



Date: **Friday 9th October**

Issue: **#05**

“Let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:v.16)



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the children who have been chosen to receive our Christian Value award this week.

Reception (Mrs Coupe) – **Freddie C-C**
Year 1 (Miss Threlfall) – **Hasan M**
Year 2 (Miss Morne) – **Alfie N**
Year 3 (Miss Reeve) – **Phoebe H**
Year 4 (Mrs Wilkinson) – **Sophie H K**
Year 5 (Mrs Todd) – **Tilly B**
Year 6 (Mrs Livesey) – **Ruby C**

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

(Week beginning 28th September)

SCHOOL MINIMUM TARGET: 96.4%

WHOLE SCHOOL: 97.1%

Reception: 97.3%
Year 1: 91.7%
Year 2: 99%
Year 3: 98.7%
Year 4: 98.1%
Year 5: 97.5%
Year 6: 97.8%

Diary Dates

MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER

- 3pm Whole School Worship
- 1:30pm 'Show Rounds' for reception 2027/28

TUESDAY 13TH

- 3pm KS1 Worship
- 9am YEAR 5 Educational Visit- Tatton Park
- 11am Year 4 swimming
- 11:40am Year 3&4 Mini-Skills (12-1pm)

WEDNESDAY 14TH

- 3pm KS2 Worship
- 9am Flu Vaccinations

THURSDAY 15TH

- 3pm Songs of Praise
- 9:30am & 1:30pm 'Show Rounds' for reception 2027/28

FRIDAY 15TH

- ALL FOR JESUS DAY

SHOW ROUNDS

Starting Reception in September 2027?

We'd love to meet you! Come and have a look around our wonderful school, guided by our Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies, who are excited to share what makes our school so special.

We have the following dates and times available:

- Monday 12th October: 1:30pm
- Thursday 15th October: 9:30am, & 1:30pm

Please contact our school office (01772 653600) to book a time.





WORSHIP this week...



Hello Yellow Key Stage Worship

Hello Yellow is a national campaign run by the UK children's mental health charity YoungMinds. The campaign encourages people to wear something yellow and start conversations about mental health, wellbeing and asking for support when needed.

The key message of Hello Yellow is:
"You are not alone."

In Key Stage Worship this week, pupils reflected on the importance of kindness, friendship and supporting one another through Hello Yellow.

Using Jesus' teaching:

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

and the parable of The Good Samaritan; children explored how simple acts of kindness can help others feel valued, included and supported. Linked to our spirituality model of Windows, Mirrors, Doors and Candles, pupils considered how we can notice the needs of others, reflect on our actions, choose to help and shine our light through our words and actions.

Dear God,

Thank you for the people who care for us.
Help us to notice when others need kindness, friendship or support.

May we shine our light through our words and actions so that everyone feels valued, included and loved.

Amen.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to all our parents and carers who joined us for our Harvest Festival this week and for your generous donations in support of the Salvation Army and those within our parish community.

A special thank you to Reverend Andy for leading our worship and helping us reflect on God's many blessings and our responsibility to care for others.

Pupils across the school played an important part in the service. Reception and Year 1 shared beautiful Harvest artwork, Year 3 led prayers, Year 5 performed a Harvest Rap and Year 6 shared thoughtful poems and reflections. The wonderful artwork displayed throughout the church helped create a joyful and inspiring celebration of Harvest.

Together we reflected on the words:

"You give the year a good harvest."

Psalms 65

and considered an important question:

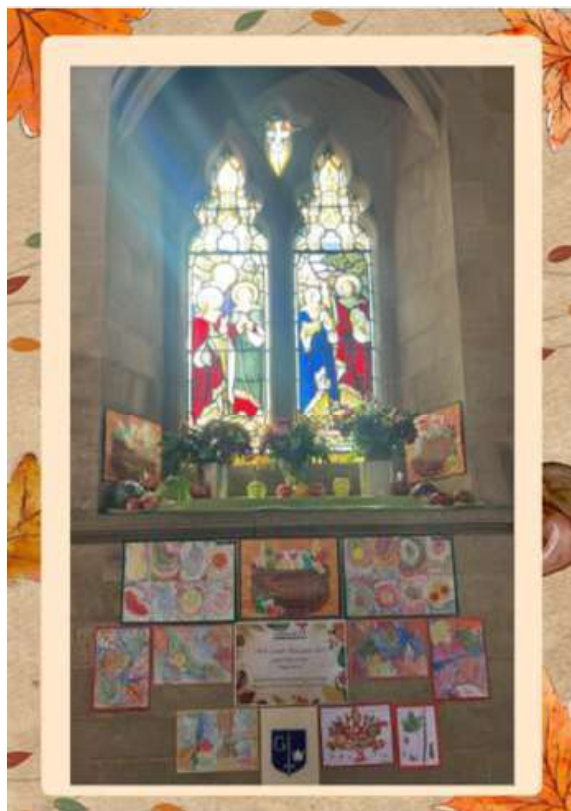
How can we use the gifts God has given us to help others flourish?

Through our donations and worship, we were reminded that Harvest is not only a time to give thanks, but also an opportunity to show kindness, generosity and service to others.

Dear God,

Thank you for all the gifts and blessings you provide.
Help us to be thankful for what we have, generous with what we can share and mindful of those who need our help.
May we let our light shine through our words and actions.

Amen.



This Sunday



JIGSAW CLUB

For the children of St Michael's, Grimsargh.



When?



2nd and 4th Sunday of each month!

What?

Children aged 3 - 11

Who?

Fun games, music and activities.

St Michael's Church and then the Jigsaw Club hut!

Where?

Everyone Welcome!

Optional speaking in Church!

A great way to make new friends!

Jesus Is Great Special And Wonderful

Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community



MATHLETICS

Scores for: 28.9.26—4.10.26

Children scoring 1000+ points:

1 st place: year 6	19 children
2 nd place: year 5	15 children
3 rd place: year 4	11 children
4 th place: year 3	10 children
5 th place: year 2	9 children
6 th place: year 1	6 children

*Reception to start in December

SAFEGUARDING



What Parents and Educators Need to Know about Character.AI

This online safety guide explores Character.AI, highlighting risks including inappropriate content, emotional dependency, the reliability of advice, and privacy concerns.

Character.AI lets users create and chat with AI-powered characters that can behave like friends, mentors, fictional favourites, or romantic partners. While these conversations can feel engaging and supportive, their convincing human-like responses can blur important boundaries. Young people may encounter inappropriate content, misinformation and privacy risks, or begin forming an unhealthy emotional attachment to an AI companion.

For parents and educators, understanding these risks can make conversations about AI companionship more constructive. This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores warning signs such as secretive or excessive use and withdrawal from real-world activities, while offering practical advice on checking age restrictions, protecting personal information, questioning chatbot advice, and responding appropriately when safeguarding concerns arise.

Harold Slater Shield

The boys made an excellent start to their Harold Slater Shield campaign with an impressive 10-1 victory over a determined and hardworking St Clare's side in the preliminary round of this prestigious local cup competition.

From the first whistle, the team played with great confidence, moving the ball quickly and showing some outstanding passing and attacking football. Their slick teamwork created numerous chances throughout the match and they were rewarded with a host of well-worked goals.

Hugo led the scoring with a superb four-goal haul, while Ollie added three goals of his own. Oliver found the net twice and Leo completed the scoring with a well-deserved goal.

Despite the scoreline, credit must go to St Clare's, who worked tirelessly throughout the game and never gave up. Our boys, however, were in excellent form and their strong performance and final result reflected this.

The win sees the team progress to the 'first-round proper', where they will face Goosnargh Oliverson's Primary.

Well done to: William L, Ollie B, Seth G, Henry B, Oliver B, Leo C, Freddie W and Hugo H

U11 Preston Girls' Football Tournament

Our girls' football team represented the school brilliantly at a recent tournament, showing great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day.

The girls faced a strong Queen's Drive side in their opening match and, despite a hard-fought performance, were beaten 2-0. They bounced back well in their second game, earning a deserved 0-0 draw against The Olive School thanks to some excellent defending and teamwork. The team's first victory came in their third match against Cottam Primary, where they produced a brilliant display to win 2-0. Cerys and Elise both found the net, capping off a confident performance from the whole team.

In their final game, the girls faced a determined Fishwick team. Our girls dominated possession and created several excellent chances but were unable to find the breakthrough, with the match ending 0-0. The team finished third in their group of five teams, narrowly missing out on a place in the knockout stages. Although they did not progress further in the competition, the girls should be extremely proud of their efforts. Their positive attitude, teamwork and commitment were evident throughout the tournament, and they represented the school superbly. Well done, girls! Well done to: Sophie J, Elise T, Amelia A, Sarah H-K,

Cerys P, Nes C and Jemima B



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Christian community



**SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
PRIMARY**

APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2027

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
15 January 2027

School transport



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



lancashire.gov.uk



Lancashire
County Council



01273 834000

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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters.

These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 8000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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