



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

All the lovely staff

For staying behind for carol services, choir singing and nativities

Curlews – Bertie

For using your imagination and creative language to write a story based on a superhero! Well done Bertie!

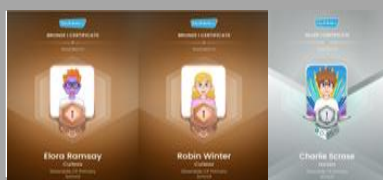
Bitterns - Marnie

For always being bright, bubbly and enthusiastic! You are a star!

Harriers - Olly

For being such a kind-hearted, loving and caring member of our class. He is an absolute star and we love him!

Mathletics First 'firsts'!



Here are this weeks first 'firsts'!

Friday Thought

our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Lunches

Week 1 WC 05.01.26



Carol Service

We can't tell you how proud we were of our KS2 children on Tuesday evening. Thanks to our governors, staff & to the church for making the night so magical. To our parents too. Without you, we couldn't make events like this happen.

You are all amazing! 🎵 🎶 🎸 🎤 🎧

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 Hodgkinson (Bitterns' Class Teacher) c.hodkinson@silverdale.lancs.sch.uk by Wednesday 17th of December 2025.

End of term reports

Reports went home yesterday. If you have any questions, please get in touch with class teachers today. Please refrain from emailing over the holidays if possible, as staff need a rest. If you have any questions at all, that cannot be answered today, please get in touch with Miss Sanderson, or hopefully they can wait until after the holidays.

Attendance

Well done to Bitterns this week

Bitterns	98.2 %
Harriers	96.5 %
Curlews	85.7% %
Average school	93.46 %

Newsletter – WC 15th December 2025

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

– Philippians 4:13



IT WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

© 2004
"Twas the night
before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung
by the chimney with care,
in hopes that St. Nicholas
soon would be there.
The children were nestled
all snug in their beds,
while visions of sugar-plums
danced in their heads."

Our Year 6 children led us a morning of poetry this morning. Why not watch the whole poem [here](#)

Rock Kidz

The children had an awesome morning rocking, rolling. Dancing & diving. Thanks to the Rock kidz team. You were a LOT of fun.

Wrap Around Care

Mrs Robinson needs games, jigsaws and toys. All in good working order please. Email h.robinson@silverdale.lancs.sch.uk if you can donate, or just bring the above into school.

Payment reminders

Could parents please ensure that outstanding payments are paid for via SCOPAY. We would like all arrears to be settled prior to finishing for Christmas (ie today!)

End of Term

School finishes at 14:00 today.
After school club finishes at 16:15

Elf Run

Thanks to everyone who helped last Friday. What an 'elfie' bunch of children we have! Amazing effort. Each of them raising money for St Johns Hospice. If you would like to donate, please click [here](#). The deadline for cash in school was Wednesday, but we will extend this to Wednesday 7th January

Safeguarding

Please don't forget to inform us if someone else is collecting your child,. Even if we know them, we need permission from parents.

After the holidays...

05.01.25 – School reopens for spring term
06.01.26 – Nurse – height/weight Yr 6 & Rec
06.01.26 – Y6 Health Needs Assessment
07.01.26 – School swimming Years 3,4,5,6
[WEBSITE CALENDER](#) FOR FUTURE DIARY DATES

School Applications

Has your child turned 3 this term? We have spaces available in Nursery starting after Christmas. Please come and have a look around our wonderful provision or contact the office for a booking form. The application process for primary school places for September 2026 is now open. Tours are still available during the school day, please ring to book. Primary applications close on 15th January 2026. [Click here for the application form](#)

Pantomime - Puss in Boots

'Puss in Boots' was AMAZING! Singing, dancing, booing & laughing. We had a lot of fun. Thanks to Lancaster Grand for putting on a super show. The children loved it. Thanks to the PTA for providing the ice creams at the interval. It was a lovely surprise and treat.

Christmas events

Carols around the Christmas Tree is today at the Royal car park at 13:00 and ending at school with more songs at around 1330.

The **village carol service** is at **St John's church** on **Sunday 21st December at 18:00**

Christingle-Crib Service at St John's Church is at 16:00 on Wednesday 24th December. Join the Silverdale tradition of lighting Christingle candles and building the nativity scene together. (You could even bring your own homemade figures to put into the scene if you'd like to alongside the church figures, maybe an innkeeper or two, extra sheep might appear as well as the Shepherds, kings, Mary, Joseph etc!). See attached poster for other Christmas services.

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



Christingle Crib Service

Christmas Eve

Wednesday 24th December

4pm

at St John's Church,
Silverdale



You are very
welcome



THE
DIOCESE
BLACKBURN



St John's Church,
Silverdale



*Come and Celebrate Christmas
with a*

Christmas Day Communion

Bring an opened present to show if you'd like to.



Thursday 25th December
10.30am

All are welcome

THE
DIOCESE
BLACKBURN

St John's Church
Silverdale



*Welcome Christmas in with
carols and communion at*

Midnight Communion Service

Wednesday 24th December
11.30pm



THE
DIOCESE
BLACKBURN



A candlelit service of

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 21st December
6.30pm

at St John's Church,
Silverdale



*Followed by
mulled wine and
mince pies in
the parish room*



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



The National College



Name:



School/group:

INCREASE YOUR DONATION BY 25% WITHOUT IT COSTING YOU A PENNY!

By ticking below, you confirm that you want to Gift Aid your donation and any donations you make in the future, or have made in the past 4 years, to St John's Hospice, Lancaster. You confirm that you are a UK taxpayer and understand that if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations in that tax year, it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

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