



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

Curlews – Paisley

For your kind and caring personality. You are a wonderful friend to everyone.

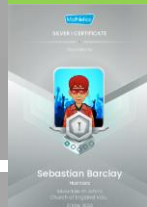
Bitterns – Sam

For such resilience in times and change and enthusiasm about the future

Harriers – Henry

For having a great week in class. You have been calm and settled with a positive attitude. Well done!

Mathletics



Well done to Seb for getting his first 'first'.

Harriers' day trip

We are planning a city break and a show for WC 13th July. Please look out for a letter with details after the holidays. Mrs Alderson is researching venues. We endeavour to keep cost to parents to a minimum wherever possible

LRGS

Lancaster Royal Grammar School is opening the doors to prospective families interested in applying for a place in September 2027. Families are welcome to attend the [Open Day on Saturday 20 June from 9am-1pm.](#)

Key dates:

20/06/26 LRGS Open Day

07/09/26 Closing date for applications to LRGS for 11+ entrance test.

26/09/26 11+ entrance test at LRGS.

06/10/26 Results sent to parents.

30/10/26 Closing date for parents to apply for a place via the LEA.

01/03/27 LEA results sent to parents.

[Applications are now being accepted via the LRGS website.](#)

Friday Thought

I appeal to you, brothers, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought. —1 Corinthians 1:1

Author Visit

Author, Danny Rurlander will be presenting an action-packed event introducing students to the wonderful world of Spylark on **Friday 5th June.**

Opening with an interactive introduction to the principles of flight, Danny will be using research for his action-adventure novel as a basis for thinking about what makes a story "fly".

With the help of "Buzz" his indoor drone, Danny will be helping the children explore how to turn real world locations into vivid settings for gripping adventures, why good writers are the nosiest people on the planet, and why islands feature in all the best stories! We can't wait!

Lunchtime Legends

Our 'Lunchtime Legends' have been brilliant this week

Super children doing super stuff at lunchtime!

Transition Days

QES - New intake evening 18:00 24.06.26
Induction day 07.07.26

Dallam - New Intake Evening 29.06.26
Induction Day 30.06.25

Class Blog

It's Bitterns' class this week! Please [click](#) on the link to gain an insight into what the children have been learning in class.

After School Club

We are very happy to share that we have appointed an after-school club assistant to work alongside the wonderful Mrs Postlethwaite. Alex Griffiths is an artist and has worked with lots of young people. He is creative and very resourceful. We know he is going to be a huge asset to our staff team.



Newsletter – WC 18th May 2026

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

- Philippians 4:13

The words of Jesus: Our Christian Value this week is Forgiveness

PTA Events

Helpers needed at the arts trail cafe!

Please can you spare two hours on June 27th or 28th? Duties include washing & drying up, serving and clearing tables.

Please sign up

at <https://tinyurl.com/PTAARTSCAFE>

We need at least six adults and five children per session.

Attendance

Well done to Harriers

Harriers 98.15 %

Curlews 98.0 %

Bitterns 95 %

AVERAGE SCHOOL 97.05 %

Field day

If anyone can help with a small stall at the field day event on **Saturday 20th June**, we would very much appreciate it. We usually have lucky dip and shuttle board.

Mission Implausible

The children have been auditioning this week for a part in Mission Implausible. The quality of acting in our school is always really high, so it's a tough decision to make. The performances will be in the Gaskell hall on

Thursday 2nd July at 1.30 pm and 6.30 pm

Sponsored Run

Our annual sponsored run is on **Thursday 18th June**. Belinda is helping to organise again. Please can you get in touch with her if you are available to marshal. It will just be a short time commitment. 0930-1130

Accelerated reader

Every Friday, in family worship, we celebrate the children who have been given a remarkable reader raffle ticket. These are the children who have got full marks in their accelerated reader quizzes, and for the younger children, those who have read at home every night! Our winners of the remarkable reader book tokens this half term are Harry S, Abigail, Alfie

Next Week...

- 01.06.26 – INSET – school closed to pupils
- 02.06.26 – Student starts
- 02.06.26 – Miss S Health and Safety meeting
- 02.06.26 – Miss S fire safety check
- 04.06.26 – Y6/7 transition visit Dallam
- 04.06.26 – Hands on science Dallam Year 5
- 04.06.26 – Miss S CPD – Mental Health First Aid
- 05.06.26 – Miss S CPD – Mental Health First Aid
- 05.06.26 – Pedal and Scoot
- 05.06.26 – Danny Rurlander Author to visit school

Click on the [online calendar](#) for future events

Enrichment Clubs

Tuesday - School Magazine (All Welcome)

Wednesday – Eco Club

Thursday – Cricket (Key Stage 2)

Thursday lunch – crafty club with Mrs Accialini

Friday – Friday Football (all welcome)

Assessments

Y1 phonics: every Y1 child will take a phonics assessment in the week beginning **8th June**.

This is a 1:1 verbal assessment of their phonics knowledge where they try to read 40 words, both normal and nonsense words. This will be administered by Miss Sanderson

Multiplication tables check: All Y4 children sit an online tables test in the week beginning **15th June**. This tests their knowledge of times tables up to 12x12 and they have 6s to answer each question.

Y2 assessments: although we no longer have to statutorily report results of our Y2 assessments, the children will sit internal assessments along with Y3,4,5 in the week beginning **15th June**. **EYFS:** children will be assessed on the areas of learning in the EYFS curriculum. This is teacher assessment and no test is taken.

Lunches

Week 1 WC 01.06.26



Arnsdale &
Silverdale
National
Landscape

Woodland Fun Day
Dobshall Wood, Arnsdale
27th May 2026
11am - 3pm



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

Silverdale Village Fun and Field Day



**Saturday
20th June
2026**

Silverdale Village Institute, Spring Bank

A wonderful day for all the family – young and old. Let's make this a day to remember.

There will be a fancy-dress competition, a parade through the village, lots of stalls, a fully stocked bar, food vans (doughnuts, pizza), tea/coffee and cakes, children's races with cash prizes, medals and trophies, the iconic adult fell race to the Pepper Pot, the famous tug of war and live music.

Key timings for the day (approximate)

11.45am

Fancy dress entries - individual, groups (large and small), adults and children, arrive at Silverdale St Johns Primary school for judging at **12pm**.

1pm

The parade leaves the school for the Institute field traveling down Emesgate Lane, along Stankelt Road and then down Spring bank. Walking fancy dress entries will be at the front of the parade followed by the floats and vehicles. If you're not in the parade, then please line the streets and give everyone a wave and a cheer.

2pm onwards

Fun on the field – races, competitions, stalls, bar, food, music

Transitions

The information contained within this newsletter can be adapted for use with environmental, emotional, development, tasks at any time regardless of any diagnosis.

Things to consider around Transitions

Not all children and young people find the move from one year to another difficult as they may be excited about trying new things, meeting new teachers and possibly learning a new subject. It's important to focus on the positives if your child or young person is worried about this step. It is also important to validate their worries as some children can find this difficult so listen to their concerns and help them find solutions. Ask for support from school if needed.

In school transitions from one year to another can be difficult for some children especially if moving to a new classroom or part of school. Speak to the class teacher in the summer term about any transition plans or questions you might have.

Young Minds have developed a resource to support children and young people to understand the transition in Primary school. youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/supporting-school-transitions/

Schools will often have their own transition planning tools for children with additional needs, so please speak to them if you have any concerns as soon as possible.

Transition to High School Top Tips



- Try and ask the young person what they are worried and excited about. Use this as the basis for any support strategies. Don't assume they will have problems with certain aspects, they might have their own strategies already. When you see them at the end of the day, remember they might need a rest and some food before talking about school... Lots of children struggle with open ended questions

such as 'Did you have a good day'. So you could try to ask specific questions such as: Did anything funny happen at lunchtime? Tell me 1 thing that made you smile / happy today? What was your favourite part of the day? Did you meet anyone new? What was the hardest thing about today?

- Home-school communication - Is there a person the family can contact about any issues and what is the best way to get in touch? Please remember this is daunting for all parents of first-time year 7 starters. There may be a few hiccups to start with but hopefully your young person should settle in fairly quickly. If there are any major concerns, try to find a solution and contact the school where necessary. Please be patient and provide solutions if possible as you know your young person best, school will have strategies ready to go but it's important that young people are given the opportunity to try for themselves first to build their confidence, self-esteem and independent skills.



We are

kind • a team • respectful • always learning

We are
LSCft



- New uniform – Check the school policy and don't leave it too late to buy what you need. School shoes are an issue for some, buy early if possible so they have time to try them on and get used to them. LABEL EVERYTHING! AND show them where their name is on their clothes so they can check it's theirs. I guarantee they will lose at least one thing including coat, calculator, drinks bottle & PE socks! Asda (George Online) do some great sensory friendly pieces of uniform as do M&S

- Do they take a mobile phone? There are lots of apps you can install to track their journey, with their consent, if you need that extra reassurance they have made it to school or have set off home. Mobile phone rules – Schools have different policies around phones in school, please make sure to check these out before they start.



- Forgotten items - What to do if they forget their PE kit, pencil case, lunch. Who can they ask for help? Lost items - What to do if they leave their PE kit, coat, lunch box etc. and can't find it. Does it get taken to a specific area? If so, where and how do they access it? Make an easy to read list of what ifs and put it in their pocket / pencil case / phone case. Keep copies as they may lose those too!

- Homework – expectations and explanations. Consider if the young person will need help recording homework details in their planner. Asking the teacher or Learning Support Assistant/Teaching Assistant to check they have the right info recorded saves a lot of stress and worry. Does the school offer homework support sessions? Some young people have a mental barrier with completing homework at home. Can they access the library after school or have access to support during the week to help with homework issues?



Carol Gray- Social Stories

Carol is best known for the development of Social Stories, a respected evidence-based practice used worldwide with people with autism of all ages. Carol is also known for initiating a very effective social philosophy that 1) 'abandons all assumptions', 2) regards both the typical and autism perspective as 'equally valid', and 3) recognizes the 'social impairment in autism' as shared (noting the well-intentioned but nonetheless misguided mistakes of parents and professionals). She has completed ground breaking work on some of the toughest topics in autism by reviewing the research, developing new theories, and proposing practical instructional strategies, most notably Gray's Guide to Bullying (2004) and Gray's Guide to Loss, Learning, and Students with ASD (2003). <https://carolgraysocialstories.com>

Visual supports

Visual supports are a communication tool that can be used with autistic people. They can be used in most situations, are adaptable and portable. <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/communication/communication-tools/visual-supports>

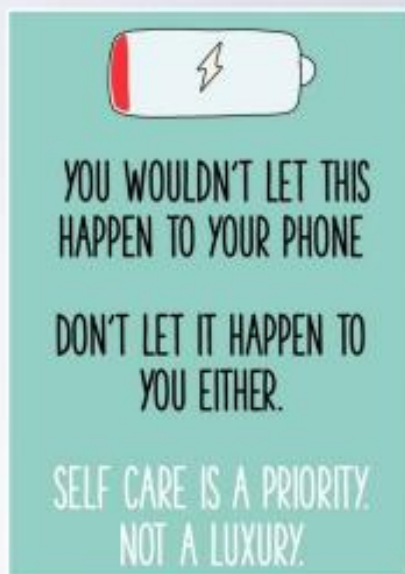
We are

kind • a team • respectful • always learning

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If you have a child with special educational needs or a disability and are looking for a school for them, you may find information from SENDIAS useful please visit their website for more details lancssendias.org.uk/information-and-advice/choosing-a-school/



As parent carers, we always prioritise the needs of our children. Their wants and needs come first, as they should. However, to maintain this level of support for our kids, it's important that our own wants and needs are also taken care of. If you can make time for yourself, you absolutely should and you should also NOT feel guilty for it. As the saying goes, you cannot pour from an empty cup. Your own mental and physical health can be impacted by the constant level of stress you experience when raising a child / children with additional needs. Everyone has different ways of keeping themselves going. Even planning something can give you a boost to keep you going until you can find the time. If you are lucky enough to have friends or family that have offered to help, take them up on it. It might not happen often but if they can give you a break now and again, it will help.

Suggestions include: wild swimming with a local group has become increasingly popular, going for walks, talking with friends, meeting other parent carers on virtual or in person groups, sleeping whilst the kids are being looked after / at school, doing

something creative like writing, arts and crafts, making clothes, decorating, or even going to work can be a way to make you feel like you again. This is not a complete list and you may find you already have your own strategies. Whatever it is, if it brings you joy, is healthy and makes you feel like you again, **don't feel guilty for making the time to do it! Your children will notice the difference in you too.**

If you feel you are struggling and need support for your own mental health, please speak to your GP. For urgent advice and support call 0800 953 0110

For a range of mental health support charities please go to <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

