



Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Attendance

***You have 190 days to come to school and 175 to do everything else!***

Regular attendance at school is significant to a child's educational development and progress. There is now a bigger [Government drive to improve attendance](#). When a child's attendance falls to 90% or below it is classed as persistent absence. We hope that by working together, attendance will improve and children will achieve fully in school. The school's policy for attendance is available on the school [website](#).

Please click on the [link](#) to see the guidance for parents regarding attendance:

We reward good attendance each week and are aiming for at least 96% attendance. Class attendance for last week was as follows:

Year 2	97.33%
Year 4	97.33%
Reception	95.67%
Year 1	95.67%
Year 5	95.56%
Year 6	95.20%
Year 3	90.37%
Nursery	89.86%
Whole School	95.03%
Whole School for year so far:	95.40%

The classes in **green** are above our target of **96%** and those in **red** are below, some significantly below. We will be targeting those with poor attendance.

*If you are unable to call school, e.g no credit on your phone, please use School Spider \* to report the absence or click [here](#) to send an email to let us know, please try to let us know by 9.00AM. You will need to log into School Spider to do this, if you need help logging in, please let school know.*

Info for parents from the DfE regarding fines: [Fines for parents for taking children out of school](#).

### National Year of Reading 2026

The Education Secretary is calling on parents to lead by example and make reading a daily habit to help reverse the decline in reading for pleasure, to help give kids the best start in life as part of the Plan for Change. Bringing together parents, schools, libraries, businesses and literacy experts, the campaign aims to foster a love of reading for pleasure in children and young people, ensuring all children get the best start in life.

Reading for pleasure isn't just a hobby. It's linked to a range of benefits including stronger writing skills, improved wellbeing and confidence, and even higher future earnings, with new data showing those proficient in reading and writing in primary school [earn £65,000 more over their lifetime](#).

**World Book Day is on 5<sup>th</sup> March** and this year we are asking for any unwanted children's books that are still in good condition to be brought into school for a book swap.

The idea is that children will be able to swap a book they have read for one they haven't. Any books left over will be available for anyone who wants to take the books to read.

We are hoping that all children will have access to books that they have not read but have been recommended to them by their classmates. Please start to send in any books that are no longer wanted but still in good condition.

### **Costume Donations for World Book Day**

As World Book Day approaches (Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March) we would appreciate any unwanted costumes that the children have out grown or no longer want, they will then be available for parents to take on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February. If you wish to give a small donation that would be appreciated. Please do bring any costumes you no longer need into school as soon as possible.

Costumes will be available in the school hall in the morning of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February.

### **School Uniform**

We would like to inform you of a change to our school uniform supplier after being let down last year with our previous supplier which caused many families to be without new uniform in September. Our official school uniform will now be exclusively supplied by Paul's Place, with immediate effect, **school uniform will no longer be available to purchase directly from school.** (with the exception of water bottles and swimming caps) This change has been made to ensure continued quality, availability, and value for our school community.

Please note the following:

- The uniform design and colours will remain the same.
- Existing uniforms may continue to be worn until they are outgrown or need replacing.
- New uniform items can be purchased directly from Paul's Place, 272 Stanley Road, Bootle, L20 3ER 0151 922 2472.
- Further details regarding ordering, pricing, and supplier contact information are available online at Alphaschoolwear.com, <https://www.stoswaldsnetherton.com/page/parents-as-partners/30667> or from the school office.
- The opening times for the shop are Monday - Saturday 09.30AM - 4.30PM From June each year, Monday - Saturday 09.00AM - 5.00PM. From the end of July each year 09.00AM - 5.00PM 7 days per week.
- Prices are available in store or on their website.
- School will continue to offer pre-loved items to parents. (Please contact Mrs Brannigan our Pastoral Mentor or the school office)

We appreciate your cooperation and support during this transition. Should you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### **Ofsted**

OFSTED are changing how they inspect schools, report to parents and their judgements, there will no longer be an overall judgement for schools but a report card will be provided to give parents information, please see the [short 2-minute video where OFSTED explain the changes](#).

### **Swimming After Half Term**

#### **Year 5**

All Year 5 will begin swimming after half term every morning starting the first morning back, Monday – Thursday for two weeks. Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **Year 4**

To ensure that all children make as much progress in swimming as possible we will be taking half the class for the first 5 weeks and the remaining half of the class for the following 5 weeks. The last half term will be for those who are still not swimming the required 25 metres. We hope that this will give more intensive swimming lessons for the children and all the children will benefit from this. A list of who will be swimming the first half term will be provided next week.

### **Online Safety Newsletter**

Attached to the newsletter is the online safety newsletter for February 2026.

### **Dates for Academic Year 2025/26**

For school term dates for this academic year, please see the school calendar on our [website](#).

#### **February**

9<sup>th</sup> February Children's Mental Health Week 'This is my place' & Chinese Week – preparing for Chinese New Year.

10<sup>th</sup> February Safer Internet Day  
Gymnastics for Years 1 & 2 pm

11<sup>th</sup> February 1/2 Year 3 swimming pm

13<sup>th</sup> February Pre loved Uniform and costume sale in hall at 9am.

**Last day of half term – finish normal time 3.15pm**

#### **Half Term**

23<sup>rd</sup> February **First day back**

Year 5 swimming AM (Monday to Thursday for 2 weeks)

24<sup>th</sup> February Year 5 swimming AM & Gymnastics for Years 1 & 2 pm

25<sup>th</sup> February Year 5 swimming AM & 1/2 Year 4 swimming pm

26<sup>th</sup> February Year 5 swimming AM

27<sup>th</sup> February TT Rockstars competition (KS2)

### **March**

2<sup>nd</sup> March Year 5 swimming AM (Monday to Thursday)  
Mini -Church – 11.15am at church – all Early Years families welcome.

3<sup>rd</sup> March Year 5 swimming AM  
Gymnastics for Years 1 & 2 pm

4<sup>th</sup> March Year 5 swimming AM  
Communion – Years 1 – 6 in church at 10am – all families welcome.  
1/2 Year 4 swimming pm

5<sup>th</sup> March Year 5 swimming AM  
**World Book Day** – all invited to wear their favourite book character costume (please see costumes available for a small donation on 13<sup>th</sup> February)

9<sup>th</sup> March British Science Week

10<sup>th</sup> March Year 5 class assembly – 9.15am all year 5 families welcome.  
Gymnastics for Years 1 & 2 pm

11<sup>th</sup> March 1/2 Year 4 swimming pm

16<sup>th</sup> March Assessment week & Bikeability for Year 5

17<sup>th</sup> March Year 4 class assembly – 9.15am all year 4 families welcome.

Gymnastics for Years 1 & 2 pm 18<sup>th</sup> March 1/2 Year 4 swimming pm

19<sup>th</sup> March Year 3 trip to Cathedral

20<sup>th</sup> March Easter bunny Fun Run – whole school.

23<sup>rd</sup> March Year 3 class assembly – 9.15am all year 3 families welcome.

25<sup>th</sup> March Parent meetings

26<sup>th</sup> March Dance performances pm (Times to be confirmed nearer the time) Parents welcome.

27<sup>th</sup> March TT Rockstars Competition KS2.

End of Term Service at church 9.45am – all welcome.

**School Closes at 2.00pm for Easter Holidays.**

### **Mental Health / Wellbeing Support**

Many parents have contacted us regarding concerns around their child's mental health or well-being. Sefton Mental Health Support team can provide advice and support for both parents and pupils if needed. We also have a wealth of information on our [school website](#).

### **CAMHS**

The Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) put together a monthly newsletter for parents and professionals, signposting support such as groups, training and workshops. Click the [link](#) to have a look and see if there is anything of any interest. If you have any questions you can contact Miss Murtagh, Headteacher and school's Mental Health lead via the school office.

**Christian Values** This week's Christian Value is **Thankfulness**.

**Article 3:** The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

Yours sincerely,



Miss E Murtagh  
Headteacher

### **A Prayer for our School**

*This is our school,  
Let peace dwell here,  
let peace begin with me.  
Let the room be full of contentment  
Let love abide here  
Love of human kind, love of life itself  
And love of God  
.et us remember that as many hands  
build a house,  
Many hearts build a school.  
Amen*



**“The more you  
practice the art of  
thankfulness, the  
more you have to  
be thankful for.”**

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

