

Newsletter

“ Together, we grow with God ”

27th February 2026 Issue #22

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



We will be celebrating World book Day in School on Thursday 5th March and invite the children to dress as either their favourite book character, or as an adjective – such as sleepy or sporty. Costumes don't have to be shop bought to be fabulous! As it's also the National Year of Reading 2026, and as the theme is 'Go all in', we will be thinking of lots of exciting ways to celebrate in school, not only on the day but throughout the year. To kick off the celebrations, we have linked up with Lytham library and after half term, will 'go all in' to the community, where the children will be invited to visit with their classes. We're very excited to see where reading will take us!

Thank you for your continued support, Mrs Barras

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026!

Stars of the Week

- Reception: George
- Year 1: Ava
- Year 2: Lewis
- Year 3: Billy
- Year 4: Max
- Year 5: Nova
- Year 6: Reggie

Parables of the Talent

(Reading)

- Reception: Ava
- Year 1: Georgia
- Year 2: Luca J
- Year 3: Emily
- Year 4: Bluebelle
- Year 5: Teddy
- Year 6: Bea

LENT

In worship this week, the children explored Shrove Tuesday and how it prepares Christians for the season of Lent. We talked about the long-held tradition of making pancakes to use up ingredients before Lent begins, but also about the deeper meaning behind the day. The word "shrove" comes from "to be shriven", meaning to say sorry and make a fresh start—something Christians believe helps them draw closer to Jesus.

We then looked at how Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, marking the start of 40 days that remind Christians of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, praying, reflecting and resisting temptation. The children thought about how they might follow Jesus' example by choosing something kind, thoughtful or helpful to focus on during Lent—whether that's giving something up or taking something on.

Attendance

SCHOOL MINIMUM TARGET: 96.4%
This week's attendance:

- Reception: 99.5%
- Year 1: 99.1%
- Year 2: 98.3%
- Year 3: 95%
- Year 4: 97.1%
- Year 5: 98%
- Year 6: 97.6%

An fantastic week of attendance with an overall score of 97.6%. Well done to Reception for winning the Attendance Prize this week!

Brownies

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

Upcoming Events



3rd March
Football and Netball matches



4th March
MAD Science Assembly



5th March
World Book Day!



10th March
Football festival



11th March
Lancashire Sings - Choir



13th March
Own Clothes Day in exchange for Easter Eggs



18-20th March
Year 6 residential
Lakeside



19th March
BSYW Easter Workshops

Safeguarding



What Parents & Educators Need to Know About Whatsapp

With its end-to-end encryption and huge popularity, WhatsApp is often seen as a private and secure way to stay in touch; however, that same privacy can make it harder for trusted adults to see when things go wrong. This guide explains how features like group chats, disappearing messages, 'Channels' and location sharing can expose young users to pressure, unwanted contact and inappropriate content.

It also looks at emerging concerns such as scams, advertising and the in-app AI assistant, helping adults understand how these elements may affect children and young people. Alongside the risks, the guide offers practical advice to support meaningful conversations, encourage safer settings and build young users' confidence in navigating WhatsApp responsibly.

Life Education

We were delighted to welcome Harold and the Life Education team into school this week. The children had a wonderful time and were fully engaged throughout the sessions. During the visit, the children learned about how amazing their bodies are and how to take good care of them.

They explored topics such as healthy eating, the effects of medicines, alcohol and tobacco and the importance of looking after their mental wellbeing. They also discussed friendships, how the choices we make can influence our lives, and ways to stay safe and healthy. The sessions were interactive, age-appropriate and delivered by trained educators from Coram Life Education, the UK's leading provider of relationships, health, wellbeing and drugs education. Their programme supports our work in PSHE and Relationships and Health Education, and is fully aligned with the National Curriculum.

Harold was, as always, a big hit with the children, helping to make the learning memorable and enjoyable!



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

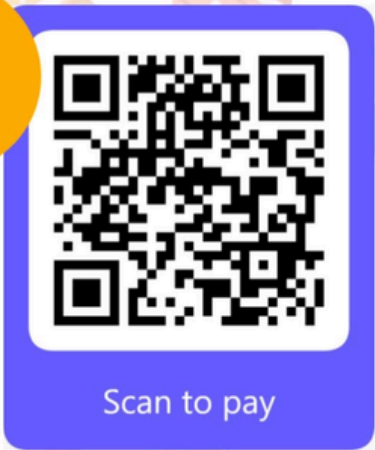
The National College



EASTER BINGO

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH

Tickets
£4



Scan to pay

OR CLICK HERE!

DOORS OPEN 6PM
FIRST GAME 6:30PM



BAR! PROSECCO ★ BEER
SOFT DRINKS ★ HOT DOGS ★ SNACKS

Remember we're always here to help: ptfa@lytham.lancs.sch.uk

<https://buy.stripe.com/eVqbJ1fUT0vGbpL6Moe3e05>

Upcoming Events!

Lots of exciting PTFA events coming up this year!
Remember we're always here to help: ptfa@lytham.lancs.sch.uk

Friday 13th
February

The Bonkers Bar!
Chocolate & prizes!



Friday 13th
March

Own Clothes Day
In exchange for Easter egg donations

Thursday
26th March

Easter Bingo!
Back by popular demand - one of our most exciting events!



Tuesday
31st March

Own Clothes Day
In exchange for 'fill a cup'
Empty cups sent home Monday 23rd March to return Tuesday 31st March

Friday 24th
April

Donut Day!
Afterschool playground stall sale - a tasty treat for the weekend



Friday 22nd
May

Break the Rules Day!
A favourite at school

Friday 12th
June

Own Clothes Day
In exchange for a bottle of any kind

Friday 19th
June

Colour Run 2026!
We just had to do it again - but bigger & better!



School Nursing Team DROP IN

Speak to a member of our school nursing team about various health topics including emotional health, diet, healthy lifestyles, sleep, bed-wetting & constipation, head lice and behaviour.

When?

20th May 2026 @ 9.30am-11:30am

17th June 2026 @ 9.30am-11:30am

15th July 2026 @ 9.30am-11:30am

Where?

Oak Tree Children's Centre

Sydney Street

Lytham St Annes

FY8 1TR



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

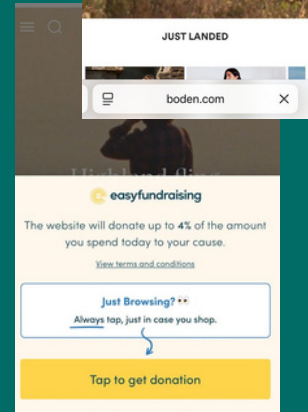
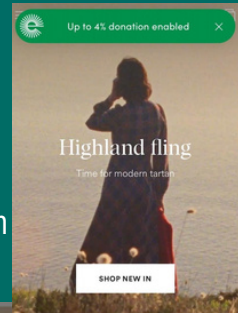
How to support Lytham C of E Primary School PTFA

- 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

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 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.