

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 16th May 2025



WEEKLY UPDATE

Another busy week comes to an end. A huge well done to our Year 6 children who have completed their SATS this week. They have worked so hard and approached the tests with maturity and meticulous care. Our children enjoyed an exciting production of Treasure Island this morning. Thank you to FEPS who heavily subsidised this, to enable the parental contributions to be £1.50.

Sports day is coming up, fingers crossed we keep this amazing weather! Have a great weekend everyone

Mr Todd

SPORTS DAY – THURSDAY 22ND MAY

We're excited to invite you to join us for Sports Day! Children should wear a t-shirt in their team colour (Yellow – Sarah Storey, Red – Marcus Rashford, Green – Greta Thunberg, Blue – Tim Peake). Please check with your child's teacher if unsure. Pupils should also wear PE shorts and trainers/pumps, and bring a sunhat, water bottle, and sun cream if needed.

Children should arrive in normal school uniform and will change at school. They have already chosen and practised their events.

Key Stage 1 (Reception – Year 2):

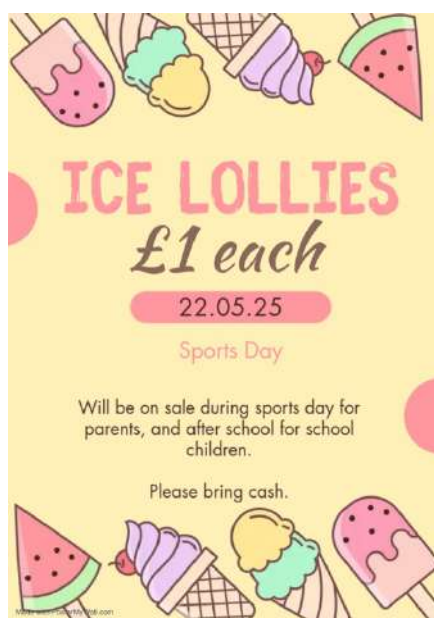
Families welcome from 9:45am. Events start at 10am and finish by 11:30am.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6): Families welcome from 1:00pm. Events start at 1:15pm.

Some seating will be available, but feel free to bring your own chairs or a blanket. Refreshments will be available from FEPS.

All pupils should arrive and be collected at normal school times. If Sports Day is postponed due to weather, we'll notify you via ParentApp. The backup date is 12th June.

We look forward to a fun and active day!



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HOUSE POINTS



THUNBERG

1st



RASHFORD

4th



STOREY

3rd



PEAKE

2nd

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The National average for attendance is 96%

Our school attendance target is 97%.

whole school 97.78%

Class	This week
Reception	96.8%
Year 1	98.3%
Year 2	97.5%
Year 3	95.8%
Year 4	97.6%
Year 5	98.7%
Year 6	100%

Well done **Year 6** again for excellent attendance this week! Chip is looking forward to accompanying you in class next week.

Star of the Week

Beechbuds – Isla C

Reception – Alexander R

Year 1 – Florence G

Year 2 – Bronte P

Year 3 – Isabelle R

Year 4 – Isabella HA

Year 5 – Amy H

Year 6 – Whole Class

Staff – Mrs Finch

FREE SCHOOL MEALS – CHECK YOUR ELIGIBILITY

If your personal circumstances change and you find yourself on a reduced income, you may be entitled to receive **Free School Meal (FSM)** status. We encourage you to check your eligibility by visiting the following link:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=3>

Being eligible for FSM not only provides your child with a free school meal, but also gives access to **additional support and benefits**, which can be very helpful for families facing financial difficulties.

Please don't miss out on the support available—check today.

DONATIONS WELCOME



If you have any **Orchard Games** at home that are no longer being used, we would be very grateful to receive them in school.

We're also kindly asking for donations of any **spare underwear** (all sizes, for boys and girls) to help us support children across the school when needed.

Thank you for your continued support!



SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

WEEK 2	 MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN DISH	Italian Pizza, served with potato wedges	Sausage, with Mashed Potato & Gravy	Chicken Tikka Masala, served with Rice & Naan Bread	Ham & Cheese Puff Pastry Swirl served with roast mini potatoes	Battered Fish Fillet
MAIN DISH 2	Quorn & Tomato Bake	Selection of Paninis served with a seasonal Mixed Salad	Fish finger buttty served with potato cubes and ketchup	Homemade Lasagne with Mixed Salad & Garlic Bread	Sausage Roll Chicken Nuggets
ACCOMPANIMENTS 	Sweetcorn & Beans Salad bar	Batton Carrots & Green Beans Salad bar	Cauliflower & Broccoli Salad bar	Batton Carrots & Sweetcorn Salad bar	Fries, Sweetcorn & Beans Salad bar
DESSERTS	Lemon Drizzle Cake	Flapjack	Strawberry Jelly	Homemade Cookie	Fresh Fruit Friday
FRESH FRUIT OR YOGHURT	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
JACKET POTATO AND SANDWICH SELECTION	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Sandwich Selection



Try something NEW today...
Variety is key to a healthy diet.

MENU 

KEY  - 1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY  - MEAT-FREE MONDAY  - CHEF'S CHOICE  - PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

Allergens and Intolerances All of our food is lovingly hand crafted and prepared on site daily. We have an allergen procedure in place, so please ensure you make our catering team aware of your allergens/ your child's allergens prior to using the restaurant. Our kitchens are used for multi-purpose production so we cannot guarantee the above dishes are completely free from allergenic ingredients or traces of these.



**ECCLESTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

incorporating
Beechbuds Pre-School

**EVERYDAY IS AN
OPEN
DAY**

resilience
resourcefulness
kindness

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fairness
relationships

'Inspiring independent learners to thrive in a changing world'

Ofsted
Good
Provider

To find out more information please email
hello@eccleston.lancs.sch.uk

You can find out all about Eccleston Primary School
on our website www.ecclestonprimary.co.uk

SCIENCE – HOT WATER BOTTLE REQUEST

Next week, Year 4 will be investigating how heat affects different chocolates. We'd love to use hot water bottles as a heat source.

If you have a spare one to donate, please send it in by 20th May]. It will be a great help for future science lessons too.

MILK CONTAINERS NEEDED!

We are collecting 2-pint empty plastic milk bottles with lids for an upcoming school project. If you have any clean, empty containers at home, please send them in with your child. Thank you for your support!



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READERS OF THE WEEK

Well done to all the children that won Reader of the Week today! Please can we remind everyone to take great care of their home reading books so they remain in good condition. Please return your reading bag with reading pal and book by next Thursday. Thank you.



Please don't forget to send your pictures and comments to wearereaders@eccleston.lancs.sch.uk

Shine Summer 2 AFTER SCHOOL WORKSHOP

A creative and nurturing space to help children shine from the inside out!

Our after-school Creative Wellbeing Workshop is designed to build confidence, self-esteem, and support emotional wellbeing through the power of art and imagination.

Led by our very own Mary Poppins - Mrs. Hayley Coggins - children will enjoy relaxing and expressive activities like:

- ✦ Painting ✦ Drawing ✦ Modelling ✦ Crafting ✦ Clay Work and more!

KS1 (Reception - Year 2)

Wednesdays: 18th June - 16th July

3:15PM - 4:15PM (5 weeks) £50 (includes all materials)

KS2 (Years 3 - 6)

Thursdays: 19th June - 17th July

3:20PM - 4:30PM (5 weeks) £50 (includes all materials)




Spaces are limited, please book via ParentPay or contact the school office for more information.







Shine




The Shine Programme runs all year round and is currently well established in several schools across Lancashire. Proudly featured at John Lewis, Waterstones, Wayfarers Arcade and Southport Flower Show 2024.



Newborn, Family, Brand & Wedding Photographer based at Heskin Hall Shopping Village, Heskin, Lancashire



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



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