



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – 31st January 2025

## [School details](#)

Tel: 01772 729881

[www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk)

E-mail [head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs. A. Brogden

## [Our Parish Links](#)

St. Mary's Lea Town, Darkinson Lane and

St. Andrew and Blessed George Haydock, Hoyles Lane Cottam.

[www.standrewscottam.org.uk](http://www.standrewscottam.org.uk)

'Loved and Inspired by Mary ....

We shine and learn as a family of God'

The end of another busy week and we move into a brand new month, as the school year moves on. Next week we will have our Spring Parent's Evening and we look forward to this opportunity to work in partnership once more.



## **Parents' Evening – 4.2.25 - Reminder**

As shared in our previous newsletters our Spring Parent's Evening will take place on Tuesday and this is by appointment only. If you have not yet managed to book your appointment please call the School Office on 729881.



## **Kurling at West View - 28.1.25**

On Tuesday a group of Class 4 Pupils took part in a Kurling event at West View Leisure Centre.

Miss Collins shares she was very, very proud of her Team and the way they supported each other throughout

The team were amazing and came SECOND !!!!!

*"I think it was amazing because we came second place – we won 4/5 matches – we played really well as a team. One funny part was when I hit the stone it rolled in a circle then banged the wall. Most of my Kurling shots were really good and I knocked out other peoples stones "Jack Moyes"*



## **Acadamisation- The Bishop's Vision**

As I have shared previously, the Bishop has a vision for all Catholic Schools to become a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) by the end of the Academic Year 2025-2026

At present, 10 Catholic Schools are part of the 'Mater Ecclesiae' MAT and the vision is an additional 7 schools will join in the next wave. I shall keep you updated as soon as we receive any additional information, and of course ensure families are fully informed at all points. I have included the website below should you require any additional information...

<https://mater-ecclesiae-trust.co.uk/>

## **Children's Mental Health Week – w/c 3.2.25**

Next week is Children Mental Health week with the theme *"Know yourself, Grow yourself"*. Throughout the week we will be undertaking different activities to reflect upon the importance of looking after our mental health as we would with our physical health.

We will have a Live assembly for all classes, and on Thursday we have a Non Uniform day to "Express yourself" - Anything goes!! There is NO CHARGE for this non uniform day.



Perhaps you want to dress as your favourite Footballer? Popstar? perhaps you want to be a Princess or a Superhero for the day- or simply wear your PJ's! The choice is yours- let your creativity shine!

This week all pupils will have homework geared towards Mental Health and Wellbeing in place of other subjects.

Check back next week when we will share pictures of some of the exciting activities we undertook.

## **Online Safety and Parental Guidance**

We have had a number of Parents ask for additional guidance around concerns with pupils using phones and gaming.

As we know, technology brings many exciting advances and opportunities but it also creates opportunities for pupils to say things they may not say directly to another person whilst on Messenger/ WhatsApp etc. and/or in Gaming 'parties' or Forums.

As a school we have no control what pupils do/ say on such platforms and permissions / consequences remain a Parental decision. Within school PSHE sessions we focus upon providing Pupils with the skills to make sensible and informed choices, reflect on how their actions affect others and to give pupils the skills to know who to talk to when they have worries.

Many of our older pupils may use sites/ apps/ games which have age guidelines which are older than their chronological age .This guide below may be of assistance for families when supporting pupils with any issues.



## APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

13+				16+	
	Facebook		Snapchat		WhatsApp
	Instagram		Twitter		
	TikTok		Kik		Sarahah
	YouNow		Yubo		YOLO
	House Party		Monkey		MeetMe
					LiveMe

On our website we have links to a variety of Parent Guides as shown below, and we have printed copies of these available in our entrance Foyer too. Please feel free to have a look, and if we can signpost you further do ask.

We are liaising with our local PCSO's to offer a Parent session and will update you as soon as we are able.

For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

##### 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 content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

##### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

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 it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction - especially if 'autoplay' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

##### RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic - a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be true for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to leave impressionable minds all too easily. Remember - the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

##### CONNECTING 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 message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and - in the worst cases - online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

##### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which 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 cause physical or emotional harm to children who watch or copy them. The popular 'call and order' challenge, where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin, is just one of many examples.

##### SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have commenters posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, restricted mode is a parental setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material, such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content. To protect devices, the parent can also change the device's age-inappropriate content filter. It's worth noting that they use to access YouTube. It's worth noting that they use to access YouTube. It's worth noting that they use to access YouTube.

#### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their 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 a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

#### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material - and, if applicable, with content creators - to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

#### CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'mild' (4 and under), 'young' (ages 5 to 9) and 'older' (ages 10 to 12). The app is perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can manually review all videos.

#### 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 a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

#### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you're like to spend children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Alan 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

X @wake\_up\_weds    f /www.thenationalcollege    @wake.up.wednesday    @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 26.01.2022 Last reviewed: 21.05.2024

## **Staff contacts**

Staff Member	Email
Office	
Mrs Dewhurst	Bursar@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
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Class One	
Mrs Ellis- Class Teacher	Ellis@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Harrison	Harrison@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Hughes	Hughes@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Mrs Moss	Moss@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Class 2	
Mrs Sullivan- Class Teacher	Sullivan@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Mrs Nayler	Nayler@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Strahand	Strahand@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Class 3	
Mr Catterall - Class Teacher	Catterall@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Collins	Collins@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Class 4	
Mr Taylor - Class Teacher	Taylor@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Calvert	Calvert@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Breakfast / After School Club Manager	
Miss Harrison	Harrison@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

## **Dates for your diary**

w/c 3.2.25- Children Mental Health week

4.2.25 – Parent’s Evening

6.2.25 – Express yourself - Own clothes Day (No Charge)

6.2.25- PREVENT workshop for Class 4 in school

14.2.24- School closes for half term at 3.15 pm

## **Useful Information**

### **School times**

School Start 08.45 am

School Finish time 15.15 pm

**Forest School** – This commenced w/c 09.09.24

Monday: Class 1 Forest School

Wednesday: Class 3 OR class 4 Forest School – Autumn 1 Class 3 Autumn 2 Class 4

Friday: Class 2

## **PE Days**

**Class 1:** Wed pm and Fri pm

**Class 2:** Tue pm and Wed pm

**Class 3:** Monday pm and Thurs pm

**Class 4:** Tuesday (Swimming) \*\* and Thursday pm \*\* Swimming commenced from 10.9.24

## **Big School Adventures**

Big School Adventures takes place every Thursday from 1.15 pm until 3pm

## **Helping Hands**

With the support of St. Mary's Parish, we have created a '*Helping Hands Fund*' - This means we have a stock of tinned food / non-perishable items and toiletries ...So, if you ever need a little '**Helping Hand**' please just ask and we can gladly put a pack together.

## **Celebration Awards**

	<b>Faith in Action Award Winner</b>	<b>'EAT' Award Winner Explore, Active, Think creatively</b>	<b>Welfare Award Winner</b>
Class 1	James Johnson	Ileana Koutsokostas	Alethea Koutsokostas
Class 2	Maya Harrison	Bradley Brogden	
Class 3	Jade Beresford	Roisin Moss	Isla Pennington
Class 4	Jessica Simpson	Eden Heslop	

