



Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 4th March 2026

World Book Day 2026 – Tomorrow 05.03.26

We are excited to be celebrating **World Book Day 2026** as a whole school community! This annual celebration is all about inspiring children to discover the life-long pleasure of reading. Books have the power to spark imagination, build empathy, and transport us to new worlds and World Book Day is the perfect opportunity to celebrate that magic.

Costumes

We still have costumes in various sizes, boys and girls, available in the school foyer if you need one for tomorrow.

Don't Forget Your Book Voucher

Today every child will receive a **World Book Day book voucher**, which can be exchanged for one of the specially selected £1 books or used towards the cost of any full-price book at participating booksellers. We strongly encourage families to make the most of this fantastic opportunity. Choosing a book of their own helps children develop independence as readers and builds excitement around reading for pleasure.

Vouchers can be redeemed at most major supermarkets and bookshops, including stores such as: **WHSmith**, **Waterstones**, and **Tesco**.

Wooden Spoon Character Competition

This year, we are adding a creative twist to our celebrations! Each child had a **wooden spoon** sent home last week and they are invited to transform it into their favourite book character and return to school. Whether it's a daring wizard, a mischievous animal, a brave explorer, or a classic fairy-tale hero, we can't wait to see the imagination and effort that goes into each design!

Children can use paint, fabric, paper, yarn, or recycled materials to bring their character to life. Please ensure creations are securely attached and clearly labelled with your child's name and class. The spoons should be brought back by tomorrow.

Reading Book Exchange

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 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 free books. Please continue to send in any books that are no longer wanted but still in good condition.

Big Walk/Wheel To School

The challenge takes place between 16th and 27th March and we can't wait for you to take part. Pupils are encouraged to walk, wheel, cycle, scoot or park and stride to school every day with the view of saving our carbon footprint and getting fitter.

Revised School Meals Charges April 2026 – Primary Schools

As you will no doubt be aware, food and raw material costs have continued to rise sharply over the past year and further increases are forecast. Sefton Catering have continued to absorb as much of this as possible, it has unfortunately now been deemed necessary to increase the price of a school meal. The previous price increase was in April 2024. With effect from 1st April 2026 the cost of a set meal provided to all primary schools will be increased by 3% from £2.53 to £2.65 for pupils. If you would like your KS2 child to change to packed lunch or from packed

lunch to dinners, please contact the school office, the school office will require 1 week notice to amend the pattern.

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 4	98.33%
Reception	97.92%
Year 1	97.50%
Year 2	96.67%
Year 3	95.37%
Year 6	95%
Year 5	94.44%
Nursery	89.07%
Whole School	95.97%
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.](#)

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](#).

Dates for Academic Year 2025/26

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

March

- 5th March Year 5 swimming AM
World Book Day – all invited to wear their favourite book character costume
- 9th March British Science Week
- 10th March Year 5 class assembly – 9.15am all year 5 families welcome.
Gymnastics for Years 1 & 2 pm
- 11th March 1/2 Year 4 swimming pm
- 16th March Assessment week & Bikeability for Year 5
- 17th March Year 4 class assembly – 9.15am all year 4 families welcome.
Gymnastics for Years 1 & 2 pm 18th March 1/2 Year 4 swimming pm
- 19th March Year 3 trip to Cathedral
- 20th March Easter bunny Fun Run – whole school.
- 23rd March Year 3 class assembly – 9.15am all year 3 families welcome.
- 25th March Parent meetings
- 26th March Dance performances pm (Times to be confirmed nearer the time) Parents welcome.
- 27th March TT Rockstars Competition KS2.
End of Term Service at church 9.45am – all welcome.

School Closes at 2.00pm for Easter Holidays.

After School Clubs

After school club availability for the summer term is now available on our [website](#). Replies should be emailed to childrensuniversity.stoswalds@schools.sefton.gov.uk

Clubs start w/c 20.04.26 and run for 10 weeks. Clubs marked with an * will not take place on 24.06.25, 01.07.26 and 08.07.26, but will operate for one more week and end on 15.07.26.
Clubs marked with an ** will operate for one more week and end on 13.07.26 (due to a bank holiday on 04.05.26)
SATS Intervention and SATS Revision for Year 6 will end with SATS and continue as Games club.

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 **Love**.

Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

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
Let us remember that as many hands
build a house,
Many hearts build a school.
Amen*



