



St Michael & St John's RC Primary School
Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1AG
Headteacher: Mrs Zoe Mabbott BEd (Hons) NPQH

Telephone: 01200 422560
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*Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another
to be the best we can be.*

10th October 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

This week we welcomed River (EYFS) and Hunter (Y3) to the SSMJ family. The children have made them feel very welcome. We have also had a busy week with sporting events, Harvest Collections and the month of the Holy Rosary.

The Sunday Gospel



In this Sunday's Gospel, we read about the Samaritan who thanked Jesus. For us too, there are many blessings in life for which we can be thankful and it's always worth giving thanks to God. Being thankful to God puts us in the right frame of mind. It is good for our well-being and helps us to be happy in life.

Ask your child what the word 'thankfulness' means to them. You may want to help your child understand what the word 'thankfulness' means to you. Can your child remember a time when they felt really thankful to someone? How did they show their thanks to that person?

October – Month of the Holy Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falls on 7th October. Please come and join us every Thursday at 8.15am to offer our prayers and special intentions up to Mary our Mother and to ask her to intercede for us. Parents, children and parishioners wishing to join us will be welcomed into school through the office. We have had lots of children join us this week and it would be lovely to have some adults join with us next week. Thank you to Mrs Whyman for leading this for us.

The children will also be using resources from Mark 10 Mission to complete the Rosary Challenge.

Sacramental Programme

It was lovely to see parents, relatives and children at Mass on Sunday. Please remember to return your child's Sacramental Form to Father Paul this weekend at any of the Parish Masses. If you were unable to attend on Sunday and would like your child to be part of the Sacramental Programme for this year you need to telephone Father Paul who will make arrangements with you to collect a form.

Parent Governor Elections

Letters were sent home from school on Friday 3rd October with regards to our Parent Governor vacancy. If you are interested in this role please return nomination forms to Mrs Mabbott by 12.00 noon on Monday 13th October 2025.

School Photographs

School Photographs will be taking place on Monday 13th October. Please read the separate letter regarding family photographs with younger siblings who do not attend SSMJ.

Stanley Visits School

On Tuesday, Stanley, our school dog came to visit us. He welcomed the children on arrival at school then spent time with the children at break, lunchtime and popping in to a few lessons. He got to know our new EYFS children who were very welcoming! The children and Stanley had a great day.



Harvest Foodbank Collection

During the Harvest we have all been collecting food for Ribble Valley Food Bank. On Thursday, our fantastic governor Mr Downes came to collect the food which was then taken to the Ribble Valley Food Bank our whole collection weighed in at 100.6 kg! Thank you to our pupils who helped with this and to all of our school community for your contributions.



Thank you...

for all your help and kindness. Your donation will make a real difference to people in need across the Ribble Valley. We help over 370 people every month. 160 of them are children.



Friends of SSMJ - Clitheroe Bonfire News

🎆 Amazing News! 🎆

We're delighted to share that Friends of SSMJ will receive proceeds from this year's Clitheroe Bonfire!

We're so grateful for their generous support, which will help us create our new Multi-Purpose Room for the children.

WHAT
amazing
EXCITING
NEWS!

CLITHEROE CASTLE BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS DISPLAY 2025

JOINTLY ORGANISED BY:
Clitheroe Rotary, Ribblesdale Rotary,
Clitheroe Round Table and Clitheroe Lions.

ALL PROCEEDS TO LOCAL GROUPS AND CHARITIES

SAT 01 NOV 2025
FROM 5 PM ON CLITHEROE CASTLE FIELD

STRICTLY NO ADMISSION WITHOUT A TICKET

Please come along and support this fantastic community event — it promises to be a great evening for everyone!

Tickets on sale at Banana News or

https://www.tickettailor.com/checkout/view-event/id/6502822/chk/187c/?modal_widget=true&widget=true

Pupil Leadership Groups

Children from Years 1-6 applied for pupil leadership groups and the following groups have been selected. Well done to the all children who applied and all who were selected.

Leadership Groups 2025/2026

Creation Missionary Disciples

Year 1	Layton and Cora
Year 2	Thomas and Harper
Year 3	Isla and Wiktorja
Year 4	Darcey, Leo and Noah
Year 5	Harry C and Jiya
Year 6	Tristan and Theo

Action Missionary Disciples

Year 1	Blake and Jessica
Year 2	Rupert and Max
Year 3	Riley H and Magdalena
Year 4	Theo and Rocco
Year 5	Joseph and Rose
Year 6	Jake and Alex

Reading Buddies

Year 1	Charlie and Coby
Year 2	Kutenda and Ava
Year 3	Betsy and Theo
Year 4	Orla and Paul
Year 5	Sid and Joshua
Year 6	Ellie and Edie

Sport Buddies

Year 1	Zane and Aleks
Year 2	Freya and Lily
Year 3	Hollie and Seb
Year 4	Alessandro, Norah and Hugo
Year 5	Hubert and Harry T
Year 6	Oliver and Edgar

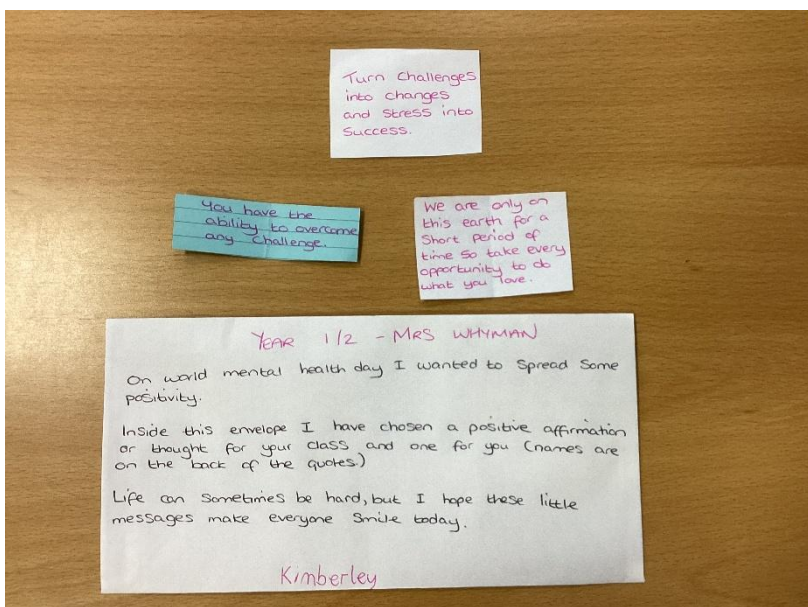
Wear Yellow for World Mental Health Day

Today we came together to celebrate World Mental Health Day and we supported this by wearing yellow as part of the Young Minds campaign. Pupils also had a go at various mindfulness activities throughout the day, with the Year 6 Wellbeing Warriors leading part of our assembly this morning and running some yoga sessions at lunchtime.

EYFS have made special cards to send home to cheer people up and Kimberley from Year 5 has given each class some positive affirmations.

Thank you to everyone for their support.

Here are just a few photographs of the day.



Second Open Day

On Tuesday at 2.00 pm we look forward to welcoming any prospective parents of children starting school in September. If this time is not convenient for you, then please contact the office and an alternative time will be arranged.

Bug Busters

On Tuesday, Year 1&2 had a special visit from The Bug Busters! They taught us all about different types of bugs, how to wash our hands properly and how to stay healthy.



Football News

On Thursday Penny, Una, Nahri, Edie, Eleanor, Phoebe, Lula-Rose and Isabella represented school in the premier League Primary Stars Competition at Prairie Sports Village in Burnley. Well done to the girls who came an impressive 3rd overall.

Thank you to Mrs Turner and Ms Adams who accompanied the girls for the event.



Tri Kids Triathlon



On Monday, all the children took part in a virtual triathlon with a charity called Tri Kids. We had a wonderful time cycling, running and swimming! Here are some pictures from the day.



Cross Country

On Monday our Year 6 children: Edie, Una, Willow, Elsie, Kaylar, Pyper and Lula for the girls and Alex, Edgar, Roman and Mykyta for the boys, took part in the Cross County event at Ribblesdale High School.

Out of nearly 200 girls and nearly 200 boys, Edie finished 30th in the girl's race and Roman finished 15th in the boy's race.

As Roman finished in the top 25, he will qualify for the next stage in the Cross Country Competition.

Well done to all the pupils who represented the school impeccably and thank you to Mr Duckworth for accompanying the children.



EYFS Parent Workshops

Thank you to all the EYFS parents who attended the parent workshops on Tuesday afternoon/evening.

During the workshop we discussed how SSMJ teaches communication, language and literacy and maths and how parents can support this process at home. School and parents working together hugely supports children's wellbeing and in turn their academic progress in school. The presentation has now been uploaded to the school website.

Data Collection Sheets and Educational Visits Form

We still have a few forms outstanding for our data collection update and local educational visits consent forms. Just a polite reminder if you haven't already done so please can you return them to school asap. Many thanks.

Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club



Progressive Sports are our wrap around childcare provider, their focus is on delivering trusted, reliable, and expert childcare that extends your child's school day with enriching and inclusive activities.

Breakfast club starts from 7.30 am and afterschool club finishes at 6.00 pm.

Progressive Sports are also providing activities afterschool until 4.30 pm. If you wish to book your child a place, please visit the link below.

[Enrolmy | Progressive Sports South Lancashire](#)

SSMJ Open Day - Come and See our 'Outstanding' Catholic School in Action

Does your child start school in September 2026?

If so, the closing date for primary applications for September 2026 is Thursday 15th January 2026.

We will be holding our next annual Open Day this year on Tuesday 14th October at 2.00 pm. However if you are not available at this time, please contact the school and we will arrange a convenient time for you to visit.

We invite families of children looking for a primary place for September 2026 to come and enjoy refreshments, view the school in action, talk to Mrs Mabbott (Headteacher) and to some of our Pupil Leader and to ask any questions you have.

We are a catholic school but this does not mean your child has to be Catholic to attend. We welcome children of all faiths and backgrounds and are a fully inclusive school.

Please read our recent Catholic School Inspection Report and most recent Ofsted Report to find out a little more about our school.

<https://www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk/catholic-school-inspection-report-july-2024/>

<https://primariesite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-michael-and-st-johns-roman-catholic-primary-school/UploadedDocument/351cc94c-156c-465c-988b-aef044b83365/10268317-st-michael-and-st-johns-roman-catholic-primary-school-clith.pdf>

Is your child due to start school in September 2026?

St Michael & St John's
RC Primary School

Ofsted Inspection - Good
CSI Inspection - Outstanding

**JOIN US FOR OUR
OPEN DAYS**

Thursday 18.9.25 9.30am
+ Tuesday 14.10.25 2pm*

✓ A great place to learn ✓ High academic standards
✓ Child & family focussed ✓ Lots of Enrichment opportunities

*"following the example of Jesus together
we learn, love & respect one another to be
the best we can be"*

St Michael & St John's RC Primary School
Lowergate, Clitheroe BB7 1AG

We look forward to welcoming you!
Contact the office to book
your place - 01200 422560
bursar@ssmj.lancs.sch.uk

Clitheroe Torchlight Procession



Friends of SSMJ are taking part in the Clitheroe Torchlight procession taking place on Saturday 11 October 7pm from Trinity Church.

If your child wants to be involved, we are meeting at 6.45pm at Trinity Church and you can walk with your child and the Friends of SSMJ.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in. It would be great to see as many of our children and families taking part.

Please bring your own Lantern, which preferably need to be on a stick. We have included an example of how to make one below. Please be as creative as you want, the brighter the better, just no naked flames. We recommend a battery operated tea lights or glow sticks.

Live music, entertainment, stalls and activities are on at the Castle band stand beforehand, from 2.00 pm.

 Directions:

DIY Kids Lantern Craft (Using Recycled Supplies)

 Materials Needed (Makes 1 lantern):

- 1 clean, empty plastic container (milk jug, water bottle, yogurt tub, or mason jar)
- Battery-operated tealight or glow stick (for safe lighting)
- Tissue paper, scrap paper, or old magazines (for decoration)
- White glue or mod podge
- Paintbrush or sponge
- Scissors
- Hole punch + string/pipe cleaner for handle
- Optional: stickers, washi tape, glitter, nature bits (like leaves or pressed flowers)

1. Prep the Lantern Base:

Wash and dry your recycled container thoroughly. Remove any labels.

Cut off the top (if using a jug or bottle) to create an open top—or keep it closed and light from the bottom if using a mason jar.

2. Decorate the Outside:

Tear tissue paper or old paper into small pieces.

Apply glue or Mod Podge over the lantern surface and stick the paper pieces down, overlapping slightly for a stained-glass effect. Seal with another glue layer on top.

3. Add the Handle:

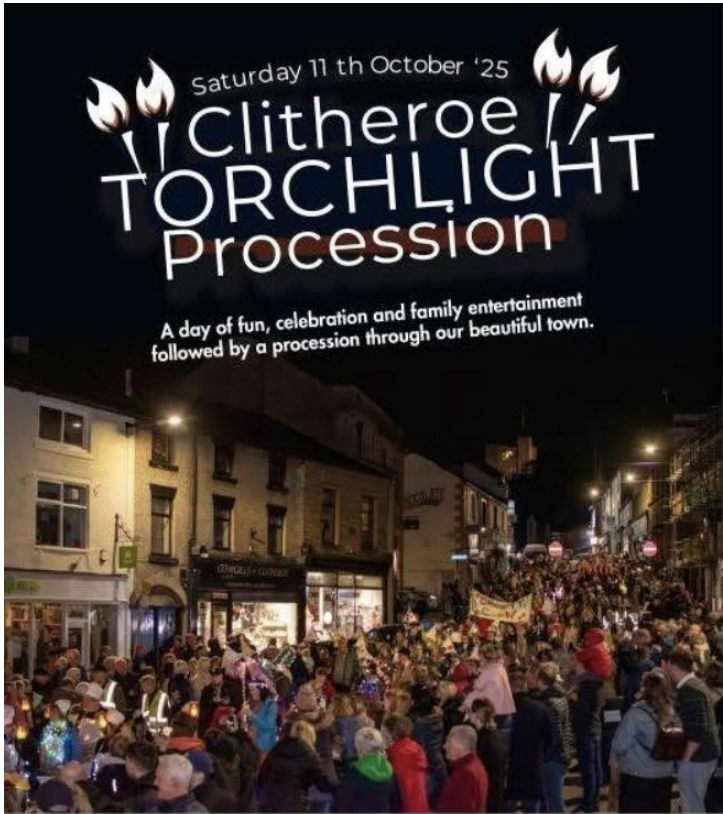
Use a hole punch to make two holes near the top. Thread string, yarn, or a pipe cleaner through both holes and twist or tie securely.

4. Light It Up:

Place a battery-operated tealight or glow stick inside the lantern. Never use real flames for kids' lanterns!

5. Enjoy the Glow:

Turn off the lights or head outside and

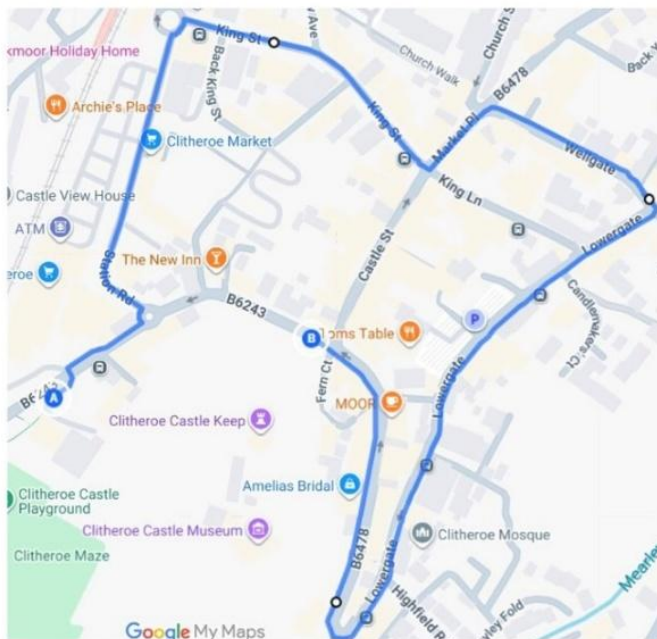


Saturday 11th October 2025
Festivities on the castle grounds from 2pm
Procession begins at 7pm

Further information contact:
clitheroetorchlight@gmail.com
 Keep an eye on our facebook page
 and VisitClitheroe for more information.
 Scan the QR code to register.



CLITHEROE TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION ROUTE



- The procession will assemble on the footpath along the side of the castle field.
- It will exit the castle grounds by the side of Trinity and proceed along Parson Lane.
- Turn left onto Station Rd, and proceed along Station Rd.
- Turn right onto King St.
- Turn left onto Market Place.
- Turn right onto Wellgate.
- Turn right onto Lowergate, follow Lowergate for its full length to the junction of Whalley Rd.
- Turn right onto Moor Lane, follow Moor Lane to Castle Gate.
- Enter the Castle grounds and proceed to the bandstand.
- The procession will disperse once it has reached the bandstand.

Primary School Admissions

School admissions are now open.

If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at: [Starting primary school \(reception\) - Lancashire County Council](#)

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire, you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2025 is on Thursday 15th January 2026.

Year 6 - Secondary school admissions

If your child is in Year 6 you can now apply for their secondary school place at: [Starting secondary school \(Year 7\) - Lancashire County Council](#)

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire, you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for secondary applications for September 2025 is on Friday 31st October 2025.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations will be taking place on Tuesday 4th November in school. Please scan the QR code in the poster below to give consent or refusal for the vaccination.



IntraHealth

**Your child can be a
Real Life Superhero!
Protect your
Friends And Family
Against
FLU.**

NHS
Lancashire (inc. Blackburn & Darwen)
School Aged Immunisation Service

ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S RC PRIMARY

Vaccination Date: TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

To complete a consent or refusal form online,
Please scan the QR code:

For any queries... Call: 0333 358 3397 Option 2, Option 2
Email: team.lancashire@intrahealth.co.uk

To find out more about the flu vaccine, please scan the following:
Info available in multiple languages



Clubs and Afterschool Activities



Activity	Year Group/s	Teacher	Date/Times
KS2 Dodge Ball	3,4,5 & 6	Progressive Sports	Monday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Burnley Football Club	5 & 6	Burnley Football Club	Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
KS1 Dodge Ball	EYFS, 1 & 2	Progressive Sports	Thursday 3.30 - 4.30 pm

Progressive Sports activities will need to be booked via their website and Burnley Football Club can be booked on Parent Pay.



Happy birthday to Ada in Year 3, Ruby Year 5 and also Mrs Whyman who have all celebrated a birthday this week.

Celebration Assembly



EYFS	Connie and River
Yr 1 & 2	Renato, William, Rosie and Ava
Yr 3 & 4	Anthony, Igor, Isla and Hunter
Yr 4 & 5	Hubert, Jiya, Frank and Harry
Yr 6	Eleanor, Nahri, Mykyta and Henry

Top Table Winners



EYFS	Ralph
Yr 1	Layla
Yr 2	Harper
Yr 3	Maksym
Yr 4	Leonard
Yr 5	Joseph
Yr 6	Roman

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 13 th October	Individual School Photographs
	1.30 pm ~ Year 6 Play Leaders Training
Tuesday 14 th October	2.00 pm - 3.00 pm ~ Open Day - Prospective Parents'
Friday 17 th October	1.15 pm ~ Year 2 - Child Fire Safety Session
	2.15 pm ~ Year 6 - Road Safety Session
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 23 rd October	Parent's Evening
Friday 24 th October	School closes for half term
Monday 3 rd November	School Re-opens
Tuesday 4 th November	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 13 th November	Athletic Event - Whole school sponsored activity
Friday 21 st November	Year 4 - 'Rivers in the Classroom' River Ribble Trust
Thursday 27 th November	Let's Go Sing Visit @ SSMJ - School Choir
Monday 8 th December	PM ~ EYFS & KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 9 th December	AM ~ EYFS & KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 10 th December	PM ~ School Pantomime Trip

Monday 15 th December	4.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
Tuesday 16 th December	6.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
Friday 19 th December	School Closes for Christmas (Early Closure)
Monday 5 th January	School Re-opens

Take Care & God Bless.

Mrs Zoe Mabbott - Headteacher



ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S HOLIDAY LIST 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

Re-open on: Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Half Term Monday 27th October to Friday 31th October 2025 (inclusive)
Christmas Holiday Early closure on Friday 19th December 2025

(Number of openings: 73)

Spring Term 2025

Re-open on: Monday 5th January, 2026
Half Term Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026
(inclusive)
INSET DAY Monday 23rd February 2026
Easter Break Friday 3rd April to Friday 17th April 2026 (inclusive)

(Number of openings: 58)

Summer Term 2026

Re-open on: Monday 20th April 2026
Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026 (inclusive)
Summer Holiday Early closure on Friday 17th July 2026

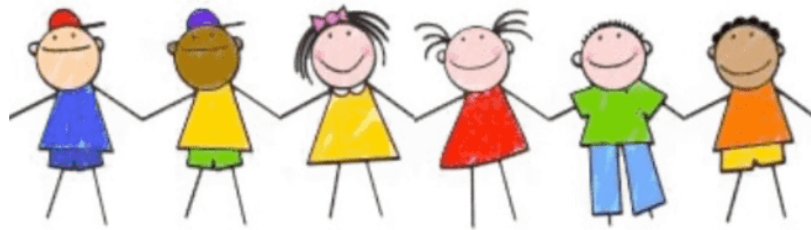
(Number of openings: 59)

Notices from other Companies and Providers

Notices

We are often asked to share information about events with you, which we do to support our community, and so you can consider whether these are of interest to you. Please note, school is not recommending or validating these events, we are simply passing on the information.

Baby & Toddler GROUP



**Seedlings Toddler Group at St Michael and St John's Parish
needs your HELP!!**

(For parents, carers and their young ones 0-4yrs)

Have you got a few hours to spare on a Wednesday morning to support this fun, chatty & very rewarding group?

Support is readily available from existing volunteers.

Kay our lovely leader is moving on to new projects from October half term 2025.

We'd love to hear from you or come and join us for a chat, brew and a look round on a

Wednesday (9:00-11:00am, term-time only).

Please get in touch with Susan (Mob: 07887690402 or email: susan_fellows@hotmail.co.uk)

Spooky disco

AN ADULT MUST
ACCOMPANY THEIR
CHILD(REN) -
£2 PER TICKET

£5 PER TICKET

INCLUDES ENTRY, HOT DOG
AND UNLIMITED SUGAR FREE
FRUIT CORDIAL

TICKETS PURCHASED
VIA CLASSLIST APP

**OLD SCHOOL ROOMS & ASSEMBLY
HALL, 43 LOWERGATE, BB7 1AD**

**FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER
6.00PM TO 8.00PM**

FUNDS RAISED WILL GO
TOWARDS THE NEW
ART/DT ROOM AT SCHOOL

**MAIN BAR OPEN
FOR DRINKS**

Saturday 11th October '25

Clitheroe TORCHLIGHT Procession

A day of fun, celebration and family entertainment
followed by a procession through our beautiful town.



Saturday 11th October 2025
Festivities on the castle grounds from 2pm
Procession begins at 7pm

Further information contact:
clitheroetorchlight@gmail.com
Keep an eye on our facebook page
and VisitClitheroe for more information.
Scan the QR code to register.

Raising funds for:



Organised by:



Supported by:



Ribble Valley
Borough Council
Working together 2011 to 2025



East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

**Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'
Delivered by ELCAS
tinurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT**



**Enter the word "ELCAS" as the first name and "drop in" as the second
name followed by your date of birth.**

You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 1st October 25

1pm – 3pm

Wednesday 8th October 25

3pm – 5pm

Wednesday 15th October 25

5pm – 7pm

Wednesday 22nd October 25

1pm – 3pm

Children and Family
**Wellbeing
Service**

Get advice and support

Someone to talk to
Problems at
home/school
Jobs and training
Apprenticeships
Staying safe
online
Sex and health
Relationships

Mental Health
Self Harm
Bullying
Drugs and
alcohol
Things to do
Housing, rights
and money
What age can I?



[facebook.com/LancashireYZ](https://www.facebook.com/LancashireYZ)

twitter.com/LancashireYPS

You can contact us 365 days a year

2pm to 10pm

**talk
zone**

Text 07786 51 11 11

Talk online lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone

Call 0800 51 11 11

Age 0-19

(up to 25 for young
people with learning
difficulties or disabilities)

lancashire.gov.uk



Lancashire
County
Council



0800 51 11 11