

Newsletter – WC 19th October 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.

Paisley (Curlews)

For being such a super star in class. Lots of fun and ways learning ready.

Jessica (Bitterns)

For being an enthusiastic learner and bringing lots of positive energy to our class.

Keep it up!

Marnie (Harriers)

For being a fabulous author. Your enthusiasm and imagination shine through in your writing.

Maths Hub NC

As we use the mastery approach in maths, children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will spend longer on fewer concepts to build deep, secure understanding.

The Five Big Ideas being...

Coherence

Representation and Structure

Mathematical Thinking

Fluency

Variation

Parents can help at home by...

Using everyday Objects: Count, group, and share real items (cutlery, fruit, toys) to let children physically group numbers.

Embrace Visuals: Ask your child to draw a problem or use a number line before jumping straight to mental or written calculations.

Watch Supporting Media: Programs like CBeebies Numberblocks (backed by NCETM/DfE guidance) visually demonstrate how numbers break apart and combine. Our online maths programme of Mathletics is wonderful as a starting point to consolidating mathematical concepts at home. However, nothing can beat physical resources and setting aside some time to play.

Secondary School Places

The deadline for secondary school applications is **31st October**. Please ensure you have applied for your Y6 child.

Royal British Legion

Poppies will be on sale after the holidays. Snap bands, key rings, pencils are all available for 50p. There will be a remembrance service on Wednesday 11th November

School Council

Elections for school council will be held WC 9th November. Children need to write a manifesto and then be prepared to share that with classmates ready for elections. We will have a representative from each year group. If your child would like to put themselves forward as a candidate, please help them with their manifesto. Speeches, PowerPoints, flyers etc. It all helps with the delivery. We want councillors that want to make a difference to our school. Children with ideas and with energy!

Christmas Pantomime

Panto at Lancaster Grand Theatre on **Wednesday 16th December**, where we will be watching Little Red Riding Hood. Thanks to the generosity of PTA, every child will also enjoy an interval ice cream. The cost of the trip is £14.00 per child, and payments can now be made in advance via Scopay.

Friday Thought

I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart. —Psalm 40:8

Lunches

Week 2 WC 02.11.26

Thursday – Bonfire Night Lunch
Friday - New lunch menu begins!

THE NEW PRICE FOR LUNCHES IS £2.90





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

Workshop Week

Please do come to these workshops. All workshops are for ALL parents. They are being held in school **WC 09.11.26**.

There will be a **phonics workshop** on Monday 9th at 17:00 with Mrs Hodgkinson and Miss Sanderson.

There will be a **SATS workshop** for year 6 parents on Tuesday 10th at 17:00 with Mrs Tetchner.

There will be a **maths workshop** on Thursday 12th, with Miss Jackson. Please email these teachers, if you would like to join these workshops.

Mainstream Inclusion Fund

We are excited to share that we have been approved for funding from the inclusion fund. This means we can improve the acoustics in the hall and install a sensory pod on the school grounds. This will be a wonderful resource for our children with sensory needs, and somewhere quiet for reading and chilling at playtime.

Animals theatre

We had a group of actors from Animal Theatre doing a workshop about animals, endangered species and doing our bit to look after the planet. It was all singing, all dancing and a lot of fun. We had a fantastic afternoon. The children really enjoyed it.

Fabulous Fungi

Ali McKernan spent the day with Bitterns' class in Eaves Wood yesterday. The children wrote down LOTS of questions for the team about foraging on Wednesday and then yesterday, went foraging for fungi with the FUNgi Guy team. They had a great time. Please check our website page for photos and fun.

Next Week...

05.11.26 – School reopens

05.11.26 - Blue Bag collection

05.11.26 – Bonfire Day lunch

06.11.26 – Annual SEND review.

Please check out the [website calendar](#) for longer term diary dates.

Attendance

A massive well done to Bitterns this week

Bitterns 100 %

Curlews 91.4%

Harriers 87.1%

AVERAGE SCHOOL 92.8%

Parent Meetings

These will be taking place WC 16.11.26.

Curlews will be on Tuesday 17th November. Harriers on Wednesday 18th Bitterns on Thursday 19th

Please complete the reply slip with your preferred time, and return to class teacher.

Badger News!

We have more badger footage and we have a plan to deter the badger. Hopefully football can resume on the pitch after the holidays!

FLU VACCINATIONS

The School Nurse Team will visit us on **Thursday 26th November 2026** to administer Flu Vaccinations.

Mathletics

'Well done' to Seb, for getting his first 'first' in Mathletics





BAG 2 SCHOOL



Our next Bag2School collection
has been arranged for

Thursday 5th November 2026

Any questions – please ask your school
collection organiser Anna Lawton

**SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
PRIMARY**

APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2027

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
15 January 2027

School transport



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



lancashire.gov.uk



Lancashire
County Council





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



Stay and Play at school



Friday

09:00 – 10:30

We would love to see you.

Parents, grandparents,
aunties, uncles –
all children great and small.



**Snacks
provided**

**and a LOT
of fun.**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DEEPFAKES

A deepfake is a piece of artificial intelligence (AI) trickery designed to make you believe that a person has said or done something they haven't. AI models are able to use audio, video and photos of a subject to produce misleading mimics. Initially unsophisticated and easy to spot, deepfakes are improving every day. And with the spread of user-friendly AI, it's easier than ever for children to make their own, or be the unsuspecting target of them.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BULLYING RISK

AI has got easier to use and more widespread, making it a "gift" to bullies. Children can generate fake audio of peers saying damaging things, or pictures of them doing something embarrassing. More disturbingly, Metro recently highlighted cases where fake sexualised images of teens are spread through social media. Mainstream apps don't allow this usage, but with AI becoming widespread, easy-to-use sites without guardrails keep emerging for darker uses.

FAKE FAMILY SCAMS

With a few seconds of audio — from an Instagram reel or TikTok — scammers can clone a person's voice. They can then use this to scam relatives with phone calls asking for money or assistance. This is a widespread tactic for scammers, with the FBI reporting 22,000 such cases in 2025, defrauding victims out of \$893 million that year alone.

FAKED CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

With the technology getting easier to use and public figures having lots of clips for training, celebrities are a frequent target. According to McAfee, the most deep faked celebrities are Taylor Swift, Scarlett Johansson, Jenna Ortega, Sydney Sweeney and Sabrina Carpenter, and their AI dopelgangers are usually pushing scams. Even YouTuber MrBeast has been deepfaked by scammers on TikTok. It can be used for propaganda too, making politicians appear to do or say things to improve or harm their reputation.

EXTORTION RISK

You might not be the one being tricked by a deepfake — you could also be the star of it. Blackmail videos are as old as film itself, but with deepfake technology you don't have to have done anything wrong to be a target. A deepfake video showing a person in an uncompromising position could make the victim pay up, even when the content never happened.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP PROFILES PRIVATE

To make a convincing deepfake, you need a supply of images, audio or video of the subject. That means that most non-celebrity victims are targeted via social media where there's a ready-made repository of media to train a deepfake from. Most social media companies have privacy settings to prevent unauthorised access. Enable these to keep strangers and bullies away.

USE RESEARCH AND COMMON SENSE

Even perfect deep fakes rely on trust, so think critically. If it's someone you know claiming to need help, then ask them to prove they're who they say they are with an inside joke. For public figures, try Googling the person along with a bit of the contentious speech in quotation marks. Also question why you're seeing the video. If it's a paid promotion, then ask yourself who's paying and why. If someone is sharing the clip, do they dislike the target?

KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

While deepfakes are getting harder to spot, there are still telltale signs to look out for. Deepfake creation can leave blurry edges and flickering textures, especially around hair and teeth. It can also look too sleek, with models often trained on professional video. Make sure the mouth shapes match the spoken words, too. As for audio, listen out for mispronounced phrases and a slightly unusual, robotic rhythm of speech.

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

As well as emphasising the need for privacy and to not trust everything they see online, it's important to ensure children realise why deepfakes are problematic in the first place. With deepfake technology getting more accessible and easy to use, children can start using the technology to make deepfakes of schoolmates, teachers or other adults. Ensure they're aware of the serious trouble the technology can cause, and the ethical problems of manipulating someone's image without consent.

Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®