Dear Parents/Carers, Wednesday 11th November 2026

Attendance

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

We can't teach an empty chair!

School and parents share the same goal – we want happy, thriving children who feel that they belong and achieve the best they can.

Regular attendance at school is significant to a child's educational development and progress. 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:

Class attendance for the last week before half term was as follows:

02/11 - 06/11	
Year 5	98.28%
Year 3	96.79%
Year 4	93.64%
Reception	92.86%
Year 2	92.14%
Year 1	90.67%
Year 6	89.63%
Nursery	84.54%
Whole School	92.96%
R-Yr6 for week	93.46%
Whole School for term so far:	94.78%
R-Yr6 for yr so far	95.28%



Remembrance Day 11th November "Lest we Forget"

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.

BBC Children in Need - 13th November

As always, we will be supporting Children in Need. Children are welcome to wear whatever spots they have on the day with a suggested donation of £1 any spots welcome, face painting, spotty outfits etc.
We will be collecting any donations to send to Children in Need.

Parenting Puzzle
There are still places available if you are interested This is a 5-week course, please see the attached flier for further details. An extra session has been put on by Mrs Brannigan and Sefton Mental Health Support Team to introduce you to the programme and explain what we can offer in terms of support for both you and your child.

Family Life – Sefton Support Services **Access the Family Life Toolkit**
The Family Life Toolkit offers trusted information, advice and resources to support families, parents, carers, children and young people. Visit the Family Life Toolkit: Sefton Family Life Toolkit https://www.seftonfamilylife.com/

Parents & Friends (PFA) Mufti Day 27th November
The PFA will be raising funds and prizes for the school fair on Mufti day. The children can wear their own clothes and we are asking for a donation of £1 on the day. Alternatively, a donation of sweets, chocolates or any unwanted gifts you may have at home which will go towards creating hampers for our raffle or for the pull the string stall would be greatly appreciated.
Your support will be greatly appreciated and is much needed by the PFA and towards our Christmas Fair.

Shoe Box Appeal
A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and families who took part in this year's **Blythswood Shoebox Appeal**. Your generosity and kindness will make a real difference to children in need. The shoeboxes are sent to children and families living in some of the poorest communities across Eastern Europe and other parts of the world, bringing them gifts of toys, stationery, toiletries and other essentials. For many children, these boxes are the only Christmas present they will receive, bringing not only practical items but also happiness, excitement and a reminder that someone cares. Thank you for helping us spread a little joy and make Christmas special for others!

Dates for 2026/27
For school term dates for the forthcoming academic year and upcoming events for this year, please see the school calendar on our website.

November

12th November	Year 5 History Day Pupils will be undertaking a fun day of History exploration on Vikings & Anglo Saxons and will put on a performance for Year 5 parents at the end of the day at 2.45pm – all are welcome to come and see what the children have learnt, they'd love to show you. Unfortunately, we do not have accommodation for very **young children** so **they will not be permitted to the performance**. It can be very disruptive to those who have practised and are already nervous performing in front of parents, it is also unfair for other parents if they cannot enjoy their child's performance, we have had several complaints previously.
13th November	**BBC Children in Need Day**
16th November	Enterprise Week for all pupils – items made will be sold at the Christmas Fair.
17th November	Year 4 – Greek Day in school.
18th November	9.30am Parenting Puzzle Week 3, pm – ½ year 3 swimming
20th November	World Children's Day.
23rd November	Last week of After school clubs
25th November	9.30am Parenting Puzzle Week 4, pm – ½ year 3 swimming
27th November	Mufti-Day to raise funds for PFA. TT Rockstars competition for KS2
30th November	Assessment week for all pupils. PFA Silent Disco.

December

1st December	Experience Christmas at church for Years 1, 3 & 5
2nd December	9.30am Parenting Puzzle Week 3, pm – ½ year 3 swimming
4th December	Santa Dash (if weather permits)
7th December	Dress Rehearsal
8th December	pm - Christmas Performance – Peter Pan (KS1 & 2)
9th December	am – Christmas Performance. Christmas Dinner. Pm – Christmas fair
10th December	(am) Carol Singing & pm - Christmas Performance
14th December	Making Day – Christmas crafts
16th December	Making of Christingles (all children will need a large orange) pm – Parent meetings
17th December	Christmas party day & Coverdale puppets (wear your party clothes)
18th December	Last day – 9.45am – End of term Christmas service at church (9.45am) all welcome. KS2 TT Rockstars competition 2pm – Finish.

Get Ready to Dance at our School Silent Disco!

We are excited to announce a fantastic Silent Disco for children in **Years 1–6 on Monday 30th November!** This promises to be a fun-filled event, giving children the chance to dance, sing along and enjoy some fantastic music with their friends, all while supporting our PFA. (Parents and Friends Association) The event is being held as a fundraising opportunity for our wonderful **PFA**, helping us to raise valuable funds for our school.

Tickets cost £5.00 and are available to purchase from the school office.

We haven't forgotten our younger children! **Nursery and Reception** will also have the opportunity to enjoy their very own Silent Disco during the school day on Monday 30th November. Tickets for this session cost **£2.50** and can also be purchased from the school office.

Time: 3:15 – 4:15pm (Years 1, 2 & 3)
Time: 4:30 – 5:45pm (Years 4, 5 & 6)

Let's get our dancing shoes on and support our PFA – we can't wait to see everyone dancing!

Christmas Performance Tickets

Tickets for our Christmas performances for Year 1 to Year 6 are available to book via our School Spider App. Tickets are initially limited to 2 per family. Payment of £1.50 per ticket should be sent into school with your child. Any unsold tickets will be offered once all families have their allocation nearer the time.

Nursery and Reception Christmas Performance will be The Fairytale Nativity

Our Nursery and Reception children are excited to invite you to their Christmas performance of *The Fairytale Nativity*! Please join us for a magical journey through Fairytale Land as some familiar storybook characters come together to tell the Christmas story, with plenty of singing, dancing and a little bit of laughter along the way! Parents and carers can initially request **2 tickets** for each performance. We would love you to join us as we celebrate this special time of year!

The performances will take place on Tuesday 15th December at 9:30am and 2:30pm.

Parents & Friends (PFA) Help Needed

As we prepare for our school Christmas Fair, we are asking for donations of any pre-loved or unwanted **soft toys, unopened gift sets, and boxes of sweets or chocolates** to help make our ever-popular *Pull a String* stall possible. This is always a firm favourite with the children, but this year we are struggling to gather enough gifts, so any donations would be greatly appreciated. We are also reaching out to parents and families who **own a small business, work for a company that supports local communities, or know someone who may be able to help** by donating a prize or voucher towards our PFA Christmas Raffle. Every contribution, big or small, helps make our festive events a success. All money raised through our PFA fundraising activities goes straight back into school to purchase additional resources, equipment and learning materials that benefit all our children. Thank you for your continued kindness and support in helping us make a difference to our school community!

Photo Orders

Have you ordered your school photos yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Wednesday 18th November 2026. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link that was on your paper proof order forms. Visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest at Customerservice@htempest.co.uk

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 Mrs Maguire (SENDco and Mental Health lead) via the school office.

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

Article 38: Children must be protected from war and its impacts.

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