



### Headteacher Message

Good afternoon,

Autumn is here! The cold, dark mornings have arrived, along with the wet and windy time on the playground. This week we have celebrated Harvest in school and I want to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our families for your donations. Your support and kindness is really appreciated and our school has been acknowledged / mentioned in a 'thank you' post on the Morecambe Bay Foodbank Facebook page. Whilst we are requesting and gratefully receiving weekly donations, we would like to remind you that there is no expectations to send things in. Only give you if you can and it does not have to be on a regular basis. We appreciate all donations from every family.

This week I showcased our Y6 buddies on Facebook and you may have seen our Y5 play leaders. The Y6 children are demonstrating kindness, care, compassion and patience with our younger children who have settled exceptionally well. Next week we have Y4 out on a class trip, so I am hoping to share some of their wonderful learning that has taken place. We also have Sanderlings delivering their Harvest Worship at St Peter's Church on Thursday morning. Parents / carers of Sanderlings class please book your seat via the school office.

Enjoy your weekend,

Mrs Dodd

### Our School Worship and Christian Characteristics

**KINDNESS,**  
**LOVE,**  
Self-control **JOY,**  
**FAITHFULNESS,**  
GENTLENESS,  
GOODNESS,  
**PEACE,**  
**PATIENCE,**

Our vision is to see our children go out into the world with the skills and confidence to succeed and the love, compassion and advocacy to make a positive impact on the world around them.

This week we have celebrated Harvest and are grateful to Rev. Mark for delivering our wonderful worship on Tuesday. In class worship I asked for each class to work together to compose a Harvest prayer. We will share these on Monday. Turnstones reflected on Harvest have compiled a lovely prayer, which we shared on our Facebook page. I will aim to share the other classes next week.

### Absence and Illness

Over the past three weeks we have encountered a higher level of absence and some of the illnesses circulating school have also impacted on staffing. We are in the winter bug season and appreciate that there may be times where your child is ill, so we request that you please try to maintain good levels of attendance where possible and follow the guidelines we have shared recently.

If a child is too unwell to attend school, we need parents / carers to inform the absence line of any illnesses at the earliest opportunity on the morning, clearly stating the child's name, class and reason for illness (with more clarity provided than a child being 'unwell'). If we do not receive communication by the time registers close at 9.15am, we will call all contacts in order of priority provided on the Pupil Data Form that we hold.

We monitor absence closely and the last week of half term will see our first communications for the year, for those who are currently falling below our 97% expected attendance for the academic year. Persistent absentees are children who are having regular absences from school. As outlined in our safeguarding procedures, we have a duty of care to follow up on persistent absences and if we are unable to contact you this may trigger a home visit.

Please can all parents and carers ensure we have the most up to date contact details and maintain timely and accurate communication with school.

Your child's health and safety is extremely important to us. If we are noticing persistent absences, we will invite you to a meeting to discuss and offer support, guidance and strategies. We may also consider making referrals to the Local Authority Attendance Team, in the best interests of your child.

### NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' Programme



*Speak out. Stay safe.* is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline. This half term we have arranged Mrs Rigby to deliver the assembly materials to the suggested year groups Y2, Y5 and Y6. We have then arranged for a volunteer who is trained in the programme to deliver a 30 min workshop to Y2 and 1 hour workshops to Y5 and 6.

A separate letter will be sent home to parents / carers in these year groups. These sessions are part of our curriculum offer and ensuring children understand acceptable behaviours and how to seek help/ guidance and support. It is part of our curriculum goals to safeguard children and ensure they have their voice heard.

### Phonics and Reading Reception Parent Workshop

Mrs Daly and Mrs Parker would like to say a big thank you to all the parents / carers of Skylarks class who came to the phonics workshop this week! We hope you found it useful. If you require any further updates please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Daly.

### Mrs Rigby's Tea and Talk Session

I have started a little Meet and Greet group in the morning for children who find that transition from home to school a little tricky - the feedback so far has been positive. We meet Monday to Thursday for 15 minutes before entering the classroom environment - no learning missed. It helps them get ready for learning and into that growth mindset.

I have started updating my Mental Health First Aid Training. My first workshop was last Thursday morning. It's good to recap and stay updated so I can best support you all.

Our work with Barnardo's (Moving Mindsets) is changing to a Whole School Approach. On Monday, we met with them to discuss their offer, looking at their new menu of workshops. We've also had a couple of visits from Rebecca Bateman (Moving Mindsets). She's not visiting us weekly but is always available to offer support and advice - thank you, Rebecca. You are appreciated.

All the children's dots are on the wall - the display looks amazing. The family space is taking shape. It's called The Nest (a snug, comfortable, cosy place), fitting in with our class names.

Tuesday is World Mental Health Day and the theme is Tea and Talk. From 10:30 - 11:30 am, I am offering a space to join me for a hot drink and cake.

Remember, we can talk about anything! It doesn't have to be about mental health. Talking about anything and building relationships is good for your mental health.

Book your space via the school office if you would like to attend.

TEA & TALK



let's chat

My affirmation to you this week is: **You are strong.**

Remember to repeat to yourself: **I am strong.**

### Keeping Children Safe Online

Online safety is taught through our PSHE curriculum and computing curriculum. We are noticing that children are accessing so much more online and have therefore decided to have a focussed day on key issues. This will be on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Technology is exciting, however it can present many challenges and our children may be accessing information, apps, games, chats that are not age appropriate or place them at risk of harm.

*"I have come in order that you might have life, life in all its fullness," John 10:10*

As parents and educators, we need to be well informed about what our children are doing and accessing on their devices. We will be adding a weekly poster to the school newsletter, alongside updates to our school website so that parents are equipped with knowledge to ensure they have the appropriate controls in place. This link contains the information shared:

<https://www.stpetersheysham.lancs.sch.uk/parents>

We have also arranged a very special evening on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. We have invited a Local Authority Teaching and Learning consultant to come to school to provide a parental worship on keeping children safe online. Please see details towards the end of our newsletter and on the noticeboard outside.

We are aiming to have a high intake of parents at this event. Online safety is much more than what school can provide and we are all responsible. Therefore, please can parents put the date in the diary and book your slot on the parent workshop. We may need to limit numbers for hall capacity so please book early.

### Christmas Dates for the Diary

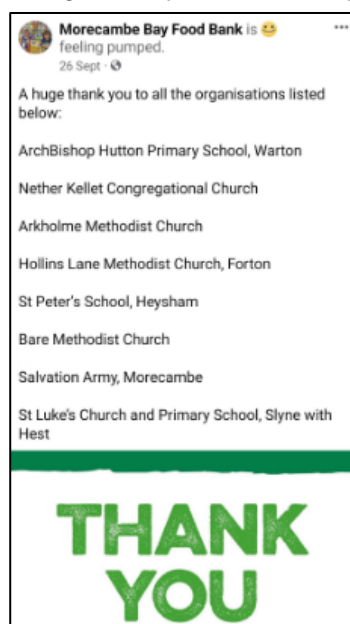
Whilst Christmas may seem still far away, we are already planning dates in the school diary. This year our EYFS children will host a 'sing along' as a class and Y1 and Y2 will be performing our school nativity. We will be holding daytime performances only this year, as we strongly feel that the children are too young to be expected to perform during the evening aswell.

**December proposed dates – we will be aiming to keep to these dates and are giving you lots of notice to enable you to sort any leave required from work;**

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> - Book Fair after school in the Hall
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> - Whole School Panto trip to the Dukes Lancaster to see 'A Christmas Carol'
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> - Y3 Advent / Christingle Worship @ 9am in the Hall
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Online Safety Evening for parents from 6-8pm in the Hall
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> - EYFS / Reception Class Christmas Sing Along @ 9am in the Hall
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Y1/2 Nativity @ 1.30pm in the Hall
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Y3,4,5 Carols by Candlelight @ 6pm in the Hall
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> - Y1/2 Nativity @ 1.30pm in the Hall

### Food Bank – Harvest Donations

Thank you for your continued support with your donations to Morecambe Bay Community Foodbank. Next week we are asking Dunlins class to donate. Please remember to only donate if you can. All donations are gratefully received as you can see from an extract of their Facebook page below!



Class	Date
Dunlins	13 <sup>th</sup> October
Eider Ducks	20 <sup>th</sup> October
Half Term	
Turnstones	3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Skylarks	10 <sup>th</sup> November
Curlaws	17 <sup>th</sup> November
Sanderlings	24 <sup>th</sup> November

## Dates for the Diary – Week Commencing Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y4 swimming lesson. Kits in school please</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Tour for 2024 Reception Parents: 9.15 – 9.45am</li> <li>• World Mental Health Day Tea &amp; Talk with Mrs Rigby: 10.30-11.30am <i>Please book a space via the school office</i></li> <li>• Young Voices Practice (Y4,5,6): 3.15 – 4.15pm</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Y4 Power Station Trip: please see letter sent</li> <li>• Parent Drop-In with Mrs Rigby: 9 -10.30am. <i>Please book a space via the school office</i></li> <li>• JAM Club: 3.15 – 4.15pm</li> <li>• Dodgeball Tournament @ Bay Leadership Academy: 3.45-6pm approx.</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanderlings Harvest Worship @ St Peter's Church: 9.30am <i>Please book a space via the school office</i></li> <li>• Football Tournament Qualifier @ Lancaster &amp; Morecambe College: Collect from school @ 11.40am. Finish time 3.45pm approx</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual and in-school siblings photographs by Tempest. We are sorry we have no capacity for non-school sibling photos</li> </ul>

### Reminder of key dates for Autumn Term (excluding Christmas specific dates noted above)

- **Y1 (Sanderlings)** will be delivering Harvest Worship this will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October at St Peter's Church from 9.30am – 11am. This is for parents / family members of children in Sanderlings class only. Please can you book places via the school office so we can estimate numbers.
- **Y4 (Dunlins)** – Heysham Power Station Trip on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Please see letter.
- **Friends** – Bag 2 School on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Please start collecting your clothes donations.
- **Whole School** – Individual and in-school siblings photographs taken by Tempest on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October.
- **Y6 (Curlews)** – Y6 Faith Interviews for parents who are planning to apply for Ripley St Thomas as a High School for their child. Please remember to download the faith reference form and make an appointment with Rev. Mark by emailing [heyshamja@gmail.com](mailto:heyshamja@gmail.com). Monday 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October have been allocated for the interviews to take place.
- **Whole School Nasal Flu Vaccinations** – Taking place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Please see email to consent / opt out of this service provided by the NHS.
- **Y4 (Dunlins)** – Heysham Nature Reserve Trip on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Please see letter.
- 
- **Y6 (Curlews)** – Y6 will lead our Remembrance Service on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November in the Hall. This is for parents / family members of children in Curlews class only.

### Friends Update

Christmas Wreath Workshop with Time for Flowers. Our local florist business and part of our school family have kindly added an extra date (29/11) to their Christmas workshops as a fundraiser in association with the School Friends Committee. For every ticket sold the local business will be donating £10 to the school via the Friends of St. Peters Committee. We hope to see many of you there this year...

You can read more and book online using the following link:

<https://www.timeforflowers.co.uk/collections/workshops/products/christmas-wreath-workshop-2023>

*"I have come in order that you might have life, life in all its fullness," John 10:10*

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

## CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

## SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

## HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

## TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

## SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

18  
CENSORED

### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

### CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

"I have come in order that you might have life, life in all its fullness," John 10:10



## **Keeping Children Safe Online:**

**In the real world we protect our children. So why not keep them safe online?**

**An 'essential' online safety briefing for parents, guardians, and carers.**

**Date: MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**Start time: 6PM**

**PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE**

**Duration:** Approximately 1 hr 15 mins with time for questions.

### **About the briefing**

Many people, including young children are users of the internet.

Having access to online information and the functionality that the internet can offer has many benefits and for most it plays an important part of our everyday lives. However, as technology moves on at such a pace it is difficult to keep up with new trends and developments, particularly regarding mobile devices/games technology and safe accessibility to online content.

Young people are spending more time online and research shows evidence that issues relating to exploitation, manipulation or abuse are adding to concerns regarding online safety. Research now shows that life online can also have an impact on wellbeing and in some cases contribute to mental health problems.

What are our children doing online? Do we know how they are behaving?  
Are they safe? Who are they communicating with?  
Do they know what to do if they come across something suspicious?  
Are they accessing content appropriate for their age?  
Are they giving away too much personal information that may make them vulnerable or affect them in the future?  
Are they spending too much time online?  
Are we having conversations about all the above?

We would ask at least one parent/carer from each family to attend this session where a Lancashire Education Authority Consultant will present an awareness briefing to address some of the issues mentioned above.

The session is for parents/carers only and will last for approximately 1hr 15mins with an opportunity for questions during or after the presentation.

The Local Authority and our school have policies in place to ensure children are learning in a safe and secure environment which includes being safe online. Therefore, this session has been organised to help you to contribute to this process in helping children to be aware of the potential problems associated with using the internet and modern technologies.

**The session is not suitable for children**

**OFSTED regard these sessions as an integral part of a school's Safeguarding/Online Safety policy and they expect schools to have offered this support for parents. Please help us to keep young children safe.**

*"I have come in order that you might have life, life in all its fullness," John 10:10*