Ellel St. John's Church of England Primary School

'Loving, Living, Learning'

Diocese of Blackburn

'Loving, living and learning in the light of Christ' Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven – Matthew 5:1

What a fantastic couple of weeks we've had **living, loving and learning in the light of Christ!** Last week, Oak Class did themselves proud on their residential at Borwick Hall. They challenged themselves, conquered fears and showed what wonderful, loyal and supportive friends they can be to one another. We are incredibly proud of them all! A huge thank you must also go to the staff who spent time away from their own families to make the trip possible. Without their commitment and care, we simply couldn't offer our children such fantastic opportunities and experiences. We also came together as a school community for our **Harvest Festival** last week. Thank you to everyone who generously donated food, which has been passed on to **The Olive Branch** to support people in our local community. Every child also took on our obstacle course around the school field, raising a fantastic **£203 for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal 2026**. What a brilliant example of our children putting our Christian values into action and thinking of others. On Wednesday, it was a real pleasure to welcome prospective families to our Open Afternoon. Our whole school community **shone their lights brightly**, giving our visitors a wonderful sense of what makes our school such a special place. Finally, we were wowed by the many achievements celebrated in today's Shining Light Assembly, where we also announced our new **School Council, Eco Council and Worship Team**. Congratulations to everyone involved. We know they will make a fantastic contribution to school life!



- Friday 23rd Oct 9:15am – Hazel Class Led assembly
- Mon 2nd November – Individual Photos
- Mon 9th & Tue 10th November 3:30pm – 6pm Parents evenings (booking info to follow)
- Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance Day (afternoon of Remembrance in school 1:30 – 2:30pm)
- Tuesday 17th Nov – PTFA film night 3:30pm (info to follow)
- Thursday 19th - Flu vaccinations
- Mon 30th November – Decorations Day and surprise room (info to follow)

🍎✨**Is your child starting school in September 2027?** ✨🍎

School admissions are now open for children due to start **primary or secondary school in September 2027**.

🗓️ **Secondary School:** The deadline for applications is **31st October 2026**.
🗓️ **Primary School:** The deadline for applications is **15th January 2027**.

Applications can be made online through the Lancashire County Council school admissions website.

If you require any support with your application, please contact the **school office**, who will be happy to help.

If you missed the open afternoon this week, then feel free to arrange a visit another time. Come and see our wonderful school in action, explore our beautiful grounds, visit our classrooms, and meet our fantastic staff and pupils. It's a great opportunity to find out how we support every child to learn, grow and flourish throughout their primary school journey.

Whether your child is due to start school in September 2027 or you are simply beginning to explore your options, we would be delighted to meet you and share what makes our school such a special place to belong.

This Week's Attendance	
Acorn	99%
Beech	98%
Holly	95%
Hazel	98%
Willow	96%
Sycamore	98%
Oak	96%
Whole School	97% 😊

Parent's Evening

We will be holding our Parent's Evening on Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th November. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss the progress they are making in their new class. You can book your time slot using the new parent messaging app (look out for a link to register). Appointments will last for 8 minutes. While this is generally long enough for an update, if you do require a longer appointment, please contact school to arrange this. If you are having any issues booking a time slot, please contact the school office. We look forward to seeing you then.

Individual School Photographs

These will be taken on Monday 2nd November during the school day. If you would like a family photograph with preschool siblings, please arrive at school from 8.25am so that these photos can be taken before the start of the school day. Sibling photos of pupils at school will be taken during the day.

Online Safety Tips

Parents' Ultimate Guide to Smart Devices

Are smart speakers OK for kids? Should you buy smart home technology? What are the benefits of smart devices and what are the privacy and security risks? More than six in 10 parents say their young kids interact with voice-activated assistants. Are you one of them? If you're weighing the pros and cons of products such as smart watches, smart speakers, and even smartphones that track pretty much everything you do, read this guide that tells you everything you need to know about smart stuff for families. This guide tells you all about smart devices -- what they are, what they can do for you and your family, how to use them as safely as possible, and how to protect your family's privacy in a world increasingly powered by data.
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-smart-devices



Photos of the week:






