



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

CURLEWS STAFF TEAM

Mrs Tetchner, Mrs Milligan, Mrs Acciallini, Margi, Mrs Postlethwaite, Miss Whyte

For working so hard with our younger children in the production. It takes creativity, kindness, care and lots of patience to put on such a performance. We thank you for treating us to such a special display of singing, dancing and readings

Mathletics First 'firsts'!



Here are this weeks first 'firsts'!

Friday Thought

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

—John 3:16

Lunches

Week 1 WC 15.12.25

Attendance

Well done to Curlews this week

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Curlews | 98.53% |
| Harriers | 97.01 % |
| Bitterns | 88.18% |
| Average school | 94.57 % |

Carol Service

Key Stage 2 (year 3, 4, 5, 6) will be leading us in the Carol Service on Tuesday evening at 18:00 in church. All children need to be in church for 17:30 wearing school uniform. Year 5 must wear PE kit. All welcome

University of First Age (UFA)

In the new year, we would like to offer the children some short courses in subjects which will broaden their experiences, expand their skill sets and ignite their interest in something a little bit beyond the regular curriculum. The sessions will be for approximately one hour each week from 9.30am to 10.30am. We will trial this for five sessions - 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th January and the 13th February.

We are appealing for volunteers to both plan and lead a short course, as well as those who could offer their time, enthusiasm and skills to support others. We are open to any suggestions, examples may include: European cookery, Pickleball, map reading around Silverdale, bracelet making, music/singing group, knitting, puppet making, dance etc. A small budget will be available to pay for resources or these can be ordered through school.

Please share this request with people who you know might be interested in getting involved. It would be great to have families and friends from the community working with us in school. The required DBS checks and safer recruitment of volunteers guidance will be followed according to school policy.

If you feel you have an idea or you can help us in any way with this new project, please email Claire Hodkinson (Bitterns' Class Teacher) c.hodkinson@silverdale.lancs.sch.uk by Wednesday 17th of December 2025.

Playground Project

It's all go at SSJ! The children have thoroughly enjoyed the new equipment – singing and dancing in the shelter, climbing and crawling in the tunnel and log stride and reading, and role play in the reading shelter (affectionately known already, as the 'willow house'!) The gates will be arriving soon!

They have been measured up and are being designed, and galvanised as we speak. They should hopefully be installed just after Christmas.

Class Blog

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



That's Not My Christmas Tree by Fiona Watt

- Part of the popular "That's not my..." series, this book features touchy-feely patches (bumpy trunk, prickly branches, sparkly decorations) and a light-up surprise on the final page.
- The repetitive text and bright illustrations are designed to be shared and loved by babies and toddlers.



Bear Stays Up for Christmas by Karma Wilson

- A heartwarming story about a group of animal friends helping a bear stay awake to celebrate Christmas, praised by reviewers as part of a wonderful series.



How Winston Came Home for Christmas by Alex T. Smith

- Designed to be read like an advent calendar, with a chapter for each day from December 1st to Christmas Day.
- This heartwarming adventure follows Winston the mouse on a journey to find a lost friend, filled with black and white illustrations.

Next Week...

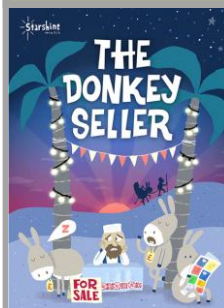
- 15.12.25 – Rock Kidz. Parents can join 11:15
- 15.12.25 – Miss S meeting L&M governors
- 16.12.25 – Puss in Boots panto at Lancaster Grand
- 16.12.25 – KS2 Carol Service 18:00 in church
- 17.12.25 – Harriers at Cove House AM
- 17.12.25 – Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch
- 18.12.25 – Christmas party day
- 19.12.25 – Own clothes day. £1. Carols around the tree at 13:00. School finishes 14:00. ASC 16:15

[WEBSITE CALENDER](#) FOR FUTURE DIARY DATES

Rock Kidz - Monday

We are looking forward to welcoming the Rock Kidz team to school next Monday morning. Children can dress up as rock stars if they like. There is no pressure at all. They might just want to wear a pair of shades and don some hair gel! Children must bring uniforms into school, to get changed into for the afternoon, as we have rehearsals and learning to continue with. Parents can join the fun at 11:15am, if they like. Don't forget your air guitars!

The Donkey Seller



What a show! Lane camels, bored donkeys. Lucrative business models! It had it all! Thankyou to Mrs Tetchner and the team for a great show. Thanks to our parents too, for supplying costumes. Mostly, thankyou to our wonderful children for being so confident!

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](#)

Pantomime - Puss in Boots

We can't wait for our annual whole school panto trip next Tuesday. We will be leaving school on the coach at 12pm. Children need to bring a packed lunch, so we can eat early and go. There will be no hot food on this day. We will arrive back at school at 16:00.

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!

Staffing news

Mrs Amor will be leaving us next Friday, as she is moving onto a new role in education. She has been with us a whole year already. We can't believe just how time has flown! Mrs Amor has been wonderful with our children at lunchtime, and we thank her for her kindness and care. She will be sorely missed.

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOY SCALPING, FAKES & SCAMS

Online scalping is when individuals or groups use automated software (bots) to bulk-buy high-demand items – such as gaming consoles, concert tickets, limited-edition trainers, or exclusive merchandise – with the intention of reselling them at vastly inflated prices. It's a fast-moving online trend that can frustrate young consumers and expose them to misleading practices or financial harm. As this unethical tactic grows, it's important to help children and young people understand how scalping works and how to navigate it responsibly.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND MANIPULATION

Scalpers create artificial scarcity by buying up large quantities of stock before the public has a fair chance to purchase. This drives up demand and pushes prices to extreme levels. Young people may feel intense pressure to spend more than they can afford for fear of missing out entirely.

EXPLOITATION OF FANDOMS

Scalping often targets popular releases with strong fan bases, knowing that loyal followers are emotionally invested. Children and young people may place huge value on owning certain items linked to their favourite artists, sports teams or games, making them more likely to accept unfair prices or questionable sellers.

ACCESSING UNSAFE WEBSITES

In the rush to secure rare items, young people might click through to unverified sellers, online marketplaces with little consumer protection, or even sites designed specifically to harvest personal and financial data. This can expose them to fraud, malware, and identity theft.

NORMALISING UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Some influencers and online communities present scalping as a clever money-making scheme rather than an exploitative one. This can normalise dishonest behaviour and blur the line between legitimate business and opportunistic profiteering for younger audiences.

RISK OF SCAMS OR COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Not every high-priced resale is legitimate. Fraudulent sellers may take payment for goods they never send, or ship counterfeit versions of branded items. In some cases, the product may look authentic in photos but turn out to be of poor quality or completely different from what was advertised.

REINFORCING INEQUALITY

Scalping makes already expensive items even less accessible, particularly for lower-income families. Children may feel excluded from trends or shared experiences with friends if their family cannot meet the inflated prices, which can lead to feelings of isolation and disappointment.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FAIRNESS

Use scalping as an opportunity to discuss fairness, consumer ethics, and how some people exploit markets for profit. Encouraging children to think critically about whether they truly need an item – and at what cost – can help them make more considered decisions.

SUPPORT INFORMED PURCHASING

Show children how to check seller credentials, read independent reviews, and verify whether a site is secure before making any payment. Knowing how to spot red flags, such as unrealistic promises or missing contact details, can prevent costly mistakes.

ENCOURAGE PATIENCE OVER IMPULSE

Teach young people to wait for official restocks or future releases instead of paying over the odds. Many products come back into circulation, and patience can save significant amounts of money while reducing the likelihood of falling victim to scams.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Establish clear rules for online spending, including limits on prepaid cards, gaming gift cards, and online wallets. Discuss the real-world value of money spent on digital or collector's items so children understand the long-term impact of their purchases.

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Silverdale St John's
CofE Primary School & Nursery
Learning, Community and Faith

Vacancy Available

Welfare Assistant

Foundation living Wage

Salary £24,310 pro rata

£12.60 per hour

Term Part-time.

Permanent.

Required 05.01.26

Hours 8.25 hours a week

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday



Name:

School/group:

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