



St Mary's News

A message from Mrs Bushell...



St. Mary's R.C. Primary School

A Voluntary Academy

Holcombe Drive, Burnley, Lancashire BB10 4BH
Tel: (01282) 427546

e-mail: messageus@st-marys-burnley.lancs.sch.uk

web-site: www.st-marys-burnley.lancs.sch.uk

Head teacher – Mrs L Bushell



Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello! I'm absolutely delighted (and if I'm honest, just a little bit excited!) to introduce myself as the newest member of staff at St Mary's Primary School. I came to St Marys in September on a 6 week secondment and haven't left as yet!

I live in Manchester with my husband, and until very recently our home also included our son—who has now flown the nest to start university in London. It's been a big change, so I'm especially thrilled to now be part of a lively, joyful school community again!

I've always wanted to be a teacher—it's one of those dreams that never went away. Making a difference in children's lives, helping them grow in confidence, curiosity, and kindness, is something I feel truly passionate about. I feel incredibly lucky to have been given the opportunity to do that here at St Mary's.

My aim is simple: to give every child the very best chance in life—encouraging them to aim high, believe in themselves, and enjoy their learning along the way. There will be plenty of smiles, lots of encouragement, and (hopefully!) a good dose of fun too.

I'm also here for you. I believe schools work best when we work together, so whether you have a question, a worry, or just want to say hello, please know my door is always open.

I'm really looking forward to becoming part of such a special community—and I can't wait to get to know you all.

Warmest wishes,

Laura Bushell

Head Teacher

Mrs Laura Bushell

Breakfast & Afterschool Club

Please can you ensure that all sessions for Breakfast and Afterschool club are pre-booked and paid for on our new Parent app Arbor.

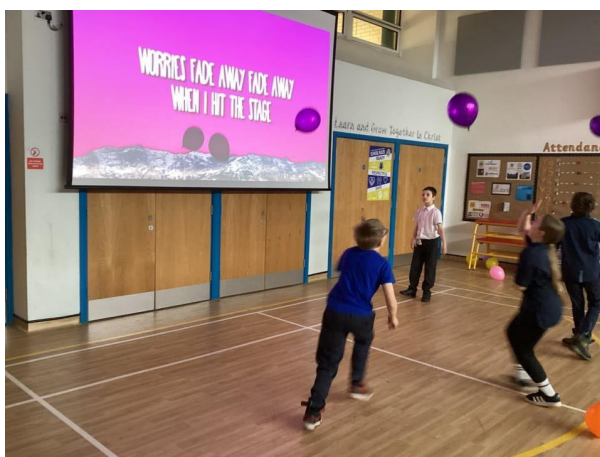
Also when collecting children please make sure you sign your child out from afterschool club.

Many thanks for your continued support

House point winners...

Well done House Saint Bernadette for winning the most house points for this term!

🥳 Celebrations with Miss Rohman 📍 A fun afternoon had by all, Which House will win next? 😊 Keep earning those house points children, well done 🍌







Easter Egg Raffle Winners

A huge well done to all the children who were lucky enough to win an easter egg in our easter egg raffle that was drawn in assembly on Tuesday afternoon! 🐰🥚









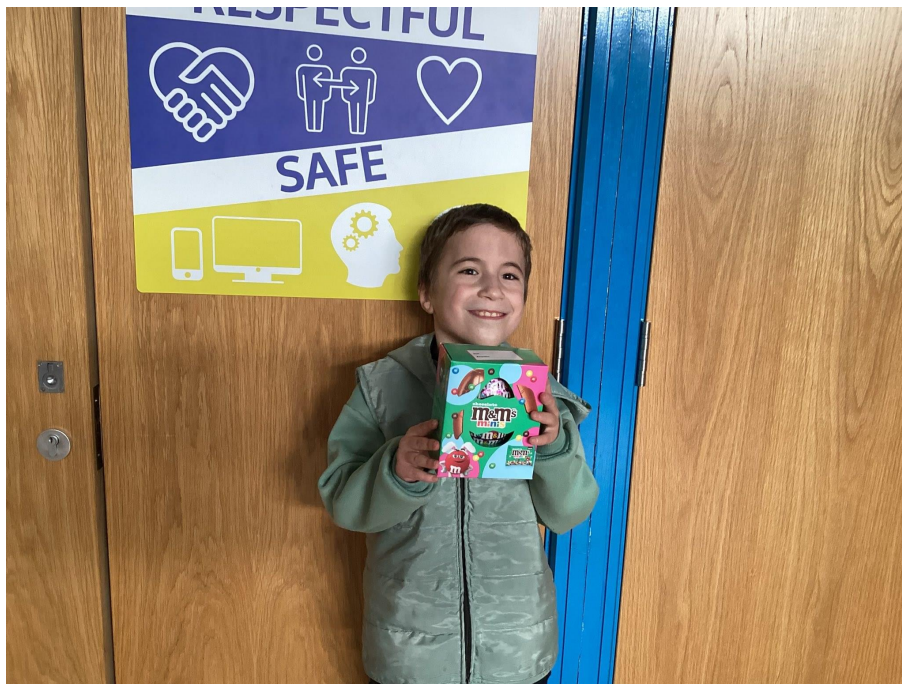






















Easter Bonnet & Easter Garden Winners...













100% Attendance for Spring term

There were 52 of our children who had achieved 100% attendance for our Spring term, those from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were able to decorate biscuits in the rainbow room at lunchtime. KS2 children will be receiving their treat after the easter break. Well done everyone!!



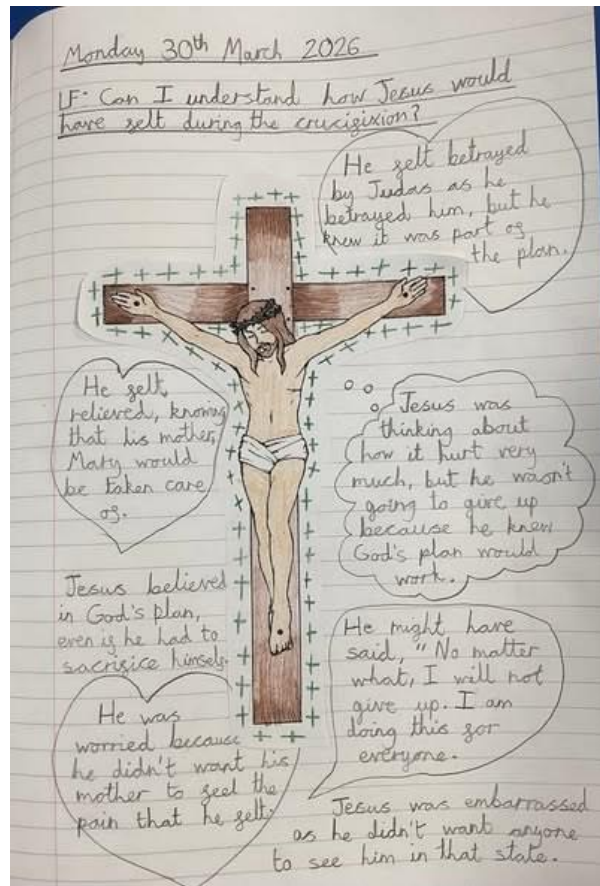


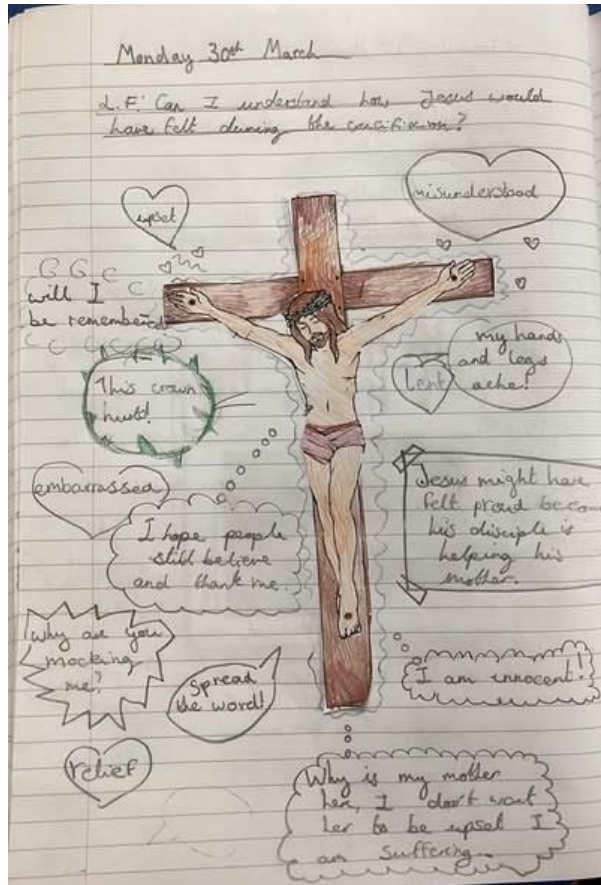
This weeks birthdays! 🎂

Here are all the children who celebrated their birthday this week or will be celebrating their birthday in the easter holiday, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Ruby (Year 1)
- Tyler (Year 6)
- Harper (Year 5)
- Libby (Year 4)
- Erin (Year 3)
- Henry (Year 6)
- Josiah (Year 2)
- Darcie (Year 6)

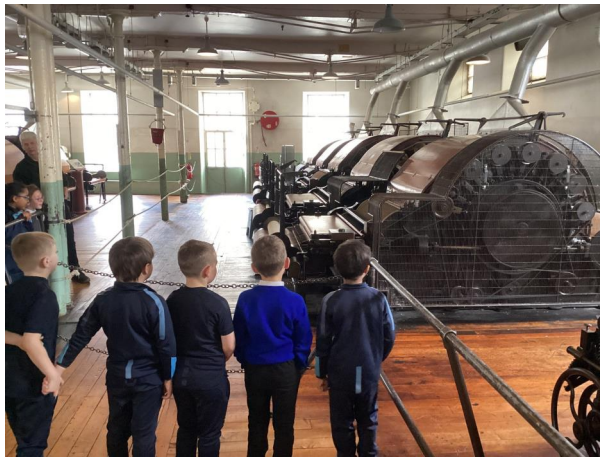
What's been going on this week?





During Holy Week, Year 6 have been thinking about how Jesus would have been feeling during crucifixion and Father David visited school today and discussed the events of Holy Week with Year 6.





Year 2 had a great trip to Helmshore Mill on Monday. We were able to see what life would have been like for children and adults working in our local mills. We looked at artefacts from the Victorian times and were able to handle some of the cotton used in the mills. We all behaved brilliantly and were a credit to the school. ★





Thank you to Year 6 who on Tuesday morning led a whole school worship. This worship was taking us on Jesus' journey to his death on the cross. The Stations of the Cross were beautifully read and each class listened respectfully. Thank you to all of the parents who joined in this journey.





Our year 6 children and reception class had some lovely Easter seeds and gardeners time on Wednesday morning. Children had hot cross buns and all played outside. 🌱





Year 1 worked well in their teams for the maths Easter egg hunt around the school playground on Wednesday 🌻🌻

Important Information for Parents



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Tel: (01282) 427546

e-mail: messageus@st-marys-burnley.lancs.sch.uk
web-site: www.st-marys-burnley.lancs.sch.uk

Head teacher: Mr Ian Jones



Dear Parents/Carers

Due to a child in our school with a severe nut allergy we are now a nut free school.

Please ensure that any snack or packed lunch your child brings to school does not contain any nuts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

School Office

From after half term, at break time, children will only be allowed to bring fruit or vegetables as a snack. As a healthy school, we want to encourage good eating habits, support children's wellbeing, and help them stay focused and energized for learning.

Children in Reception to Year 2 will continue to be provided with fruit in school, so there is no need to send in a snack for these year groups.

Children in Key Stage 2 may bring in a piece of fruit or vegetables only to enjoy at break time.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us promote a healthy school. 🍓 🥕

Parents,

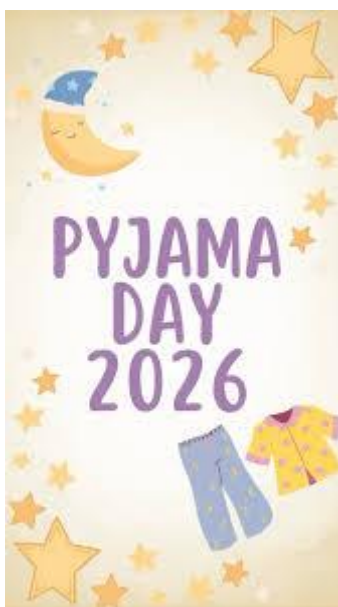
If there are any changes in terms of allergies, medication, contact numbers, photo consent or anything we need to know about please ensure that you are keeping us regularly up to date. If you also would like to come in and check with us that what we have on our system is correct please call into the office, it is so important that we have all the correct and relevant information to keep your children safe.

Kind Regards

The office team

[What's going to be happening in school...](#)

[Pyjama Day 2026 📅](#)



St Marys School Council have arranged a Pyjama Day on Monday 22nd May! £1 Donation and come in your comfy pyjama's for the day! All donations will be going towards a surprise for our wonderful children!

Class Masses

Our Class Masses at church will resume during the Easter tide period.

Here is a list of when each class will be going to mass at St Marys Church:

- 30/04/2026 - Year 2 & Year 4
- 05/05/2026 - Year 1 & Year 3
- 19/05/2026 - Reception, Year 6 & Year 5

Forest School /Outdoor learning Sessions - Summer One

See below for Year Groups who will be accessing Forest School /outdoor learning when we return to school after the easter break (Summer One). Please make sure your child brings in suitable wellies and waterproofs.

They may come to school wearing old clothes on the day of their Forest School. If you are struggling with providing waterproofs and wellies please come and speak to us and we can help .

Tuesday AM- Reception (first session 28th April)




Tuesday PM - Year 3

Wednesday PM - Year 2

Year 4 Swimming

Our year 4 will be starting swimming lessons on Monday 20th April, please make sure children are bringing their swim costume/short, towel and swimming caps.

Library

  **Guess what? Our library has opened its doors to everyone and their grown-ups... and we can't wait!**  **Every Friday after school, the library will turn into a cosy little adventure zone where you can:**

- **Dive into new stories**
- **Discover magical worlds**
- **Pick out a brilliant book to take home**

Bring your curiosity, bring your imagination — and bring your grown-ups too. We'd *love* to see you there!

Please note the library is now located in the main school building, pop into the office and we can show you the way!

Lunchtime Clubs

Next week we have some of the following clubs starting during lunchtimes... if you would love to learn a new hobby or practise some existing skills please come along!

Monday Lunchtime - Chaplaincy Team (existing members only)

Monday Lunchtime - Well-being


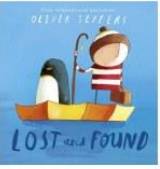
Tuesday Lunchtime - Choir (KS2 Children) - this will be starting after half term


Wednesday Lunchtime - Dance Club (KS2 Children)

Thursday Lunchtime - Prodigy/Timestable Rockstars Maths Practice (Years 3 & 4)

Friday Lunchtime - School Council (existing members only)

Learning Letters Spring 1

<p>Homework We continue to ask that children read their reading books Wednesday, Thursday and bring that book on Friday. Spellings will be given every Monday this term. Our class spelling test takes place every Friday morning.</p> <p>Year 1 have practiced number formation and have started to look at adding numbers within 10 (number bonds).</p> <p>You will see below a few ideas for activities relating to our current topic. Please use one of these ideas or use your own idea as a basis for a home learning challenge this half-term. You can draw pictures, write sentences, or even take photographs of the work that you have carried out at home. Please hand your homework into school on or before Thursday 12th February so that we celebrate the children's hard work.</p> <p>Make a book about the special people in your life.</p> <p>Create a band for the little boy. What would it be called?</p> <p>Write a short story based on a penguin. What would it look like? Where would it live?</p> <p>Make a 3D junk model of a penguin.</p> <p>Paint or draw a labelled picture of the winter season.</p> 	<p>Year 1 Miss Daley Learning Letter Spring 1 2025</p> 
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<p>Mathematics This half term we will reveal place value and then apply this to other mathematical topics. We will also cover adding by counting on up to 20, find and make number bonds to 20, near doubles and missing number problems. Playing games that involve mathematics at home will enhance children's understanding of place value and counting.</p> <p>Key Instant Recall Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Counting on from any number up to 20Counting backwards from any numbers between 0-20Number bonds to 10 <p>English This half term we will read <i>Lost and Found</i> by Oliver Jeffers. The children will use different grammar skills throughout this unit to write in role of the character, explore thoughts and feelings, and write their very own innovated version of this fictional story.</p> <p>Children will take part in a minimum of 3 reading practices a week - Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We focus on different aspects of reading throughout these 3 days. This includes...</p> <p>Reading practice 1: Decoding - identifying phonics within text Reading practice 2: Prosody - reading with expression. Reading practice 3: Comprehension - questioning throughout the story.</p> <p>The same book is sent home on Wednesdays for children to read along with a reading for pleasure book.</p> 	<p>Religious Education In Religious Education this term, children will look closely at: Anthology - Gethse to Jerusalem In this topic, the learning outcomes are to know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Who Simon is and how he was guided by the Holy Spirit.Who did Jesus meet in his adult life as he begins his mission. <p>Topic</p> <p>In Art, the children will be looking at the unit 'Colour splash - Painting and Mixed Media'. We will also be looking at the artists Clarice Cliff and Jasper Johns.</p> <p>In Science, Year 1 will look closely at 'Animals and Classification'. The children will be identifying and naming a variety of common animals that are carnivores, omnivores and herbivores.</p> <p>In History, Year 1 will study the unit Castles. By the end of the topic children will have an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of people in a medieval castle. Be able to find and label the parts of a motte and bailey castle. To describe who William the Conqueror was and what he did and retell the Battle of Hastings using the Bayeux Tapestry.</p> <p>In ICT, with Mrs Gorman, Year 1 will carry out Programming unit - Moving a robot. Children will explore using individual commands, both with other learners and as part of a computer program. They will identify what each floor robot command does and use that knowledge to start predicting the outcome of programs.</p> <p>In Music, with Mrs Gorman, all the learning in this half term is focused around different genres such as pop, reggae and funk.</p> <p>Thank you all for your support. Please contact school if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, or wish to discuss any other issue.</p>
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Home learning challenge
Fancy a home learning challenge? Here are some ideas of what you might like to do. You can send photos of the work on Class Dojo for us all to see.


Build a 3-D model.

Make a board game about the River Nile.


Find a pyramid net online and create your own model of an Egyptian pyramid.

Make a Scarab beetle box.

Create a project about King Tut. Why was he so famous?


St Mary's R.C. Primary School, Burnley

Learn and grow together in Christ.



Year 4 Learning Letter
Mrs Haida Spring 1 2026

Mathematics

This term, we will begin with multiplication and division, where children will focus on their 7x and 11x tables and related division facts. They will also practise written methods for larger calculations. Please encourage your child to use Times Tables Rockstars, which is a fantastic way to build speed and confidence. Next, we will move on to length and perimeter, learning how to measure accurately and calculate the perimeter of different shapes. After that, we will explore fractions, comparing and ordering them, and finding equivalents. Finally, we will finish the term with decimals, starting with tenths and progressing to hundredths, making links to fractions along the way. Please encourage your child to use Times Tables Rockstars which is a fabulous way for children to improve their knowledge in this area.

English

This half term, the children will enjoy reading *The Firework Maker's Daughter* by Philip Pullman as our main fiction text, exploring themes of issues and dilemmas. We will use this novel as inspiration for writing, developing grammar skills and focusing on accurate punctuation of speech and the use of commas in complex sentences. Building on this, the children will move into a unit on persuasion, where they will learn the key features of persuasive writing before creating their own advert or notice. Later in the term, we will read *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold, which will provide further opportunities for discussion and comprehension, as well as inspiring responses.

Reading

Children will participate in daily 20-minute whole-class reading sessions a week. During these sessions the teacher and teaching assistant will work with all of the children on a text carefully selected to offer an appropriate level of challenge. Children will be taught different reading strategies that revolve around the following key areas of reading: vocabulary, inference, prediction, explaining, retrieval and summarising. Please support your child with their home reading.

Religious Education

In Religious studies this term, children will look closely at:

- Local Church
- Eucharist
- Lent/Easter
- Pentecost

Topic

In Science, our topic is States of Matter. This term, your child will:

- Compare and group materials as solids, liquids, or gases.
- Observe how materials change state when heated or cooled, and measure or research the temperature at which these changes occur.
- Learn about evaporation and condensation and how these processes are part of the water cycle.
- Investigate how the rate of evaporation changes under different conditions.
- Carry out practical activities to explore these concepts and apply their understanding to real-life examples.

History/Geography

This half term we will complete our topic of Ancient Egypt. Throughout the topic, your child will develop their understanding of chronology and learn how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources. When we have completed this learning, we will move on to a Geography unit around North America.

Art

The children will be painting and using mixed media.

Computing

Programming and data logging.

Spanish

Presenting myself.

Other important information

- PE takes place on Monday and Tuesday afternoons.
- Forest school will take place on Friday afternoon.
- Ukulele lessons are on a Thursday afternoon.


Thank you all for your support. Please communicate with school should you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or any other issue.

In addition to reading, times tables and spelling work, it would be lovely if you could try some more creative activities at home.

You will see below a few ideas for possible activities to complete at home relating to our current work. You can draw pictures, write sentences, create a PowerPoint or even take photographs. Please complete any challenges on or before Friday 13th February so we can see your hard work. Have fun!

Thinking about our science lessons, create a 3D solar system.

Using your knowledge of portraits, create a piece of artwork of an alien.



Year 5 Miss Howorth
Learning Letter Spring 1 2026

Mathematics

This half term, we will consolidate our previous work on multiplication and division, and we will then move on to fractions and percentages. It is very important that children know all the multiplication facts and associated division facts, and that they are able to utilise their knowledge in a range of contexts. Support will be given at school but help at home via the Times Tables Rockstars would be very much appreciated. I can send your child home with their login details on request.

English

This half term we will study the wonderful genre of science fiction. The children will use different grammar skills throughout this unit and, for a final piece, write their own story based using features found in the genre. Children will continue to practice Year 4 statutory spellings within this unit and your support in assisting your child to learn these spellings is very much appreciated.

Reading

Children will participate in five 30-minute whole class guided reading sessions a week, learning different reading strategies such as inference, skimming and scanning to aid and improve their reading comprehension.

Suggested reading for Year 5:

Explore other works linked to our class novel and in the science fiction genre. The following are especially recommended:

The Kid Who Came From Space – Ross Welford
George's Secret Key to the Universe – Stephen and Lucy Hawking
Cosmic – Frank Cottrell Boyce

Religious Education

In Religious studies this term, children will look closely at:

- Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese
- Lent, giving and sacrifice

Science

This half term, we will be looking Earth and space. We will be looking at the solar system and how Earth's movement and rotation affects us.

Art

In art, we will be studying how to create portraits using paint and mixed-media. The children will study his famous portraits, explore use of composition and colour and as a final piece, produce their own artwork of a portrait.

Other important information:

- PE in Year 5 is on Thursday and swimming is on Monday.
- Please can you make sure your child's belongings, including their uniform, are clearly marked with their name.
- Forest School is on Tuesday afternoons. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear and coats for the weather.
- Try and read with your child as often as possible.

Thank you all for your support. Please communicate with school should you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or any other issue.

Miss Howorth

In addition to reading, SATs Companion and spelling work, it would be lovely if you could try some more creative activities at home.


You will see below a few ideas for possible activities to complete at home relating to our current work. You can draw pictures, write sentences, create a PowerPoint or even take photographs. Please complete any challenges on or before Friday 13th February so we can see your hard work. Have fun!

Thinking about our class novel, create a 3D scene from The Wizard of Oz.


Design a poster for a film version of The Wizard of Oz.

Create a 3D volcano!

Research Picasso, create a piece of artwork based on The Eucharist.



St. Mary's R.C. Primary School
Learn and Grow Together in Christ



Year 6
Mrs Blezard & Mrs Stalton
Learning Letter Spring 1 2026

Mathematics

This half term, we will move on to ratio, algebra and decimals. It is very important that children know all the multiplication facts and associated division facts, and that they are able to utilise their knowledge in a range of contexts. Support will be given at school but help at home via the Times Tables Rockstars would be very much appreciated, as well as using SATs companion to support additional areas of work.

English

This half term we will study the wonderful novel "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum. The children will use different grammar skills throughout this unit and, for a final piece, write their own story based on the storyline of this novel. Children will continue to practise Year 6 statutory spellings within this unit and your support in assisting your child to learn these spellings is very much appreciated.

Reading

Children will participate in five 20-minute whole class guided reading sessions a week, learning different reading strategies such as inference, skimming and scanning to aid and improve their reading comprehension.

Suggested reading for Year 6:

We encourage you to explore other texts, the following are especially recommended:

- Running Wild – Michael Morpurgo
- Stormbreaker – Anthony Horowitz
- Michelle Magorian – Goodnight Mr. Tom
- Alan Gratz – Refugee
- Eoin Colfer – Artemis Fowl

Religious Education

In Religious studies this term, children will look closely at:

- Local church- to understand the Bible as the story of God's love, told by the People of God.
- The Eucharist.

Science

This half term, we will be looking at Evolution and Inheritance, we will be able to recognise that living things have changed over time and that fossils provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago.

Art

In art, we will be studying the work of influential artists including: David Hockney, Paula Rego and Fiona Ran. The children will study their famous artworks, explore the use of composition and colour and as a final piece, produce their own artwork based on his distinctive style.

Other important information:

- PE in Year 6 is on Wednesday and Friday.
- Please ensure your child wears their PE kit in school on PE days.
- Please can you make sure your child's belongings, including their uniform, are clearly marked with their name.
- Try and read with your child as often as possible.

Thank you all for your support. Please communicate with school should you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning or any other issue.

Mrs Blezard & Mrs Stalton

Parents Noticeboard i

Children and Family Wellbeing Service Burnley Presents

INFLATA FUN

Priority booking for children eligible for free school meals




This is a joint event with the Targeted Youth Support Team with activities for 0-19yrs. up to 25yrs with SEND

ACTIVITIES

- Arts and Crafts
- Games and Fun
- Inflatables

Wednesday 1st April
12noon-4pm



FAMILY HUBS

Burnley Zone and Family Hub
Whitfam Street, BB11 1LW

Lancashire County Council

Children and Family Wellbeing Burnley Presents

BURNLEY IN BLOOM

WITH BONNETS AND BASKETS

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL | 10AM-2PM

PRIORITY BOOKING FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

ACTIVITIES FOR 0-11 YEARS

ARTS AND CRAFTS
FUN AND GAMES

DOWN TOWN
CHARTER WALK SHOPPING CENTRE (ABOVE NEW LOOK),
BB11 1AE

FAMILY HUBS

FUN
Food & Friends

Lancashire County Council

Children and Family Wellbeing Burnley Presents

Wild Things Workshop

Activities for 0-11yrs

Priority booking for children eligible for free school meals

Arts and Crafts
Fun and Games

Tuesday 7th April
10am-2pm

**Burnley Wood Family Hub, 33
Brunswick Street, BB11 3NY**

FAMILY HUBS

FUN
Food & Friends

Lancashire County Council

Children and Family Wellbeing Service
Burnley Presents

**Junk
Modelling and
Den Building**

Lancashire
County Council

Thursday 9th April
11am-3pm
Tay Street Family Hub
Tay Street
BB11 4BU

Activities for
0-11 years

FUN!
Food > Friends

Priority booking for children eligible
for free school meals

LANCASHIRE
**FAMILY
HUBS**
NETWORK

Made with PosterMyWall.com

NHS
Lancashire & South Cumbria
1998 Foundation Trust

**East Lancashire
Young People's Mental Health**

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'
Delivered by CYPMH East
tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSOFT

Enter the word "CYPMH East" as the first name and "drop in" as the
second name followed by your date of birth.
You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 1 st April	1pm – 3pm
Wednesday 8 th April	3pm – 5pm
Wednesday 15 th April	5pm – 7pm
Wednesday 22 nd April	1pm – 3pm




Lancashire
Parent Carer Forum

Are you a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs or disabilities?
Join us at one of our

Burnley Family Hub Drop ins

Share your concerns & get answers from:
Lancashire County Council, NHS providers & others.
Also stay updated on what's happening with services

Don't miss out, come along to make your voice heard!

Friday 20th Mar 9:30-11:30	Friday 17th Apr 9:30-11:30	Friday 15th May 9:30-11:30	Friday 19th Jun 9:30-11:30
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@ Burnley Wood Family Hub, 33 Brunswick Street, Burnley, BB11 3NY
For more information follow LPCF Facebook page



**UNDER 16'S
SWIM
FREE
AT BLC***

Children and young people under 16 can enjoy free public swimming with a paying adult at St Peter's and Padiham Leisure Centres.

 Burnley.gov.uk
Supported by Burnley Borough Council

 NATIONAL FITNESS AWARDS WINNER

*T&Cs apply. See website for details.



CYGNET Autism Training

The Cygnet programme was developed by Barnardo's with the support of parents and/or care givers, FOR parents and care givers!

The course aims to create a supportive environment of carers who may be experiencing similar challenges, and to present information on autism that provides opportunities for you to consider and adapt and/or reinforce the way you support your child's needs.

Content:

- Session 1 - Introduction
- Session 2 - Overview
- Session 3 - Thinking & Sensory
- Session 4 - Social Interaction & Communication
- Session 5 - Understanding and supporting behaviour
- Session 6 - Analysing behaviour

Burnley Block:
Wednesdays
12:30 - 3:30pm

Down Town Burnley
Charter Walk Shopping Centre
(above New Look)
Burnley,
BB11 1AE

15th April 2026
22nd April 2026
29th April 2026
6th May 2026
13th May 2026
27th May 2026

More locations
to be announced.
Call us to book!

 info@carerslinklancashire.co.uk  **01254 387444**



Do you care for someone with Neurodiversity?



Monthly Peer Support Groups:

Hyndburn:
1st Thursday of the month
10am - 12 noon
Carers Link Accrington
Community Facility,
Blackburn Road, BB5 1LE

Burnley:
1st Friday of the month
10am - 12 noon
Downtown, Charter Walk
Shopping Centre (2nd floor),
BB11 1PY

Ribble Valley:
1st Wednesday of the month
1pm - 2.30pm
Clitheroe Family Hub,
Wesleyan Row,
Parson Lane, BB7 2JY

Pendle:
2nd Friday of the month
12.30pm - 2.30pm
Colne Library, 47-55
Market Street, BB8 0AP
(starting September '25)

Rossendale (starting November '25):
2nd Thursday of the month 10am - 12noon
The Maden Centre, Rochdale Rd, Bacup, OL13 9NZ

 **01254 387444**

 info@carerslinklancashire.co.uk

 www.carerslinklancashire.co.uk

Our amazing
ASD Support
Officer is here
to help!



March 2026 6-week Autism Cygnet Courses run regularly

3 Anxiety / Behaviour FH Shawsworth, Blackburn 10am - 12pm	5 Online Understanding Autism 6pm - 7:30pm	6 Online Who to turn to for Support? 10am - 11:30am
10 Online Autism & Sensory Processing 10:30am - 12:30pm	12 Online Parent Support 10:30am - 12pm	16 Autism + Education Basicity Cheer, Burnley 10am - 12pm
17 Early Years Support Session (0-11) FH New Era, Accrington 10am - 12pm	19 Parent Support FH Livesey, Blackburn 10am - 11:30am	24 Online Parent Support 6pm - 7:30pm
26 Teenage Years FH New Era, Accrington 10am - 12pm	SCAN HERE for more information and self-referral	

Logos for CAMH, Family AUTISM, SPRING NORTH, and BARNADOS are also present.

Please find below the link for Lancashire County Council's SEND newsletter, it is full of amazing activities for all children.

It is updated 4 times on their website.

[SEND Newsletter - Lancashire County Council](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies. (Online investigations) (often referred to as 'iVOD' streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- COSTLY**: Subscription services can be costly. As the most source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming subscription. Monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for 4K and 8K viewing, and better quality and resolution. However, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users unsubscribing to their services for in 2023.
- ILLEGAL STREAMING**: Sharing passwords or using modified file access to access streaming content without permission to binge. Most streaming services have one per household in place to detect account sharing, while account sharing is illegal. Platforms are offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.
- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**: Most streaming platforms allow users to set up profiles for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include limiting a profile to certain content, restricting autoplay of previous and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nevertheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.
- EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME**: Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4 in 10 children averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, means it's easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.
- BINGE WATCHING**: Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers - especially young people - to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching comes a lack of social interaction, lack of parental supervision and less sleep and sleep disruption which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.
- HARMFUL STEREOTYPES**: Many programmes lack viewing habits, and content, and present and gender stereotypes. Recommendations to encourage are used to keep watching. This results in your child being in a loop where they think the recommendations shown would be something they would enjoy rather than breaking out of the loop. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS**: Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions and PINs for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of the Family PIN system, the option of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previous and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.
- TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS**: Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and how content and recommendations are personalised to them. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Encourage them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.
- MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN**: Discuss with your child what they are watching. Find out which programmes are trending, and check their profile to see what their watch history is like. Be clear of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or promote video or game content, despite a child's movie has been proven. While some to show or monitor may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary and it may impact how they view the world to explore with your child and.
- SET TIME RESTRICTIONS**: Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as 4K content, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is a senior safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various educational papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and texting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

Logos for Wake Up Wednesday and The National College are present.

Violent clips, online conflicts and shock-value challenges can spread rapidly across social media platforms. Many young people are exposed to this content through algorithms or messaging groups, even when they were not actively searching for it.

Our latest [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide explores how viral trends can encourage risky behaviour, normalise violence and create anxiety or fear within communities.

The guide also highlights:

- The emotional and legal risks of sharing violent content
- How social media algorithms amplify harmful material
- Practical advice for parents and educators



**Every Tuesday at 10.30am
from 6th January 2026
Down Town
Charter Walk Shopping Centre
Burnley, BB11 1QJ**

**To register your interest, please scan the
QR code below or email
LRITesolandcareers@lancashire.gov.uk**



1 - Starting 6th January 2026, Down Town will be offering free informal ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes!

Two levels available:

- *Beginners: 10:30 AM*
- *Intermediate: 11:30 AM*

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/na6hWPb2st>

Online Safety

Please find below some information on how to help keep children safe on social media and some guidance on how to set parental restrictions on devices and accounts.



Adult animated content is increasingly visible on platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and streaming services. While the bright visuals and cartoon style may seem harmless at first glance, many of these shows and clips are created specifically for mature audiences, featuring strong language, sexual references, graphic violence and unsettling themes.

This #WakeUpWednesday guide helps parents and educators understand the risks, from misleading visuals and algorithm-driven recommendations to desensitisation and edgy humour. It also offers practical advice on platform settings, open conversations and building children’s critical thinking, so young people can navigate online animation safely and confidently.

Social Media



Facebook (13+)

Included in Facebook's settings are the ability to set who can see your posts, who can contact you and the ability to review all posts before appearing on your timeline.

Unfriend: go to their profile, click on the three dots, click on Following and tap Unfollow.

Blocking: go to their profile, click on the three dots and select Block.

Facebook Privacy Check up: this tool helps you review your settings: <https://www.facebook.com/help/129750253597210>

You can also set up Family Centre (supervision) on Messenger: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/help/messenger-app/182587384506653>



Instagram (13+)

When you set up your account, it is automatically set as public (except if you are under 18 and it is set to private as default, although you can change it to public).

Remove a follower: Go to their profile and tap 'Following' and select Unfollow.

Blocking/Reporting: To do this, tap their username, tap on the 3 dots in the top right and select Block or Report.

Turn off commenting on a post: Tap the 3 dots above your post and select Turn Off Commenting.

Find out more here: <https://help.instagram.com/196883487377501>

You can also set up Family Centre (supervision) to give you access to tools such as see who your child follows and screen time: <https://help.instagram.com/4549867563184597>



WhatsApp (13+)

By default, WhatsApp sets your privacy settings to allow any WhatsApp user to see your read receipts, last seen, about and profile photos. To change any of these settings, go to Settings and then select Privacy.

Blocking/Reporting: You can block and report a user by clicking on their name and selecting Block or Report. You can report any issues direct to WhatsApp within the app by going to Settings, Help, Help Center and Contact Us.

Find out more here: https://faq.whatsapp.com/1313491802751163?locale=en_US



TikTok (13+)

You can choose to have a public or private account. If you set your account to private, then only those you accept as friends can see your videos. To do this, go to your profile, tap the 3 line icon, tap Settings and Privacy, go to Privacy and turn on Private account (by default accounts for people under 16 are set to private).

Report inappropriate content: you can report an account, video, comment and message. Follow the instructions here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety/bc/report-a-problem>

Family Pairing

You can use Family Pairing to link your own TikTok account to your child's account. This will give you access to additional controls such as:

- **Screen Time Management:** Control how long your child can spend on TikTok.
- **Direct Messages:** Limit who can send messages to them or turn off direct messaging completely. *Direct messaging is automatically disabled for registered accounts between the ages of 13 and 15.*
- **Restricted Mode:** Restrict the appearance of inappropriate content.
- **Search** - Option to disable.

Find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide/>



X (13+)

When you set up your X account, you can choose whether you would like to keep your tweets public or protected (private). To check, go to Settings and Privacy, select Privacy and Safety and then Audience and tagging and ensure Protect your posts is selected.

Unfollow somebody: Go to their profile, click on 'Following' to then select 'unfollow'.

Blocking/Report: Go to their profile, click the three dots and select block or report.

Location: To keep your location private (so followers can't see the location you are tweeting from), under Settings and Privacy, select Privacy and Safety, select Location Information and ensure Precise location is disabled.

Find out more here: <https://help.x.com/en/safety-and-security/x-privacy-settings>



Snapchat (13+)

When you set up your account, it is automatically set so only friends you've added can contact you or view your story.

Unfriend: Go to the chat screen, tap and hold on a friend's name, tap 'Manage Friendship' and then tap 'Remove Friend'.

Block a friend: Go to the chat screen, tap and hold on a friend's name, tap 'Manage Friendship' and then tap 'Block'.

Location settings: This feature allows your friends to see where you are (including when you are at home) when you have the app open. It is so important that you check your child's settings for this feature. Your location won't be shared on the map until you open it for the first time, at which point you can choose (please note that snaps you submit to Snap Map can still show up on the Map, no matter what location setting you choose):

- **Ghost Mode (Only Me):** your location won't be visible to anyone else.
- **My Friends:** your location will be shared with all of your friends.
- **Select Friends, Except ...:** your location will be shared with your friends, except the friends on this list.
- **Only These Friends ...:** choose specific friends to share your location with.

Who Can Contact Me: in your privacy settings you can choose who can contact you directly with Snaps, Chats, calls, etc. Remember, if you're in a group, then anyone can communicate with you in that Group Chat regardless of your settings. Find out more here: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074560-How-to-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

Family Centre: this can be set up to provide parental control settings such as limit your child's ability to view certain content in the Stories and Spotlight tabs. Find out more here: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7121384944788-What-is-Family-Centre>

Mobile devices

You can set up free parental controls and restrictions on most mobile devices, which can limit what your child can access.

iOS



Using Content & Privacy Restrictions in Screen Time, you can block or limit specific apps and features on your child's device. Find out more here: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Apple have also created this support page for families: <https://www.apple.com/uk/families/>

Android



When you turn on parental controls, you can restrict what content can be downloaded or purchased from Google Play based on maturity level.

Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/10757387?hl=en-GB>

You can also set up Family Link, which lets you set digital ground rules as well as see where they are, receive notifications when they arrive or leave a certain location and set screen time limits. You will need to download Family Link onto your own device first and then link your child's account to it.

Find out more here: <https://families.google/familylink/>