



Newsletter Friday 17th December 2025

Exodus 3
People of God

There the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in flames of fire coming out of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but it was not burning up. 3 So Moses said, "I will go closer to this strange thing. How can a bush continue burning without burning up?"

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome Back!

Well, what a start to the new school year it has been. The snow, and then the ice, made conditions challenging around school but also for staff coming to work, some of whom travel great distances. We received some lovely messages thanking us for being open when many schools around us were shut, but also on Monday when we closed because the pavements and school site were treacherous with ice. Those of you who walk, often a good way, were particularly thankful. As with anything, there were also people with very different opinions. We try our very best in all things we do. All decisions were made with the safety of children and staff in mind, as is our duty of care.

It's been lovely to see all the children back in school these last few days, full of energy and eager to learn. We've already jumped straight back into our learning with Year 5 beginning to explore the wonders of Ancient Greece, Reception class diving into the wonderful world of fairy tales and Year 4 growing real live trout to be released into the river Calder later in the spring.

Supporting Your Child's Learning:

- **Reading:** Please continue to support your child's reading at home by listening to them read regularly and asking them questions about the book.
- **Homework:** If you have not signed up for homework and wish to do so please message the school office who will let your child's teacher know.
- **Attendance:** Good attendance is crucial for your child's learning and progress. Please ensure your child attends school every day. School is happy to administer medicines like paracetamol for minor ailments such as headaches, runny noses to allow them to come to school. Even things like antibiotics can be given, so long as the correct paperwork is completed.

School Reminders:

- **PE days:** Please ensure your child has a FULL PE kit in school all the time. We have many children who have no kit at all or most of a kit but no pumps. We have some spare kit but not enough for everyone.
- **School uniform:** Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform, including black school shoes, no jewellery except stud earrings, SIMPLE hair adornments (no big bows, fancy clips etc) and a TIE every day.

We look forward to working with you and your children this term. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Best wishes,

Mrs M Underwood



This weeks Medal Winners are:

Daisy	-	Year 6	- for amazing diary writing as the character Dorothy
Emily	-	Year 6	- for amazing diary writing as the character Dorothy
Penelope	-	Year 6	- for amazing diary writing as the character Dorothy
Aamina	-	Year 5	- for lovely contributions in history
Noah	-	Year 2	- for superb science work about plants

Please can we ask parents to remember to login to Parentpay and pre-order meal selections where possible. We still have a lot of children in school who have not pre-ordered and are ending up with Jacket Potatoes on a daily basis. This cannot be enjoyable for them, and we would love to see them receiving the food they enjoy.



Bad Weather

Last week saw the start of the winter weather kicking in, and unfortunately we had to make the difficult decision to close the school on 2 separate occasions due to conditions around school being unsafe.

We would like to Thank everyone for their support and understanding, and we appreciate the efforts you all made to ensure your children arrived at school safely for the remainder of the week.

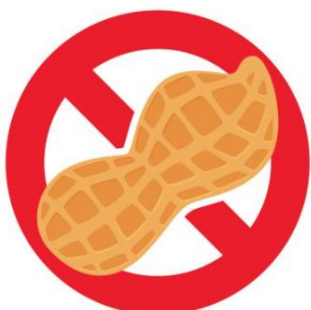
Can we remind all parents/carers that on these very rare occasions, updates can be found on: Class Dojo, the schools website and Lancashire County Council's website

<https://schoolcalendar.lancashire.gov.uk/closures/>



Important ALLERGEN Reminder!!

We are a NUT FREE school. Please do not send nuts or nut related products (i.e. peanut butter, chocolate spread, bombay mix) into school. We have several people in school with SEVERE allergies.



Save the Date

Friends will be holding a Valentines Disco on Thursday 13th February.

KS1/Rec - 3.30pm - 4.45pm

KS2 - 5pm - 6.30pm

Further information around ticket sales will be sent out in the coming weeks.

We are looking for VOLUNTEERS to help run these events, please let the office know if you are available.



In Year 3 our new music topic is all about the chinese new year. Ask us about the story of Nian, pentatonic scales and melodies we would love to share our new learning with you.



We have been very lucky to have a visit from Bishop Joe last week. He led our worship and asked us all about our school.



Dear Diary,

It's Dorothy here. What an unbelievable day I've had! Earlier today, a low wind began to grow louder and louder. I thought nothing of it but it grew louder and louder! Dangerous, eerie clouds began to hover over my head and ominous winds swirled around me. The livestock became restless and Uncle Henry frantically ran around. Mysteriously, Auntie Mat started calling ^{what was going} the serene air ~~darkened~~ darkened by the dust. The village people's hearts beated with adrenaline as they watched through the window. The world outside transformed into a windy mess.

*I was calling for Toto so we ~~could~~ could seek for refuge.

As I ~~crept~~ ^{to find Toto} around the room, ~~trying to find Toto~~ I glared out of my window looking into the heart of the storm. The low wind became a ~~whirlpool~~ ^{whirl of} chaos. Like a vacuum cleaner, the storm engulfed everything in its path. How will I get home? A deafening symphony of wind and thunder dominated the sky. Then with a sickening lurch I lifted higher and higher into the storm. Suddenly, the window pounced on me and I fell into a deep sleep. I stood up and as fast as a hungry lion a witch scowled through the thirny cyclone. Swirling, howling, winding.

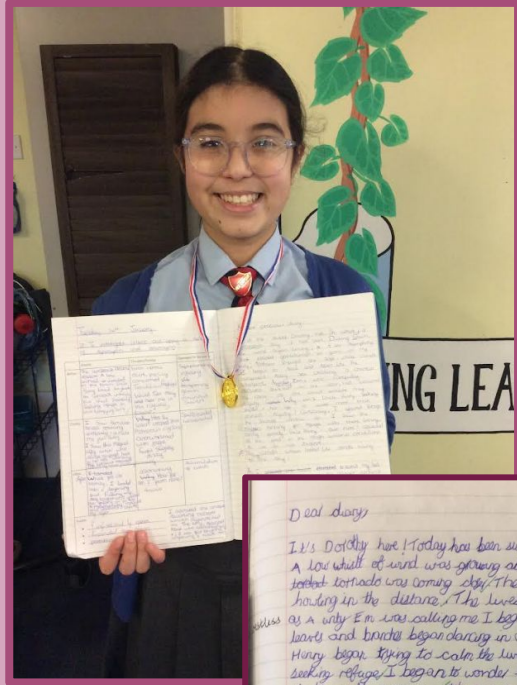
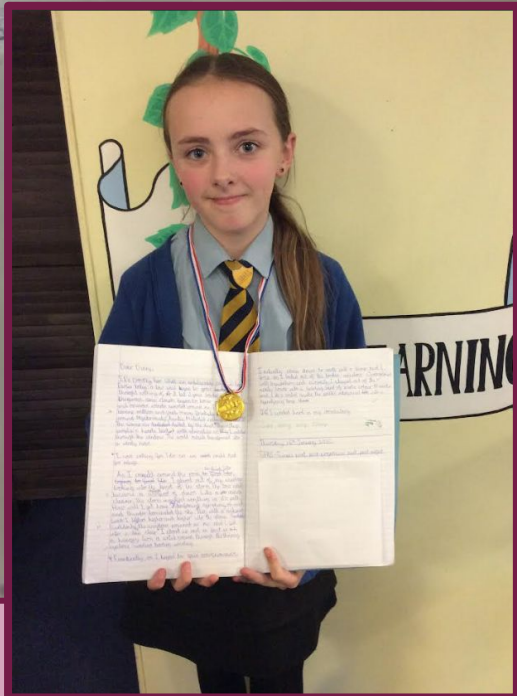
*Frantically, as I began to gain consciousness,

I actually came down to earth with a bump and I froze as I looked out of the broken window. Overwhelmed with repulsion and curiosity, I stepped out of the rickety house into a swirling land of exotic colors. Minutes later I became a coiled snake, the paths interlarded ~~the~~ into a hypnotising trap. ~~first~~

Ⓛ I worked hard in my vocabulary

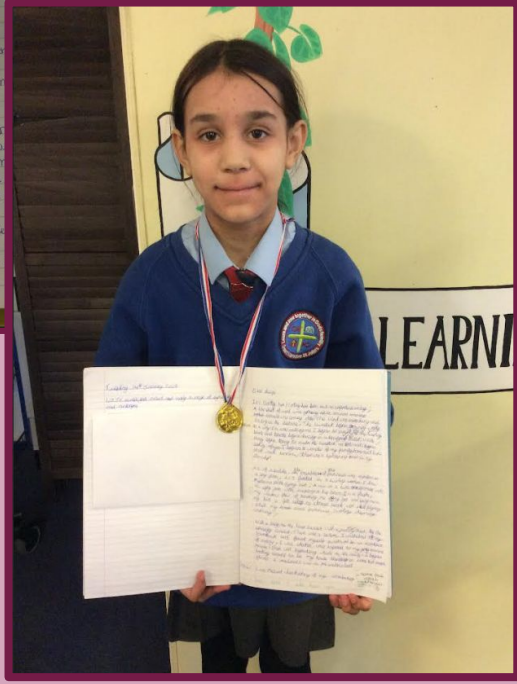
Super diary entry Daisy

Thursday 16th January 2025



Dear precious diary,
It is the sweet Dorothy here. Oh what a ~~delicious~~ day it has been. During dawn, the wind began blowing, a tiny symphony that darkness infused the soft white clouds. ~~It~~ began to swirl and spin like the transparent, salty sea, creating a chaotic whirlpool. Auntie Em, who ~~carefully~~ ^{carefully} secured the lock on the door, had exclaimed my name. ~~So~~ she could ensure my safety. ~~Because~~ Why isn't Uncle Henry seeking shelter - his life is worth more than animals' safety? Curiously, I gazed through the delicate window as I ~~slipped~~ ^{slipped} running for refuge with caring family. Uncle Henry - our all the good in the rough world so we do not become ~~the~~ clouds, which looked like ~~to~~ to the sky.

Dear diary
It's Dorothy here. Today has been such an apprehensive day; a low whirl of wind was blowing as an ominous orange ~~fractal~~ tornado was coming closer. The wind was screeching and howling in the distance. The livestock began ~~growing~~ ^{growing} with as a wily Em was calling me I began to ~~panic~~ ^{panic} the twirling leaves and bricks began dancing in a ~~whirling~~ ^{whirling} ballet, Uncle Henry began trying to calm the livestock as ~~toto~~ ^{toto} and I began seeking refuge. I began to wonder if my family, home and livestock would survive. There was a lightning bolt in my stomach!
All of a sudden, ~~the~~ ^{the} foundations of ~~franchise~~ ^{franchise} my ~~assembled~~ ^{assembled} to a grey glass. As I floated in a ~~whirlpool~~ ^{whirlpool} vortex I saw mysterious people flying past; a man on a ~~two~~ ^{two} transformed into an ugly green with ~~cockles~~ ^{cockles} on his ~~brain~~ ^{brain} in a flash, my window flew off knocking me ~~off~~ ^{off} my feet and ~~lying~~ ^{lying} near my bed. I fell asleep as strange people ~~yet~~ ^{yet} still flying past my ~~house~~ ^{house} small farmhouse, ~~swirling~~ ^{swirling} cherries crashing.
With a bang, ~~on~~ ^{on} the house landed with a ~~paralytic~~ ^{paralytic} thud; ~~the~~ ^{the} spinning ceased. There was a ~~deluxe~~ ^{deluxe} I walked out of my farmhouse and found myself ~~swirled~~ ^{swirled} in an explosion of color. I was shocked, what happened to my grey pants? ~~Francis~~ ^{Francis} there ~~was~~ ^{was} hypnotizing whirls on the rocks. I began looking around to see my house standing on some tall ~~purple~~ ^{purple} flowers. I realized I was in Munchkinland.
I was ~~reluctant~~ ^{reluctant} when thinking of my ~~vocabulary~~ ^{vocabulary} - some fancy words
Well done I like how you



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGES 13+

(Contains features not restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, for you is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable, if children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £5.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 16-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app; that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

FREE

Thursday 23rd January Parent Webinar 6pm - 7pm Understanding low mood Workshop

NHS
Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

We would like to invite parents/carers of young people to a workshop which explores Low mood-

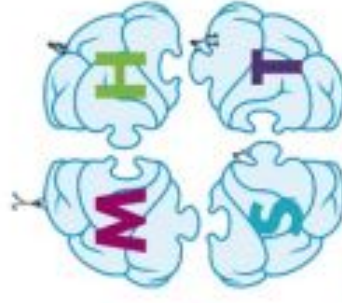
The Webinar explores :

- Learn more around possible signs and symptoms of low mood in children and young people.
- Consider way to support your child if they are experiencing low mood.
- Recognise when and how to request specialist support for your child.

Parents are welcome to ask questions or share any tips or strategies that they find beneficial in supporting their child.



Meeting ID: 391 710 904 606
Passcode: cy9NUC



Mental Health Support Team
EUCAS | East Lancashire Child and Adolescent Services