Newsletter – WC 9th November 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 **HOPE**

STAR OF THE WEEK

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

Curlews – Felix

For ALWAYS being ready to learn, for working hard and being a kind friend

Bitterns – Noah

For being learning ready and having a mature and sensible attitude in class. He makes a great role model!

Harriers – Baine

For taking care to produce neat handwriting and remembering to join his letters. Well done Baine!

Children in Need

We have had a lovely day today, raising money for Children in need. Our new school council children ran a cake sale at playtime. They held a colouring competition and asked their peers to cover Pudsey in coppers! We have raised approximately £50.00 so far.

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Christmas Market

The markets will be on **Friday 27th November** (not 4th December as printed in the parish magazine. Apologies) We have at least 5 stall holders now. Our wonderful community will be selling a range of products, from photographs, artwork and knitted items to reindeer dust and baubles. We need…

Raffle prizes – local businesses supporting us?

Chocolate (multipacks)

Wine etc.

Volunteers on the night (see Carly)

Children to sell raffle tickets. TODAY

Tickets are £3 (early bird – 17:00-18:00)

£2 (18:00 onwards)

Lunches



Week 1 WC 16.11.26

Reindeer Rush

We are taking part in the 2026 Reindeer Rush for St John's Hospice! Please help us to raise vital funds for our local Hospice. The team will be in school on Friday 27th November, sharing with the children all the wonderful work they do at the hospice in worship . We will be donning our antlers on **Friday 4th December for the run**. KS2 children will run around Bleasdale and school grounds. KS1 children will run around our school grounds. PTA will provide mince pies and hot drinks.

Road Safety Week

Next week is ROAD SAFETY WEEK. The children will be taking part in activities to mark how we stay safe on the roads. We will be thinking about how to keep ourselves safe when out and about, whether walking, cycling or travelling in a car. The children will be discussing the importance of using safe crossing places, stopping and looking carefully before crossing the road, wearing seatbelts and being aware of traffic around us.

Christmas Tree Festival

Decoration Competition!

Silverdale St John's tree will be called 'Joy to the World'

Please make a small Christmas tree decoration from reclaimed material.

By reusing our waste, we will be focusing on respecting and protecting God's world.

Please send your decoration into school by **Friday 20th November 2026.**

There will be a prize for the winner in each class.

Indoor Cricket

Caspian, Joe, Patrick, Oscar, Olly, Toby, Seb and Charlie did an amazing job on Tuesday. Losing to Moorside, but winning against Westgate.

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School Council

The nominations are in. The manifestos have been shared with classes. The votes were put forward for the ballot and have been counted. Our new school council are Ben, Ezra, Axel, Quinn, Joe, Jasper and Reuben. We look forward to hearing all their ideas for the future of our school

Half Termly Overviews

Our current theme for Autumn term is 'Happy Healthy Me'. Please click on the following links to see what your children are learning.

Curlews Bitterns Harriers

Friday Thought

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.

—1 John 2:15-16.

FLU VACCINATIONS

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

School Applications

The application process for primary school places for September 2027 is now open. Primary applications close on 15th January 2027.

Attendance

A massive 'well done' to Harriers & curlews this week

Harriers	**100.0 %**
Curlews	**100.0%**
Bitterns	**98.0%**
Average school	**99.2 %**

Next Week…

Parents Meetings – see below for times
16.11.26 - Road Safety Week
16.11.26 - School Nurse Drop in 14:00
17.11.26 - Wigan Warriers Rugby Training
17.11.26 - Cricket Comp – Carnforth High
18.11.26 - Forest School – Curlews
20.11.26 - Mufti Day – Raffle Prize donation
20.11.26 - Kendal Mountain Festival

Accelerated Reader

Patrick
Reuben
Joe
Marnie
Jasper
Abigail
Sebastian

Well done to these children for earning points on Accelerated Reader. You are the first children for this half term. Class teachers have set targets with teachers. Who will reach their target for this half term?

Mufti Day

Next Friday, will be a mufti day.. For the privilege of wearing own clothes, children should bring a bottle or chocolates for the Christmas market tombola

Parent Meetings

These will be taking place next week.
Curlews will be on Tuesday 17th November.
Harriers on Wednesday 18th
Bitterns on Thursday 19th

Pop Up Christmas Tree Choir

At the end of the Christmas Tree Festival there will be a short Service of Light on SUNDAY 29th 4.00pm – 4.45pm. If your youngster would like to be part of the choir for this service there will be two rehearsals on Wednesday 18th and 25th November during the lunch break at 12.20. Please let the office know if your child would like to be part of it.

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

PTA CHRISTMAS MARKET

Friday 27th November 2026

from 5pm until late

At The Silverdale Hotel
Shore Rd, Silverdale

Festive games, mince pies, school carol singers, mulled wine & plenty of local artisan gifts & crafts

CELEBRATE WITH US!

ON THURSDAY 19TH NOV FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF KENDAL MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL!

KENDAL MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL



Join us for an unforgettable celebration that will ignite your spirit of adventure and set the tone for an incredible Festival weekend.

Festivities begin at 5pm outside the Abbot Hall Art Gallery, with live music and stilt walkers leading a vibrant parade to the Basecamp Village to the joyous clang of cowbells.

This family-friendly event invites children to help carry cowbells, glowsticks and lanterns as we light up Abbot Hall Park together.

Our Festival Directors will welcome everyone into the Basecamp Village, where our Festival Patrons will officially open the 2026 Festival. Enjoy a selection of short films and a special teaser of what's in store for the Festival weekend ahead!

This is a free event for everyone to enjoy – including well-behaved dogs on leads. The parade lasts around 20 mins and follows a route suitable for buggies and wheelchairs. **Head torches and waterproofs are recommended.**

DATE THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2026 **TIMINGS** 5PM START, ENDING BY 6.30PM
MEETING POINT OUTSIDE ABBOT HALL ART GALLERY

St John's Church, Silverdale

Christmas Diary Dates

The Big Silverdale Christmas Singalong

Wednesday 16th December at 7:30pm at St John's Church.

Come along for a relaxed evening with local musicians and singers. There will be a mix of participation and some beautiful performances.

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm

Get the Christmas week off to a musical start as we hear the traditional Christmas readings, sing carols and enjoy choir carols as we journey towards Christmas.

Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December



Christingle Crib Service 4pm

A telling of the Christmas story for young and old alike. Readings, carols, nativity figures, culminating in Christingle's in a circle of light.

Midnight Eucharist 11.30pm

A reflective joy filled service as we welcome Christmas Day once again with carols, readings and Holy Communion.

Christmas Day

Family Communion 10.30am

Come and join the celebration of Christmas. We gather together to share communion, carols and prayers, all in about an hour.



All are welcome!

ARE YOU INTERESTED

in up-to-date news about a new

COMMUNITY SHOP

IN SILVERDALE*?



IF SO PLEASE COME TO THE GASKELL HALL ON SAT 21st NOV AT 2 PM

and tell us your ideas for the next phase

REFRESHMENTS & RAFFLE

(cash only please)

For more information please phone 07760 481821

*This will open in the current Pharmacy once the Pharmacy has moved across to the Post Office. It will be run by the local community for the local community.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

27th – 29th NOVEMBER

SILVERDALE METHODIST CHURCH,

COVE ROAD LA5 0RW

FRIDAY 27th 3.15pm-7.00pm

SATURDAY 28th 10.00am-7.00pm (Refreshments 10.30-4.30)

SUNDAY 29th 10.00am-3.00pm

Trees contributed and decorated by various

Silverdale Community Groups in their own individual style!

Concluding with our celebration

ADVENT SERVICE OF LIGHT

SUNDAY 29th 4.00pm – 4.45pm

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ In the UK

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, that allows users to send messages, share multimedia, make calls, and participate in group chats. In September 2026, WhatsApp announced new optional parental controls for teenagers, including privacy settings, group notifications, and restrictions on AI content, which parents and educators should be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats help young people stay connected, but they can also leave them feeling excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and frequent notifications can create a sense of needing to be constantly available. WhatsApp's new parental controls notify parents when teenagers join or leave groups, or when a group grows significantly in size.

HARMFUL CONTENT ON CHANNELS

WhatsApp Channels allow users to receive updates from public figures, organisations, and content creators; however, some Channels may expose young people to misinformation, harmful ideologies, or age-inappropriate material. New optional parental controls allow adults to restrict which Channels teenagers access, including limiting them to approved Channels.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers may use WhatsApp to trick young people into sharing personal information, sending money, or sharing security codes. They may impersonate friends or family members, using convincing stories about emergencies or urgent requests for help. New parental controls can help manage who contacts teenagers; however, they cannot prevent all scams or fraudulent messages.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp allows users to share their live location, profile information, and Status updates. Without appropriate privacy settings, this information could expose young people to unwanted attention or reveal their whereabouts. New parental controls enable adults to manage certain privacy settings, including who can view account details and add teenagers to groups.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp features such as disappearing messages and Chat Lock can make conversations harder for adults to identify. Although these tools are designed to protect privacy, they may also make it harder for adults to recognise inappropriate exchanges or harmful behaviour. WhatsApp's new parental controls do not give adults access to teenagers' private messages or calls.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp includes advertising in parts of its Updates section and offers Meta AI, an integrated AI assistant. Young people may encounter sponsored content, misleading AI responses, or information which is unsuitable for their age. New parental controls offer a stricter 'Limited Content' setting for Meta AI; however, this cannot guarantee that every response will be accurate or appropriate.

ONLINE

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLORE NEW PARENTAL CONTROLS

WhatsApp's new optional parental controls are being rolled out gradually, giving families more ways to manage teenagers' privacy and interactions. Teenagers will need parental approval using a parent-set PIN to relax any protected settings. Keep the conversation open and set up the controls together, remembering that parents can adjust or switch them off at any time.

MANAGE CHANNELS AND AI

Explore the new settings for Channels, Status updates, and Meta AI. Parents can restrict Channels to approved selections or prevent teenagers from viewing them. They can also choose Meta AI's stricter 'Limited Content' option, which restricts certain topics. Remind young people that AI can produce inaccurate information and encourage them to question responses rather than accepting them at face value.

MONITOR GROUP ACTIVITY SAFELY

New parental controls notify adults when teenagers join or leave groups, or when a group grows significantly in size. These alerts can help identify potentially concerning interactions without revealing private messages. Encourage young people to discuss unfamiliar groups, uncomfortable conversations, or pressure from other members and that they can leave, mute, or report if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

PRIORITISE TRUST AND COMMUNICATION

Parental controls should support conversations about online safety, not replace them. Explain that WhatsApp's new features do not give adults access to private messages or calls, helping teenagers understand that their privacy remains protected. Reassure young people that they can speak openly about upsetting content, unwanted contact, or pressure from other group members.

Meet Our Expert



Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.11.2026