Alan Greenwell, Sefton Booth and Eve Quillinan will be our judges.

All welcome to attend.

Please support your child by helping them to choose a poem/rhyme, practise it at home and prepare to perform on **Thursday 2nd October at 13:30**

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 2 WC 29.09.25



Fair Trade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight continues his week, "Brew it Fair," 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. Why not send Miss Sanderson photos of your children buying fair trade products? The Co-op is a super stockist. Please do talk to your children about Fair Trade at home.

This [video](#) is really helpful.

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
19.10.25 Grounds morning

21.10.25 – Autumn Disco (see flyer)

04.11.25 – PTA Meeting

28.11.25 – Christmas Markets
OSS meeting

09.12.25 – Christmas movie night (straight after school)

10.02.26 – Valentines Disco

24.03.26 - PTA Easter bingo

Attendance

A huge 'well done' to Bitterns this week.

Bitterns	98.2%
Harriers	97.6%
Curlews	88.6%
Average school	96.3%



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Parent Governor

Since we sent out the letter detailing the vacancy for parent governor, we now find ourselves with another vacancy. Jamie Harrison has been wonderful in supporting school in his role as parent governor for the past 3.5 years. His term was coming to an end in March 2026 anyway, but he has decided to resign now, as he takes on other commitments. We thank Jamie for his support and attendance at meetings. His input has been invaluable.

This means we now have two vacancies! Wonderfully, we have had two nominees. We would like to welcome Georgina Partington and Alex Harrison to our governing board. Again, to reiterate, a parent perspective is really important as you hold school to account, along with other governors. We are sure both Georgina and Alex will do this.

Tea Party 'Brew it Fair'

Thanks to school council for serving Fair Trade tea this morning. It was lovely to see them socialising with families and members of the community.

Curriculum

Our current theme for Autumn term is 'How does it work'. Each class has a breakdown of what objectives are being taught each week, in a half termly overview. Please click on the following links to see what your children are learning.

[Curlews](#) [Bitterns](#) [Harriers](#)

School Coffee Morning

Saturday 4th October, 10AM at Gaskell Hall. Any donations for the raffle, tombola, bric a brac and cake stall would be greatly appreciated. As would any help on the day!

Next Week...

29.09.25– Closing Date TA2b
02.10.25 – Census day
02.10.25 – Maths learning walks
02.10.25 – Poetry Day – Competition starts 13:30
02.10.25 – Shortlisting TA2b position
CHECK THE SCHOOL [WEBSITE CALENDER](#) FOR FUTURE DIARY DATES

Harvest

Well done to Curlews and Bitterns for leading us on the Harvest Worship this morning. All food collected will be taken to Morecambe Foodbank again this year. You still have time to donate UHT milk, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, tinned meat meals, 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. Head Boy and Head girl will be taking all the food collected to Lynn Peck, who volunteers for Morecambe food bank. Thanks to all those who have donated already

School Applications

The application process for both secondary and primary school places for September 2023 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 2025.

Friday Thought

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. —Psalm 23:5

Vacancies

Closing date is 29.09.25. Please share. [Click here](#) for more information

Class Blog

[Click here](#), to see what a week in the life of being a Harrier is like

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 YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

Opportunity

Community

Wellbeing

Respect

UNCERTAINTY

CONFLICT

FEAR

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe Ts' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk



The National College®

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

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