

# Newsletter – WC 24th November 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 – Torvi**

For being so enthusiastic in all you do. You are always smiling and are a true superstar!

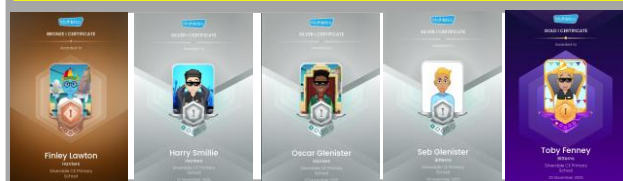
**Bitterns – Adam**

For writing a super explanation text

**Harriers – George**

For becoming increasingly independent with his learning and having a positive 'I can do it!' attitude.

## Mathletics First 'firsts'!



## Lunches

**Week 2 WC 01.12.25**



## Farm Club

Emmie Bland is AMAZING with the children. She is so interesting and informative. This week saw group two measuring grass and working out averages.

They weighed out food for cows. They were counting cows and hectares. Best of all, they had cuddles with kittens!

## Class Blog

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

## Attendance

**A massive 'well done' to Harriers this week**

Harriers	100.0 %
Curlews	98.53 %
Bitterns	95.23 %
Average school	97.92 %

## Half termly overviews

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](#)

## Playground Porject

[Green Touch landscapes](#) have been busily creating our den making area, chopping down dangerous trees, transferring stone chippings, making raised beds, creating outdoor chalk boards and regenerating our pond area. We thank Matt and the team. [Macgaffigans](#) are making our school gates, and are hoping to fit before Christmas.

The VERY good news is, we have had our planning permission approved by LCC and are hoping for our shelter to be fitted in the next couple of weeks. Yippee!

We also need a shed! If anyone knows of one. It's for outside play storage for EYFS. Approx 1.5mx 3m, then please let us know.

## Friday Thought

"No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord.  
Isaiah 54:17

## Letters to Santa

Make sure you send your letters to Santa by 10 December. Don't forget to include a full name and address on the back of the envelope so Santa can reply.

Send your letters to: Santa/Father  
Christmas Santa's Grotto Reindeerland  
XM4 5HQ

# Newsletter – WC 24th November 2025

*Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.*

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

- Philippians 4:13



Here are some GREAT Christmas reads to keep your child happy over advent and the holidays!

The Dark is Rising - Susan Cooper  
The Jolly Christmas Postman - Janet & Allen Ahlberg

Mog's Christmas - Judith Kerr  
A Boy Called Christmas - Matt Haig  
A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens

## Charity of the year

Any ideas for Charity of the Year? Please get in touch with Miss Sanderson with any thoughts. Once decided, the children will have chance to vote on their preference

## School Applications

The application process for both secondary and primary school places for September 2026 is now open. Primary applications close on 15th January 2026. [Click here for the application form](#)

## Posada

Join the Posada Journey This Advent!  
Be part of a beautiful Silverdale tradition this Advent season, starting the first day of advent Sunday 30th November! Wooden figures of Mary and Joseph are travelling through our community, staying in a different home each night as they symbolically re-enact their journey to Bethlehem. A wonderful way to connect with neighbours, reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, and prepare your heart for the Christmas season.  
How to Get Involved: Sign up today to host Mary and Joseph on their journey! Pop into the church and sign up Let's celebrate Advent and share the spirit of Christmas!

## Next Week...

01.12.25 – Miss S SEND meeting  
01.12.25 – Miss S/Mrs Ta finance meeting  
02.12.25 – Mrs T PE conference  
02.12.25 – Lancaster Fire and Ambulance working with Year 2 and Year 6  
02.12.25 – Mrs T RE governor meeting  
04.12.25 – Farm visit group 3  
04.12.25 - Mrs H CPD spelling  
Pupil Progress meetings this week

[WEBSITE CALENDER](#) FOR FUTURE DIARY DATES

## Home/school links

We really need your support with your children's learning. Not just on our online platforms, but taking that learning into family and community life. Bitterns enjoyed making Christmas cards this week, and working out profit margins on production and sale. Lots of maths knowledge put to the test. The also used different triangles to make Christmas trees. Harriers had to look at agricultural graphs on their farm visit and interpret them. Curlews were measuring branches for their den. Language such as longer and shorter and estimate was used throughout. Please try this at home.

## Christmas Market

IT's TONIGHT! All welcome.  
The choir will be singing at 17:00 and 18:30.  
A raffle will be drawn at 7:30pm.  
We can't wait to see you  
**Tickets are £3 (early bird – 17:00-18:00)  
£2 (18:00 onwards)**

## Elf Run

Please note time change for this on the 12<sup>th</sup>.  
We have a sports event in the morning

## Early Years Entitlement

For all new or current nursery children, the new [early years funding agreement](#) is now available to view on the website. Please read carefully



# Elf Run!

We will be taking part in the  
St John's Hospice Elf Run on

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 14:30



Remember to get sponsored for this fun  
run for the local Hospice, providing care  
for patients with life limiting conditions!



# Breakfast & After School Club

Safe, fun, and friendly care for your children before and after school!



## Breakfast Club

7:45 AM – 8:45 AM

Enjoy a healthy breakfast, fun activities, and great start to your day!



## After School Club

3:15 PM – 5:30 PM

Homework support, games, creative activities, and lots of fun with friends!



**Book Your Place Today!**

Contact: 01524 701467

[bursar@silverdale.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@silverdale.lancs.sch.uk)

[h.robinson@silverdale.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:h.robinson@silverdale.lancs.sch.uk)

- Experienced and caring staff
- Safe, welcoming environment
- Snacks and drinks provided

[www.silverdale.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.silverdale.lancs.sch.uk)



**Silverdale St John's**  
CofE Primary School & Nursery

*Learning, Community and Faith*

# **PTA** **CHRISTMAS** **MARKET**



**FRIDAY**  
**28th NOVEMBER**  
**from 5pm until late**

**At The Silverdale Hotel**  
**Shore Rd, Silverdale**

*Festive games, mince pies, school  
carol singers, mulled wine & plenty  
of local artisan gifts & crafts*





# STAY & PLAY



Our sessions are  
every Friday  
morning.  
Term time  
In our early years  
classroom.  
09:00-10:30  
All welcome



**Silverdale St John's Primary School**



## **Junior Winter Nets**

Under 9's Under 11's  
and New for 2026 Under 13's

Dallam Sports Hall

Tues 6<sup>th</sup> January-

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Februaury

6pm-7pm

£3 per session

New players welcome for all age groups

Contact Zoe - [zoemidgley84@gmail.com](mailto:zoemidgley84@gmail.com) or  
07917712856



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**13+**

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

## BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

## IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

## MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

## ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

### BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



**#WakeUpWednesday**

**The National College**

See full reference list on our website

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 26.11.2025