NEWSLETTER 51 – 5th March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a busy time at Winsford High Street, with the Governors focussing on the appointment of the new Head teacher and a residential visit to London for Year 5. In addition, Year 4 went on an exciting visit to Tamworth Castle and lessons have continued for the remainder of the school. It was lovely to see so many of you at Parent's Evening this week.

Staffing News

New Head teacher

Following a very stringent recruitment process for the new Head teacher by the school governors, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that Mrs Caroline Lowe has been duly appointed and will start as the new substantive Head teacher in September following my early retirement.

Mrs Lowe worked as my Deputy Head teacher for 13 years before becoming the Head teacher of Edgerton Primary in Knutsford 3 years ago. She will bring with her knowledge of the school, the local community as well as knowing several of the children and majority of the staff. Mrs Lowe will start to work with me and the Senior Leadership Team over the coming weeks and months to ensure a smooth transition. I am sure you will all make Mrs Lowe feel very welcome and will join with me on congratulating her on her appointment.

Mrs Dale

Congratulations to Mrs Dale, who retired last Friday after being with our primary school for nearly 35 years, she will be missed by all the staff and children. She is looking forward to now spending lots of time with her family and grandchildren.

Mrs Whitney

We welcome Mrs Whitney to school as our new School Business Manger after the early retirement of Mrs Davies. I am sure that you will join with me in welcoming her to the school.

Mrs Bueno-Ballantyne

Congratulations to Mrs Bueno-Ballantyne who completed the Nantwich 10k this weekend to raise money for Child Bereavement UK. Mrs Bueno-Ballantyne set out to raise £250 but smashed this target by raising over a £1583.11. We are all very proud of Mrs Bueno-Ballantyne!

Year 4 trip to Tamworth Castle

The Year 4's had a wonderful time at Tamworth Castle in Staffordshire, learning how to be an Anglo-Saxon soldier and looking at archaeology. They had time to visit the beautiful castle and see the precious items found in the Staffordshire Hoard on display in the castle museum. The children were incredibly enthusiastic, and beautifully behaved. They really were a credit to High Street!

Year 6 Girls Football Competition

The Year 6 girls football team represented High Street in a tournament held at Middlewich High School last week. They played excellently and represented the school as resilient, determined and hardworking students. They grew in confidence as each game progressed and it was a wonderful opportunity for many of them to take part in their first ever tournament.

Year 5 trip to London

It was wonderful to be able to lead the Year 5 residential visit to London. During their stay the children visited the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum the Houses of Parliament as well as having a flight on the London Eye and a cruise on the Thames. In addition, they saw a production of the Lion King and visited Wembley Stadium for a tour. The children were all well behaved, with many members of the public paying them compliments. Well done to all concerned!

Blue Peter Badge
Congratulations to Lucas Holland in Y6 who has been awarded a Blue Peter Badge for poetry. We are all proud of you.

St Luke's
Well done to Zak Carter and friends in Y6 (Hallie-Mae and Zack) who have received a certificate from St Luke's for raising £30 from selling Loom Bands. St Luke's events for the summer term will be announced soon.

Red Nose Day/Comic Relief – Friday 20th March

We will be participating in Red Nose day/Comic Relief on Friday 20th March, please use the link below if you would like to donate. **All children will be able to wear non uniform and something red on the day.**
https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd26-winsford-high-street-community-primary-school-60dc2ea1-1bb4-4532-8bf3-dc04851897c5

School Lunch prices
From 1st April prices of children's lunches will go up from £2.95 to £3.00 per day. This is due to the rising costs of food and energy. A reminder if you think your child may be entitled to free school meals

please complete the form online with CWAC.

Support for families

Support for families is continuing but from April 2026 the way help is provided will change. February Half term 2026 will be the final holiday period where free school meals support is provided automatically in the form of a voucher. However, support will still be available. From April families who need help will be supported to apply through the Crisis and Resilience Fund.
If you need help now, cost of living advice and support is available through the Council website.
Cost of living | Cheshire West and Chester Council

Benefits Calculator

You may not be receiving all the financial support you're entitled to. Our online benefits calculator can quickly show whether you could claim extra help.

Benefits Calculator

Before you start make sure you have some accurate information to hand about your;

- savings
- income, including your partner's (from payslips, for example)
- existing benefits and pensions (including anyone living with you)
- outgoings (such as rent, mortgage, childcare payments)
- Council Tax bill

Please see posters below on Dojo

World Book Day
Thank you for supporting World Book Day by sending your child(ren) to school ready for a bedtime story or in the style of a book character. The children participated in an array of book related activities during the day which culminated in an assembly celebrating the source of stories by Mr Joule.

Book Fair: Friday 6th March - Wednesday 11th March 2026
The Scholastic Book Fair will launch on Friday 6th March, straight after school, at 3:20pm. We will run the Book Fair on the Green Carpet area. On Monday 9th March, Tuesday 10th March and Wednesday

11th March, we will open the book fair in the mornings before school at 8:20am as well as after school at 3:15pm. Mrs Bueno-Ballantyne will be running the Book Fair with other additional staff to support.

Last year, we had a record number of sales and were awarded with £270 commission from Scholastic, which was spent on updating the book banded books. Our aim this year is to beat our sales, hopefully even increase it, as our commission will be spent on new reading books for KS1 and LKS2.

There will be three ways to pay for your books on the day:

- Cash
- QR Code (you need you bank details to be able to pay this way)
- Apple Pay/Google Pay

Be sure to bring your World Book Day tokens with you to receive a discount. Scholastic have approved that these tokens do not need to be sent back to them once the purchase has been made. This means that you can use the voucher again in all major supermarkets and book shops.

If you have any questions regarding World Book Day or the Book Fair, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bueno-Ballantyne directly through Dojo.

School Residential Visits and Day trips

Year 1, 5 and 6 Residential visits are up and running on Arbor. If you have a child attending any of these visits, please can you check that you can see the payments on the Arbor app. Any queries about payments please let us know.

Year 1 Conwy Residential	Final payment	28th March
Year 1 and 2 Chester Zoo		payment by Mon 23rd February
Year 4 York Residential	Payment 2	By 18th March
Year 6 Lake District	Payment 3	By 2nd March

As stated on the original letters, if you have consented to a residential visit and your child, no longer wishes to attend ***we cannot refund deposits****. As with family holidays, we are required to start paying towards the visits well in advance and a change of mind does not allow us to claim the money back should a child decide not to attend. Please can you inform us of any cancellations in writing or by emailing admin@highstreet.cheshire.sch.uk*

HUB Before and After School club

Just a reminder that all HUB clubs need to be prebooked in advance on the Arbor app to secure a place for each session for your child. Top ups can be made under the wraparound care section of the app.

Diary Dates: * new dates

Date	Information
6th March to 11th March	Book Fair
20th March 2026*	Red Nose Day – Non uniform and wear red, donations accepted in school
24th March 2026	Chester Zoo trip - Year 1 and Year 2
Wednesday 1st April 2026	School closes for the Half Term at 3.15pm (The HUB will be open for paid sessions as usual until 5.50pm)
Thursday 2nd April 2026 – 17th April	Spring Break
Monday 20th April 2026	School opens for the Summer term
5th – 6th May 2026	Year 1 Conwy Residential
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May	May Half Term
Monday 1st June 2026	School opens for the new term

1st – 3rd June 2026	Year 4 York Residential
Tuesday 9th June 2026	Reception and Year 6 whole class photos and Sports Teams
22nd – 25th June 2026	Year 6 Lake District Residential
Tuesday 21st July 2026	School closes for the Half Term at 3.15pm (The HUB will be open for paid sessions as usual until 5.50pm)
Wednesday 22nd July 2026	Inset Day 5 – school closed to children

Should you need to make contact with school, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Joule on: head@highstreet.cheshire.sch.uk or returns@highstreet.cheshire.sch.uk and please remember the year group emails if you need to contact your child's class teacher.

However, please note that all email accounts will not be monitored as regularly after 5.30pm each evening or during the holiday, to ensure a work life balance for the staff.
Kind regards,
Mark Joule,
Head Teacher