

# Newsletter

“ Together, we grow with God ”

19th December 2025 Issue #15

## 'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' 2 Peter 3:18


As we come to the end of this term, I want to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful children, families, staff and governors. It has been a fantastic term, full of achievements, celebrations, and, most importantly, seeing the progress our children are making each day.


I am especially grateful for the support I have received in my first term as headteacher. Your encouragement and kindness have made such a difference, and it has been a joy to begin building strong relationships across our school community.


Looking ahead to the new year, I am excited to continue working together, strengthening those partnerships, and celebrating even more successes as we help our children to grow with God.

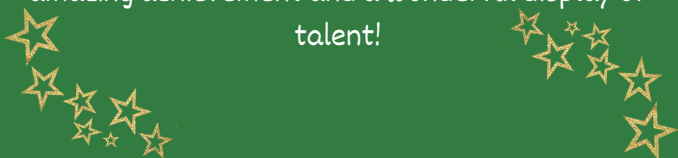
Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

### Christmas!

 A huge well done to Year 5 for their beautiful carol service at church this week. The children sang with such confidence and joy, and it was a real pleasure to see them shine. Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported the event.

 Well done to all the children who took part in the Rocksteady Concert. Their performances were full of energy, enthusiasm and talent — we were all blown away!

 We are also incredibly proud of two of our pupils, Charlie and Theo, who have been performing in the pantomime at Lowther Pavilion. What an amazing achievement and a wonderful display of talent!



### Worship

## CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time filled with lights, presents, and celebrations, but at its heart lies something far deeper and more wonderful. It is the story of God's love coming into the world through the birth of Jesus.

The Bible tells us: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..." (Isaiah 9:6)

This verse reminds us that Christmas is not just about gifts we unwrap, but about the greatest gift of all – Jesus, who came to bring hope, peace, and joy to everyone.

- Love: Just as God gave His Son, we are called to share love with others.
- Hope: Even in dark times, Jesus' birth reminds us that light will always shine.
- Peace: Christmas invites us to be peacemakers in our families, schools, and communities.
- Joy: True joy comes not from what we receive, but from giving and caring for others.

### Attendance

#### Weekly Attendance

SCHOOL MINIMUM TARGET: 96.4%

Reception: 81.6%  
 Year 1: 99.5%  
 Year 2: 91.2%  
 Year 3: 97.1%  
 Year 4: 96.0%  
 Year 5: 96.3%  
 Year 6: 96.4%

Our overall school attendance this week was 94.0%. This is lower than our school target! Let's try to beat this in January when we are all over our illnesses!

## Brownies

If any girls in Years 2-4 are interested in attending Brownies, please contact Brown Owl for more details on 07813917193.

## Pantomime

What a fabulous time we had at the pantomime! From the moment the curtain went up, the children were clapping, cheering and laughing along – their joy was infectious, and it was wonderful to see them swept up in the magic of the show. A huge thank you goes to all the volunteers who came along with us – your support and time made this outing possible, and we are so grateful. The children were fantastic ambassadors for our school, and the whole experience was a reminder of how much joy comes from sharing these moments together.

## Upcoming Events



- 5th January  
School Opens
- 6th January  
Epiphany
- 7th January  
Blackburn Diocese is celebrating 100 years!
- Dance Club Starts
- 12th January  
Year 4 start Swimming
- 14th January  
Year 5/6 Indoor Athletics Competition
- 15th January  
Year 6 – Theatre Workshop with AKS
- 18th January  
Winnie the Pooh Day

## Safeguarding

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know About AI Toys

AI-driven toys are becoming increasingly common, offering children personalised interactions that can feel surprisingly lifelike. This guide unpacks how these toys listen, learn, and respond – and what that means for privacy, security, and healthy development. From data collection to the subtle influence of artificial voices, it highlights why adults may need to look more closely at the tech inside modern playthings. It also explores how features such as constant connectivity, engagement-boosting rewards, and behaviour-shaping responses can affect children's play habits. Alongside outlining the risks, the guide shares calm, practical advice to help parents and educators set boundaries, check permissions, and balance AI toys with offline experiences, ensuring AI remains a support for real-world interactions, not a substitute for them.



## Attendance

Starting after Christmas, we're excited to introduce a brand-new incentive to celebrate great attendance! Each week, the class with the highest attendance will receive £5 to spend on their classroom.

- The prize can be saved up for something bigger or spent straight away on a treat or resource.
- Winners will be announced weekly, so every class has a fresh chance to take the top spot.

Let's see which class will be the first to claim the prize in the New Year!

## Holiday Dates

We are pleased to let you know that our holiday dates for next year have now been approved. These dates will be available to view on both our school website and Class Dojo, so please do check there for all the details!

## Governor Vacancy

I am delighted to announce that Julie Smith has been elected unopposed as our new Parent Governor.



head@lytham.lancs.sch.uk




01253 736900








This winter, a charity called Small Acts of Kindness has sourced, packed and distributed over 10,000 'Warm in Winter' gift bags across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Each bag includes things to keep people warm, like blankets, socks and hot drinks. The project aims to bring comfort to elderly and vulnerable people in the colder months. It shows that small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone's life.



The Bible teaches that God gave Jesus to the world as a gift. The kindness God showed by sending Jesus was fully seen in how Jesus lived His life, making everyone feel welcome, helping others and teaching forgiveness. God demonstrated kindness in sending Jesus, and so His followers are expected to live their lives showing that same kindness to others.




Apply for a school place  
the QR code or visit lancaster



### Democracy

The Warm in Winter project shows what can happen when people in a community choose to work together to help others.

When we listen to one another and make decisions together, everyone's voice can be heard, and we can all make a difference.



**Prayer**

Dear God,

Please help us to be kind to ourselves and others.

Help us to notice and appreciate all the needs in the world around us, and to practice giving, both great and small.

Thank You for all the love and compassion you have shown us.

Amen.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

### WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

### ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

### PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

### MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

### PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

### SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

### MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

### RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

### REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

### BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

## Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

**NORTH**

**Do you have a child starting  
primary school in September 2026  
and living in Lancashire?**

**Closing date: 15 January 2026**

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

Apply for a school place now by scanning  
the QR code or visit [lancashire.gov.uk/schools](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference,  
please check the guidance on our website, or call **01524 581148**.

**HAVE  
YOUR SAY**

*Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with  
you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs.  
To find out more please visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces)  
and click 'school admission policies'.*

[lancashire.gov.uk](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk)





Lytham C of E Primary School PTFA

£295.81 raised

38 supporters

## HOW IT WORKS

easyfundraising partners with over 8,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

### GET STARTED

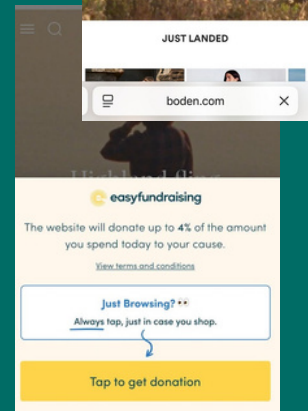
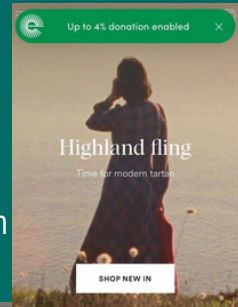
#### How to support Lytham C of E Primary School PTFA

- 1 Sign up**  
Provide us with a few details to set up your profile with easyfundraising.
- 2 Download our browser extension**  
Our Donation Reminder plug-in pops up automatically when you shop to let you know when a donation is available.
- 3 Track your donations**  
You'll be able to see how much you've raised in your account and we'll send updates on when Lytham C of E Primary School PTFA gets paid.

## A quick & easy guide!

It couldn't be simpler, it really is hassle free donating!

1. Download the app
2. Every time you shop on a website, this banner appears to enable the donation
3. Just click it, and the retailer will do the rest for you!



**Any questions - we're happy to help at** [ptfa@lytham.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@lytham.lancs.sch.uk)

### Affordable Pre-Loved Uniforms – Supporting Every Family.

The PTFA is proud to offer a range of pre-loved school uniform through our Uniformerly page, helping families save money while promoting sustainability.

#### What's Available:

Non-branded items – Free of charge

Jumpers & Cardigans – £5

Blazers – £10

Ties - £1.50

Book Bags - £2.00

Items with minor marks or damage are listed at half price, and everything is sent home with your child for convenience.

**How to Order:** Browse online and place orders easily. You can even set up alerts to be notified when new items are listed.

**Peace of Mind:** If you receive something you're not happy with, just get in touch—refunds are available, no fuss.

**Need Support?** If you're finding it difficult to purchase uniform, please speak to your child's teacher. Alternatively, you can email us at [ptfa@lytham.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@lytham.lancs.sch.uk) and we'll work with the school to ensure support is provided discreetly.

**Want to Donate?** If you have uniform to donate, simply drop it into the collection bin in the school office. Every item helps another family and keeps good clothing out of landfill.

Let's work together to make sure every child has what they need to feel confident and comfortable at school.