



Euxton Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Mairi Ash



In our Christian family, we all SHINE in the light of Jesus.

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year, lovely to see all the children looking smart, enthusiastic, ready to learn and try new things. A very warm and special welcome to all our new Reception children and their families. Welcome also to Mrs Jones who is our new Year 5 teacher and will also be Assistant Headteacher working alongside Mrs Obertelli. We are so pleased that you have all joined our school family.

Year 6 Leaders

Year 6 children have been presented with a very special badge today in assembly. This badge identifies them as being a Year 6 pupil in our school and therefore an ultimate role model! All Year 6 children are buddies to our Reception class and given an area of responsibility. They encourage all other children to live out our school vision statement. These roles provide our oldest children with the opportunity to problem solve and develop their understanding of service through leadership. Our Y6 have made an amazing start to their final year with us and I am sure that they will wear their badges with pride, take their responsibilities seriously and SHINE!

Celebration Assembly

This week we celebrated achievements from the summer holidays and handed out Y6 badges.

Class superstars for **Y1-Y6** will start from next Friday on **Friday 12th September at 9.05am**.

Class superstars for **Reception** will start from **Friday 19th September**. At this assembly, we would like to present our new Reception children with a special pebble to symbolise the start of their time with us. They will then place the blue pebble in our decorative bowl that stays in our entrance area. The children will then take one of these away with them when they leave us in Year 6. It is a lovely tradition. **Parents of our new starters are more than welcome to join us on the 19th.**

Meet the teacher sessions

These are a great opportunity for you to find out a little more about your child's year group, to meet the team and see their learning environment. The sessions will be **9:00-9:20am** so once you have dropped your child off, please wait on the school playground. At 9am a member of staff will invite you to make your way into your child's classroom. These sessions are for information sharing about the year ahead. Staff are happy to arrange a convenient time to have a more detailed chat should this be required and if you have any questions personal to your child.

Wednesday 17th September – Year 5 and Year 6

Thursday 18th September – Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday 24th September – Year 3

Thursday 25th September – Year 4

Ms Lucas will be having the second part of her Reception Welcome meeting in the classroom on **Monday 15th September at 5.30pm**. We hope you can join us.

Parent's Evening

We will once again have two formal opportunities this year to meet with your child's teacher. The first will be held on **Monday 20th October** and will be an opportunity for you to discuss how your child has settled into their new class and discuss their learning so far. Appointments will start from 2.30pm onwards. The online booking system via our School Spider app will be open nearer the time for you to make an appointment. I will be available throughout the afternoon/evening if you would like to have a chat with me.

The second Parents Evening will be in the Spring term. This will be about the progress your child is making and you to have a look at the work they have been doing in school. **However, it is really important to us that you know that you are always welcome to ask for a meeting with staff during the year on a more informal basis.**

Class blogs and homework

Homework focus will be on **reading, spellings and times tables. Please read class blogs every Friday** (on class pages on the school website). Homework will continue to be set on a **Friday** and be due in on a **Thursday**. Spelling and times tables quizzes will be given to the children in class on a Thursday. **Year 6** will also have an additional piece of homework each week and continue to have their reading records and banded books which are sent home each week. **Please do aim to listen to your child read every night.** As a school we really promote a love of reading as reading unlocks the whole curriculum and regular practice really does make a huge difference. The teachers will go through homework in their 'Meet the Teacher' sessions and a copy of the PowerPoint will be sent home. We will be continuing with our 'wellbeing' homework once each half-term, as a break from the usual homework, as we continue to place this highly in our school. Thank you for your support with your child's learning at home and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to have a word with your child's teacher.

Clubs and Activities

The list of staff run clubs for the Autumn Term will be in next Friday's Newsletter. Some flyers have already been sent to parents regarding clubs run by external groups e.g. Chorley SSP Dance Club (KS2), Players Drama Group (Y1-Y6), Little Learners (Y1 to Y3) and Tennis (Y1-Y6).

The school's football league starts next week with our girls' football team competing on Wednesdays after school at Parklands High School and our boys football team competing on Thursdays at Holy Cross High School. Due to these football competitions, a football after school club will be planned for Spring term. Thank you to Mr Astle for accompanying the boy's team and Mrs MacDonald and Mr Westwell for accompanying the girl's team to the fixtures. We wish both teams lots of luck!

Online Safety

This is a fast-paced area of children's safety which is constantly changing. Please refer to the topical online safety poster at the end of this newsletter which supports children, parents and carers so that we are all up to date on what to be aware of. All classes are currently focusing on online safety in computing lessons to ensure important messages are embedded before we continue further with our digital learning.

Use of the School Drive

Please remember that, for no other reason than safety, we do not allow cars to use the school drive up to 9:15am or after 3:00pm. If you are collecting from after school club you may drive up **after 4:45pm**. There are two church car parks you can use, as well as a kind offer from **Papa Luigi's** too (although **not** to be used on a Monday afternoon or if there are school events in the evenings). Please remain considerate when parking in any residential or business areas too, ensuring that driveways are unblocked and accessible to residents. We really do value your support with this, thank you.

Attendance

The school gate opens at **8:45am** and then the children can go into school from **8:45-8:55am**. **8:55am** is still the official start time so the children need to be in school by then. Thank you for your support in ensuring the children are in school on time – it really is so important for so many reasons. Socially, and academically, this helps them to settle into class, ready for the day ahead. By being just 5 minutes late each day actually equates to 3½ days of learning being missed every year. It is essential that persistent lateness does not happen as we have a duty of care for our children from 8:55am and it may become a safeguarding issue.

Overall school attendance continues to be a national and school priority. This is Lancashire County Council's message of awareness:

Absences can have a lasting effect on learning

Missing a week of school means your child will miss around 25 hours of learning

This creates gaps in their knowledge and could mean they will not meet their full potential

We are always monitoring this on a whole school and individual basis. Please avoid taking holiday in term time. For safeguarding purposes, any time out of school **must** be communicated with school. It is our duty to investigate if a child is absent from school for no apparent reason. A holiday request form must be completed and school notified **prior** to any absence.

I am unable to authorise term-time absence unless it is an exceptional circumstance. If you have any questions about this, please just ask. Being at school every day and on time ensures that your child makes good progress across the curriculum. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Contacting the school office or out of school club

If you need to contact school to let us know about a child being absent due to illness or change to the end of day pick up routine, parents can contact the school office by ringing 01257 263454 (**Office hours 8am-4.30pm**). You can also notify school of an absence via the School Spider app. To speak to the After School Club team from 3.30pm and to notify staff that you are due to collect please ring **07730777136**.

ParentPay

Thank you to the new parents who have activated their accounts this week. If you haven't yet got around to it, please try and do it as soon as possible. We use ParentPay to email and text parents as well as the payment method for all things in school, uniform, milk, OSC, dinners, music lessons etc. Please remember to add your mobile number to your account so that text messages can be received. Please check your information is up to date and that your current mobile number is stored. Parents are the only user who can update this information.

Medicines in School

If medicine needs to be taken under exceptional circumstances, then we are happy to administer this if there has been a written agreement made with parents and the appropriate form from the office completed. This is primarily for prescribed medication. However, again in exceptional circumstances and following the previously mentioned procedures, we will also give Calpol, etc. if there is a real need. Please note that this is not routine. The only requirement that we have is that it is in the form of sealed sachets or melts that has the exact amount in. These are readily available from chemists. Again, a parent must complete the medical form for Calpol to be administered.

Medical Forms/End of Day Safeguarding Forms

End of day collection forms have been sent out to all classes this week (except YR who completed their forms in the summer term)– if you haven't done so already, please complete the forms and

return them to school by Monday 8th September at the latest. New medical forms will be sent home next week for completion. Thank you!

Admissions – Primary and Secondary Places

You can now apply via www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools for school places for next September. Supplementary Faith forms are available in the school office for our school. If you are applying to any faith school a separate form should be provided by them and completed. The closing dates are as follows:

Secondary (Y7 in Sept 2026) – Friday 31st October 2025

Primary (Reception in Sept 2026) – Thursday 15th January 2026

Please do not hesitate to have a chat with me if you would like any additional information.

If you know anyone who is interested in their child coming to our lovely school then please encourage them to come along to our Open Days on:

Tuesday 23rd September, 10:00am

Wednesday 22nd October, 10:00am

Tuesday 18th November, 10.00am

If you would like to attend, please complete the sign up form found on the front page of our school website.

High School Open Evenings

Please see below many of the local secondary schools Open Evenings information:

St Michaels CE High School – Thursday 11th September 5.30-8pm, Open Days 12th September and 9th October 9.30am-12pm.

Wellfield Academy – Thursday 18th September 4.30-7.30pm

Parklands High School – Thursday 2nd October (times to be confirmed)

Bishop Rawstorne Academy – Thursday 25th September 4 – 8pm

Albany Academy – Thursday 25th September from 5pm

Balshaw's High School – Thursday 2nd October 5.30-8.30pm

Please check the school website before a visit as some have booking systems on there. Should any parents wish to take their child round schools during the school day then please just let us know. We fully appreciate it's a big decision and we are happy to help in any way we can.

Little Voices

Little Voices is launching a brand-new venue in Ecclestone this September. For anyone unfamiliar with Little Voices, they provide outstanding performing arts training for children aged 4–18 through small group drama and singing lessons, helping young people build confidence, develop vital communication skills, and discover a passion for performance. The sessions are welcoming, inclusive, and tailored to bring out the best in every child – whether they're destined for the West End or simply looking to grow in confidence. Please see flyer below for more information.

Lancashire Positive Minds

Lancashire Positive Minds is a parent-led organisation dedicated to helping families navigate the challenges of supporting children / young people with mental health and neurodiverse needs.

Their weekly parent-led group is **starting at Highfield Family Hub on Thursday 11th Sept – 6pm until 9pm** & will include guest speakers, topic discussions, and practical strategies.

The group is professionally supported by CAMHS .

For more info and how to refer see: <https://www.lancashirepositiveminds.co.uk/group-meetings/>

Promotional school dinner

On Monday 15th September the kitchen will be providing a Roald Dahl Day special meal. The choices will be George's Marvelous Chicken Burger, The Twits Tomato Pasta Twists or James' Giant filled Jacket Potato with Wonka's Whipple-Scrumptious Doughnut Rings.

If your child DOES NOT currently have a school meal on a Monday and you would like them to on this day please let Miss Croft (a.croft@euxton.lancs.sch.uk) know by 10th September including the

main meal choice. The cost for the meal will be £2.90 unless your child is entitled to free school meals or in infants.

Exciting summer holiday school projects

School has been a busy place over the holidays with lots of projects being completed to enhance our environment.

Spinney renovation

Thanks to a super team of volunteers from the power tool company Hilti, we have a wonderful new Spinney! We welcomed a team of around 31 volunteers who came into school to help restore our Spinney area and they have used their excellent skills to create a magical area for all the children to enjoy. A BIG thank you to everyone who helped make the project a big success.

Thank you to:

- all the volunteers from Hilti,
- the Redpath family for their generous donation which enabled the purchase of some wooden seating,
- the Harrison family for donating some sensory decorations,
- Lisa at Dr Oetker Leyland for the donation of pizzas to feed the hungry workers at lunch and to Clare Tennant for organising the lunch
- Sharon (Community Champion) at Tesco for donations of drinks and snacks
- Murial & Andy from Green Woodworking (greenworking.co.uk) for a donation of beautiful paintings and decorative woodwork pieces
- Clare Tennant, Emma Garbutt and Rachel Kavanagh for assisting on the day
- parents who donated towards the cost, materials and items for the project and loaned us equipment for the day
- and finally to the chair of our PTFA, Emma Ratcliffe, who had the project idea and organised and managed the whole event so brilliantly!

The children are so fortunate to have a special place to go and explore for play and learning opportunities. We can't wait to start using it 😊





Bike and scooter parking area

Thank you to our brilliant PTFA for contributing to the purchase of our new bike shelter and scooter pod which was installed at the time of the replace fencing.



New entrance and new playground fencing

We've had some new playground fencing installed in the playground along the astro turf as well as cutting back trees and bushes to make it a brighter place to play.

If you've visited the main entrance to school, you will have noticed a new vestibule area and office which will make our school even more safe and secure. Please now press the new intercom button next to the front door to gain access into school.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Hayley, Steven and Alfie (Y2) Hitchen who have welcomed a baby boy, Leo, into their family during the summer holidays. We send you all our very best wishes!

Thank you

Thank you so much for taking the time to read a lengthy newsletter this week, which includes some important information and reminders. They won't always be like this! Next week we will list dates ahead for the term and these will also be posted on the school calendar on the website.

What an absolutely wonderful start to our new academic year it has been! I am so proud of how all the children have settled into the school year, displaying such positive attitudes as they embrace new beginnings and exciting opportunities on their Euxton journey. It's been heartwarming to see every child stepping forward with enthusiasm and determination - excellent examples of our school vision in action. I just know that everyone will continue to SHINE throughout the year!

As we move forward together this term, I want you to know that your voice matters tremendously to us. Please remember to share your thoughts with us throughout the year - whether it's feedback, ideas, or simply a chat about how your child is getting on. Please know you can talk to me anytime and I genuinely welcome your comments and insights. After all, we are all working towards the same thing – providing the very best education for our children.

Looking ahead, I'm filled with excitement about what this Autumn term holds for your child. We have such a wonderful range of learning opportunities planned where we can all grow together as a school community. From new curriculum adventures to special events and celebrations, there's so much to look forward to. Here's to a fantastic Autumn term ahead, filled with joy, discovery, and countless moments where our children can truly flourish.

Enjoy your weekend.

Best wishes,

Mrs Mairi Ash
Headteacher

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES



Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.

2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS



Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.

3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP



Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.

4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS



Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.

5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS



Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.

6 CREATE A CALM MORNING



Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.

7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES



Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.

8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL



If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.

9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER



Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.

10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT



Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert

This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

CONFIDENCE FOR LIFE

DO YOU IMAGINE A **BIG** FUTURE FOR YOUR CHILD?

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR LAUNCH NIGHT!

Venue: St Agnes Catholic Church Hall, Eccleston, PR7 5PH

Date: Tuesday 16th September 2025

Time: From 5.00pm



We see the potential in *everyone* – not just the talented few!

Our award-winning singing & drama lessons for 4-18 year olds will help:

- build essential **LIFE SKILLS**
- grow **CONFIDENCE**
- boost **MENTAL WELLBEING & RESILIENCE**
- discover & nurture **TALENT**

We teach
LAMDA
Qualifications



"5-star excellent for a reason!
Let's all little voices shine
through, no matter their ability.
Truly something else about
this company!"

Contact us today to book your
child's FREE launch night place!

☎ 07480 064828

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DRAMA & SINGING LESSONS OF DISTINCTION