



Newsletter – WC 24th March 2025

Inspiring success through learning, community and faith.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

– Philippians 4:13

The words of Jesus: Our Christian Value this week is SERVICE



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

Mrs McDonald (volunteer)

For volunteering on the Year 1 and 2 trip. You were fun and energetic at High Borrans

Trudy

For going the extra mile supporting Bitterns on their residential. We loved having you with us!

Jason Cooper

For volunteering on the trip. Being a wicked mountain leader, bringing the staff chocolatey treats and for being so much fun

Spring Horticultural Show

Horticultural/Spring Flower show, with a lot of crafts. It's in the Gaskell Hall on the 12th April this year. It's one of the few events in the village which involves all age groups, from 18 months to 100+, all can take part, and there are prizes and trophies to be won and there are no costs involved to enter.



School Blog

It's our Outdoor education week school blog this week. Check out our facebook page for lots of images of smiley, happy children

Next week in school...

- 01.04.25 - TA2a Post Interviews
- 02.04.25 - Easter Bingo 3.15 - 4.45pm
- 03.04.25 - Barnados in school
- 04.04.25 - Augusta and Minqi Last Day
- 04.04.25 - Friday Songsters 11AM
- 04.04.25 - The Marian Consort Music Concert, St Johns Church 7.30 pm
- 08.04.25 - School Closes for Easter 3.15PM

A short newsletter this week, due to outdoor education. Miss Sanderson out of school!

Reading Corner



As part of our commitment to developing a culture of reading for pleasure and a lifelong love of reading, we are excited to announce that your child will be participating in Accelerated Reader, as from September. This is a program which aims for all children to experience success in achieving their reading goals. We need books! If you have any books on the [AR book list](#), and you no longer want them, then please bring them into school. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Miss Sanderson (English lead) or visit the Accelerated Reader website at www.renlearn.co.uk.

Easter Bingo

Fun for all the family. See attached poster for details, on the Easter bingo. 15:15-16:45 on Wednesday 2nd April in the school hall. Games will be £1 each. There will be a 'Star Prize' game at the end. Refreshments provided.

Mothers' Day secret shop

We raised £140 on this. Thank you to all the parents that helped and made it a success

Attendance

Curlews 96.3%

Bitterns 91.5%

Harriers 82.3%

Average School 89.0%

Lunches

Week 3 WC 31.03.25



Friday Thought

And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. —[Romans 8:2](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

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, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>



Silverdale St John's
CofE Primary School & Nursery

CHOCOLATE EGGS

to be **WON** and a
'STAR PRIZE' GAME

PLAYING



COME & HAVE LOTS OF FUN ON

Wednesday 2nd April 2025

3.15 – 4.45 pm - in the School Hall

£1 per game.

Refreshments included



Millhead Dynamos U10's fundraiser for CancerCare North Lancashire & South Cumbria

The parents from the Millhead Dynamos U10 team will be undertaking the challenge of the 55 mile Bay Limestone Round as a relay team. Please help us raise much needed funds for CancerCare.



Help us reach our £1,000 target!

Make a donation with **JustGiving**