



## A massive St John's well done to all our Silverdale Stars this week.

### **Curlews' Class - Marnie**

For being thoughtful, kind and always bringing happiness to our class.

Well done Marnie!

### **Bitterns' Class – Olly**

For perseverance and patience when writing the first paragraph of an autobiography. You did amazingly, Olly!

### **Harriers' Class – Catherine**

You are a fantastic member of the Harriers' class: always respectful, hard-working and general all round superstar!

## Reports

For much of this week and last, the children have been completing assessments in class. These are used by teachers to help them understand gaps in learning. They have been delivered in a compassionate way, enabling all children to succeed. Assessments will obviously inform end of term reports. Please watch out for your child's yellow report card next Thursday. Any questions, please email class teachers.

## Primary Nursery Admission

Has your child turned 3 this term? We have spaces available in Nursery starting after Christmas. Please come and have a look around our wonderful provision or contact the office for a booking form. The application process for primary school places for September 2025 is now open. Tours are still available during the school day, please ring to book. To apply use this online form, please [click here](#). Primary applications close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025..

## Victorian Christmas

All the children will be enjoying a Victorian Christmas on the Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, at Leighton Hall. We can't wait. Don't forget to pay on scopy asap. ALL children need a packed lunch. If anyone would like to help, please get in touch.

## Twinkly Nativity

This was so much fun! Thank you so much to all the children, teachers & parents for making this such a special performance. The children sang their hearts out with confidence & gusto. Great reading. Great acting from the 'all start cast'!!! Thank you to families for providing costumes, & to Mrs Tetchner, Mrs Milligan and Mrs Accialini for all their hard work. A super team effort

## Panto!

Don't forget ALL children need a packed lunch On **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. We will be back in school after the production, at 15:30.

## School Improvement Plan

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, the SIP is in the process of being reviewed. If anyone has any comments on how we approach our objectives of

Ensuring our curriculum is ambitious and designed to give ALL learners the knowledge, skills and cultural capital they need to achieve well and succeed in life

Ensuring consistently high expectations for ALL learners' behaviour and conduct throughout the school, resulting in positive attitudes to learning.

Ensuring consistently high expectations for ALL learners' behaviour and conduct throughout the school, resulting in positive attitudes to learning.

Developing subject leadership skills in order to improve the teaching of identified curriculum areas and ensure the most appropriate use of assessment

Then please get in touch with Miss Sanderson.

## Kidrock

We can't wait for this on Monday! What a Christmas treat!! Here's a YouTube link to a video which shows what you can expect..

[https://youtu.be/\\_XDqrd2gxfY](https://youtu.be/_XDqrd2gxfY)

The gang will arrive at 8am and transform the school hall into a rock concert venue for the morning

**Whole school ROCK CONCERT at 11:00**

# Newsletter – WC 9th December 2024

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

– Philippians 4:13

## Reading Corner

At Christmas some countries around the world have lovely traditions linked to reading: In Iceland, 'book flood' is celebrated on Christmas Eve and revolves around giving and receiving new books, often accompanied by delicious treats like hot cocoa and chocolates. Perhaps we could start new Christmas book traditions, here are some ideas:

Read a book altogether on Christmas eve

Play book charades

Create a book quiz to play with the whole family.

## Reindeer Rush

This was awesome! Thanks to all volunteers for cheering the children on and to Mrs Blackburn for helping with drinks and mince pies. Thanks also to Bleasdale too, for letting us use their grounds. Please bring your sponsor money into school asap, so we can send to St John's hospice before Christmas.

Or why not click on this link to [donate](#)

## Friday Thought

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. —Romans 12:12

## Christmas Events

All KS2 children are to attend the Carol service on Wednesday. It will be in church, starting at 18:00. Children to arrive at 17:45 and be wearing school uniforms. Year 5 children to wear PE kits. This is a lovely traditional service. Please invite as many people as you like.

Carols around the Christmas Tree is on Friday 20th December. Starting at The **Royal car park at 13:00** and ending at school

The Christingle is on Christmas eve at 16:00.

## Lunches

Week 3 WC 16.12.24



## Class Blog

It's Harriers' this week! Click [here](#) for an insight to a week in the life of being a Harrier!

## Next Week...

16.12.24 – KIDZROCK in school  
17.12.24 – Harriers leading worship - trumpets!  
17.12.24 – Pantomime Mother Goose  
18.12.24 – Dodgeball Party AM  
18.12.24 – KS2 Carol Service 18:00  
19.12.24 – Leighton Hall Victorian Christmas  
19.12.24 – Reports home today  
20.12.24 – Feel Good Friday. Carols around the tree at 1pm

## Attendance

A huge 'well done' to Harriers this week.

Curlews	92.8
Bitterns	85.9
Harriers	95.6
Average school	92.2

## Rotary Club

Santa came to the Silverdale Hotel on Wednesday. It was a lovely event with lots of familiar faces there. Thanks to all that supported.

## End of Term

School finishes at 14:00 on the last day. After school club finishes at 17:00

## Posada

Posada is when small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay there for one night. You can sign up in advance, offering to host Mary and Joseph for a night. On Christmas eve, the figures are returned to church.

## Feel Good Friday

We will be running activities next Friday for the children to 'chill out' and enjoy. Own clothes can be worn. We need help resourcing this. Adults who can paint, walk dogs, dance, bake, pamper. Any support appreciated to make this a fun last day of term. It's just for the morning!



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College