



Newsletter – WC 13^h July 2026

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.

Bitterns – Jasper

For getting stuck into just about everything with such enthusiasm!

Bitterns – Jessica

For being so brave, fun and a fine friend already! We love having you at SSJ

Safeguarding Audit

Vicky Haworth came into school on Thursday 9th July. She spent 6 hours going through our record keeping, talking to children, talking to staff, analysing our SCR (single central record) looking at our recruitment procedures and checking policies. We look forward to Vicki's report coming into Miss Sanderson's inbox before the holidays. But, for now, please know that Vicki's first impressions as she entered the building at 08:30 were 'what a nurturing and lovely school'.

Giving Fortnight

We have raised just over £610 since June 30th. This is amazing. A combination of sponsorship money, and donations through Gofundme. The window for Giving fortnight will close on Sunday. Let's see if we can get it to £1000. If you would like to donate to school, please click on this [link](#).

Magazine Club

The first edition of Silverdale Express is available to buy. It's just £1. Guess which teacher likes spaghetti Olio and who has blue eyes? Find out all about our wonderful school through the eyes of the children. Available from the school office and at the Leavers Service

English Consultant

We welcomed Katie Giles on Thursday to support us with planning for English. The English team have some exciting new texts and the new spelling programmes that have just been released.

Friday Thought

Get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

—James 1:21

Lunchtime Legends

Our 'Lunchtime Legends' have been brilliant this week.

All of Year 6

Super children doing super stuff at lunchtime!

Liverpool Trip

Thanks to Mrs Alderson, Mrs Greenall, Miss Jackson and Mrs Taylor for making Thursday happen. It was a lot of fun (we all loved escape rooms) The children were awesome and loved every minute of the museum, the boat ride and especially the ice creams on the docklands.

Miss Sanderson rather enjoyed the football banter on the way home in the car too! Thanks to Harriers for being so well behaved.

Staffing

We love it when exciting opportunities come our way. It's part of our 'outward looking school vision' and fits perfectly with our school improvement plan. Here at SSJ, we want to keep growing and evolving – looking at good practice and providing the best education for our children.

Class allocation letters went home last week.

Part of the staffing changes, is that Miss Jackson won't be in school on a Friday, as she is supporting another school. We look forward to hearing from her what life in a Lancaster school is like, and what exciting ideas she can bring back to us. Excitingly this has meant Mrs Harrison is joining our teaching team on a Friday. Mrs Harrison is a qualified teacher and a wonderful asset to the SSJ already. She will be in Bitterns on a Friday. Mrs Wilson will be joining us next term in Harriers class, working some of the hours Mrs Harrison had. Mrs Wilson has lots of experience of working with children and is wonderfully, nurturing and committed to meetings children's needs. We can't wait for you to meet her.

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



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Transition Morning

Transition morning was lovely. The children enjoyed meeting new teachers. They loved making new friends and getting used to new environments. We had speed 'friendshipping', portrait painting, parachute diving and circles times. If you have any question regarding transition, please get in touch with class teachers before the end of the term. Teachers need a well-earned break, so please refrain from contacting them until the nearer our September start back dates...

Year 6 Leavers' party

We had a great time with Year 6 last night. Of course, there was some competitiveness at the bowling and at Pleasureland (this is year 6, after all!). But it was lovely to see them in their best clothes walking the gold carpet and enjoying a soiree of drinks and canapes. The photobooth was fantastic. Thanks to Kirstie, Zoe and Julie for donating it to us. Mrs Milligan took lots of photos.

Year 6 Leavers' arrangements

Monday 20th July 2026 - Shirt Signing

Please can you ensure your child has a shirt in school that they can have signed as well as the one that they are wearing.

Tuesday 21st July 2026– Leavers Presentation and picnic

11am in church. Our Year 6 children will take this opportunity to present to you their memories of primary school and look forward to their next challenges at secondary school. They will be handed their end of year trophies and Bibles.

This will be in church, followed by a whole school family picnic.

Reports

Reports have gone home today, along with SATs results. There will be an opportunity to meet teachers on **Monday 20th July**. Please don't forget to return the report slip.

Next Week...

20.07.26 – Year 6 shirt signing
20.07.26 – Mrs T and Miss S to see Rachel Wilson
21.07.26 – Leavers Service 11:00
21.07.26 – Leavers' Picnic 12:30
21.07.26 – Final Family worship 13:00
21.07.26 – **School finishes for summer 14:00.**
After school club will start at 14:00. The first session will be 14:00-15:30. The second session will be 15:30-16:30 (please can you inform us if you want to utilise this session – pre booking preferred)

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

Volunteers

We welcomed our volunteers back into school this afternoon. We thank God for the time they give and the love they share with the children. To show our appreciation, we made tea, sandwiches and cake for them in the hall. The school council waited on and enjoyed hearing heartwarming anecdotes of our volunteers' time in our school

Playground Opening

We will be inviting Year 8 to school on Monday at 09:00. This is the year group that started the fundraising for our playground. Many of the families of these children donated money and helped to create what is now a lovely space for our current children! Year 8 missed out on enjoying this. Therefore, we have invited them back on Monday at 09:00 to cut the ribbon on our new playground. We will be celebrating new tarmac, new gates, new raised areas. New climbing, reading and hiding equipment. New court markings, new football nets... Phew! If you would like to join us (the feature will be in the Lancaster Guardian, why not stick around on Monday at drop off time.

Mrs Greenall

Mrs Greenall has completed her HLTA qualification. She has worked incredibly hard the last 12 months – meeting deadlines, gathering evidence, submitting dissertations etc. It has all paid off, as she passed just last week. Well done to Mrs G. We look forward to opportunities opening up for her.

SILVERDALE Express



THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY SILVERDALE PUPILS!

Introduction

We are a team of innovative, vibrant, hardworking young people! And we would LOVE to share with you all that we enjoy about life at Silverdale St Johns CE Primary School and Nursery.

Our school is in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Our grounds are amazing! We go to Trowbarrow and Eaves wood for Forest School. We love to wander down to the coast – either litter picking, or even watch the tide come in. ***Silverdale is an awesome place to live and to go to school.***

We hope you enjoy the first edition of our newspaper. The editorial team has been working extremely hard to create something that you will enjoy. In this edition you will learn about our teachers; the trips that we go on and our clubs. We also have a day in the life of one of our team and also just some of our favourite things. Reasons to be cheerful!

Artistic differences didn't always makes for a happy team! But with strength and determination, we got there in the end. We hope you will enjoy!

Editorial Team:

Abigail Whitfield (age 9)
Evie Smillie (age 7)
Georgia Storey (age 8)
Scout Amor (age 6)
Quinn Murphy (age 7)



Silverdale St John's
CofE Primary School & Nursery

Part of our Gaming & Gambling Series



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NOS National Online Safety
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What you need to know about... LOOT BOXES & SKIN BETTING

What is it?

'Loot Boxes'

Some video games offer "loot boxes" as a way to purchase items. Similar to purchasing a pack of football stickers, players don't know exactly what they will get. They may get a common item that has a low value in the game. Equally, they may get a rare item that has a high value.

'Skin Betting'

"Skin betting" is when players use virtual items they have earned or purchased in games (often titled 'skins' because they are cosmetic features) as gambling currency. Players can use websites or apps outside of the game itself, which are mostly unregulated, to bet with 'skins' on eSports competition outcomes. This becomes a legal issue when the 'skins' you win can be converted to cash.

Know the Risks

Beware of Overspending

It's important for parents to be aware if children are buying loot boxes and skins for trading or betting purposes, as it can consume considerable amounts of money. It can be much easier to make repeat purchases online compared to buying toys or stickers over the counter.

May Lead to Addiction

Because players can trade and swap items in games, the relative rarity of these items creates a thriving market where they can be exchanged. Like any form of gambling, this can become addictive as children seek to get the best or most valuable 'skins', often dedicating large amounts of time trying to get what they want.

Illegal Behaviour

It's important for parents to understand that "skin" trades and "skin" gambling are often arranged on websites or apps outside the game itself. These are unregulated and beyond the control of the game creator. Sites that offer the ability to gamble "skins" for cash are often illegal and require a gambling licence. They also shouldn't be advertised to children.

Safety Tips

Discuss What 'Value' Means

It's important that parents work alongside their children as they venture into the world of gaming. Together they can build an understanding of how purchases work and discuss which are really good value, and which are over-priced. Like pocket money, it can be a good way to teach children about virtual currency and online purchases.

Set Spending Limits

Together with your child, you can set-up spending limits to stop accidental purchases. A good approach is to use the pocket money feature on consoles to allow them to spend a small amount each month.

Use Pre-paid Cards

You can also avoid putting your credit card details in by using pre-paid cards that work like book tokens. If you do add credit cards, ensure you set up a password on the account so that children cannot keep spending freely.

Further Support

Report Illegal Gambling Sites

If you discover your child has been gambling on skins websites, you should report the site to the relevant authority immediately. You may be able to do this anonymously and it may help to crack down on any wider criminal activity and the targeting of underage gambling.

Seek Support

If you think that your child has developed a gambling addiction or may be showing signs of developing a habit, you can seek support from external organisations who may be able to help and can provide further education around the dangers of excessive gambling.

Our Expert Andy Robertson



Andy Robertson is a freelance family technology expert for the BBC. He runs the Family Gamer TV YouTube channel and contributes to a range of national media on the topic of video-games and family.