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All schools have received this information this week from the Secretary of State for Education letter, 26 January 2026, 'Strengthened guidance on mobile phones in schools.'

The letter includes:

- 'all schools should be phone-free environments for the entire school day. That includes lessons, time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. This is a clear national reset on mobile phone use in schools.'
- 'To reinforce the importance of implementation, Ofsted will, for the first time, examine both schools' mobile phone policies and how effectively they are applied when judging behaviour during inspections.'
- The non-statutory guidance should be considered alongside the Behaviour in schools - GOV.UK guidance which supports schools in establishing calm, safe and supportive environments conducive to teaching, and keeping children safe in education.

The DfE expects schools to implement a policy whereby pupils do not have access to their mobile phone throughout the school day including during lessons, the time between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtime. A school's policy on prohibiting the use of mobile phones can be included within the school's behaviour policy or be its own standalone document.

Dan Price, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is working on moving to Cheshire County wide mobile phone free secondary schools by September 2026.

Goostrey School's policy has always been that no child's smart devices, including phones, iPads and watches etc are to be out at any time during the school day. If they are brought in to school they must remain in the child's school bag, on silent. If a smart device is heard or seen in school then it will be held safely in the Head's office until an adult can collect it. This policy also extends to any time before, during or after the school day when the child is in the school building or grounds as well as at any activities / events organised by the PTA etc. If a smart device is brought in to school then school takes no responsibility for its safe keeping unless it is held in the Head's office.

Before and after school clubs : booking forms available on school website

http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/48433

School uniform official supplier - other options are available, please see the school website for more information.

www.myschoolstyle.com/school/goostrey

SENCo mr.warhurst@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk

Income Related Free School Meals: freeschoolmeals@cheshireeast.gov.uk or visit website for further information
https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

Term dates for 25-26 and 26-27 are on our website

The school's official communication with families comes through the newsletter, website, class pages, messages through the app, email and occasionally paper letters.

The PTA have Facebook for information Goostrey Community Primary School PTA
<https://www.facebook.com/GCPSPTA>



Auction Of Promises – Elizabethfontein Visit in June

Dear Families,

This year, we are delighted to be welcoming the children from Elizabethfontein to our school once again. This visit is a wonderful opportunity for both schools to come together, work collaboratively, and enrich the learning experiences of all our pupils.

The visit will take place in June, and we are currently organising an **Auction of Promises** to help raise funds for the event. The money raised will support flights, visits, shared experiences, and the resources needed to make the trip as meaningful as possible.

During their time with us, the children will work alongside our pupils in school and will also perform at the annual Rose Day.

If you feel able to offer a promise for the auction, or know of anyone in your family, circle of friends, or work colleagues who may be able to offer a promise, we would be extremely grateful for your support. Promises of any kind are very welcome and could include an experience or the donation of an item. In the past, families have generously offered family trips, hampers, signed football shirts, cakes, workshops, or gardening services.

Please send the details directly to me, Mrs Cowell, so that I can add them to the auction site:

mrs.cowell@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Year 5 and 6 Netball Tournament

What a loud and exciting start to our sporting calendar with a hearty netball tournament at HCCS. It was held in the large sports hall so the walls were echoing with energy. We played 4 games. Our first was against Brereton which was a nail biter of a game. They were leading by two goals with less than 2 minutes to go. We rose to the challenge and ended in a draw of 4 all. Our second game was also fast paced against Lower Peover and despite excellent passing, defending and several attempts at goals we lost 3 goals to 5. A quick regroup and several reminders for the shooters to take their time when going for goal. Our next game was against Hermitage which we unfortunately lost but not without a fight. The children conducted themselves well after the overwhelming defeat and gathered themselves for the last game. Chelford Primary only have 4 players so we used all our children and created two mixed teams of 6 a side. Red and Yellow team took to the court. A fabulous display of sporting bonding was achieved. Yellow team won the game. Special mention to Iona and Lucy who stepped in and played for Chelford in two other games to make up their numbers. Many thanks to a great team: **Lucy, Iris, Harry, Iona, Amber, Ralph, Tilly and Jules.**

GOOSTREY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA
INVITES YOU TO OUR

COMEDY NIGHT

with Big Lou Comedy



Sam
Harland

*"An exciting
talent with a big
personality"
Buzz Comedy*

El Baldinho

*"Adding that
something
different to
any adult
comedy club
bill"
Manford's
Comedy Club*



Chris
Washington

*As seen on BBC's
Mock The Week,
House Of Games
and Stand Up for
Live Comedy*



Dom
Hatton-
Woods

*"One of the fastest
rising stars on the
circuit"
Jongleurs
Comedy*

GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

Doors open at 7pm - show starts at 8pm
Tickets £15 - on sale from the link or QR code
Enquiries to: GoostreyPTA@outlook.com



GOT A GIFT THAT NEEDS A NEW HOME?

Do you have any unwanted gifts, raffle-friendly items, or even empty hamper baskets that you'd be happy to donate?

We're currently collecting donations for our PTA Hamper Raffle, which will be drawn at our Comedy Night

All items will be combined with other generous donations to create some fantastic raffle hampers

HOW TO DONATE:

If you can help, please send any donations in via your child's class teacher or Mrs Carroll by Friday 13th February



All proceeds from the raffle go towards resources for the children

Thank you for your continued support

The PTA



Friday 6th February

3:15pm infants

3:25pm juniors

All cakes 50p!



School Uniform Shop will be available!

Please send any old uniform into school.

All items are £1 donations (cash only)



Key dates for the spring term

Friday 6th February	Y3 Cake Sale
Thursday 12th February	Young Voices—Y4 to Y6 singing group
Friday 13th February	School finishes for half term
Monday 23rd February	School returns
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Friday 6th March	Y2 Cake Sale
Friday 6th March	Comedy Night
Thursday 12th March	Y4 residential—1 night
Thursday 19th March	Book look for families to see their child's work—after school to 5pm
WB Monday 23rd March	Parents' evenings
Friday 27th March	School finishes for Easter break
Monday 13th April	School returns



Frequently asked questions about holiday requests in term time.

Am I entitled to take my child out of school for a family holiday?

- No.** Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their children attend school or the alternative provision on a regular basis
- The Education Act 1996 makes it a criminal offence for a parent to "*fail to secure their child's regular attendance at the school*"
- The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 make clear that **Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence (holiday) during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances**
- The Head Teacher and Governing Board will determine what the exceptional circumstances are

If we decide to take a holiday during term time what should we do?

- The parent/carer with whom the child resides must apply in writing to the school
- The letter/application must explain the exceptional circumstance surrounding the request for the leave of absence

What will the school do then?

- The Head Teacher will determine whether the exceptional circumstance ruling applies, if not the application will be declined
 - Only the Headteacher (or the Deputy) has the power to approve leave of absence applications. When making the decision the protocols and criteria laid down in the school's attendance policy must be followed.
 - Each academic year, schools inform parents/carers via a letter, newsletter or some other communication; that they may receive a Fixed Penalty Notice if their child has unauthorised absences in term time
- You will receive a written response from the Headteacher (or the Deputy) letting you know if your application has been approved
- If the holiday goes ahead after the application has been declined the absence will be recorded as unauthorised

Penalty Notices will be issued for Term time leave:

Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

10 Sessions of Unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 week period: A Penalty Notices may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absences in a 10 week period.

However, we retain the discretion to issue a Penalty Notice before the threshold is met. For example, where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the above thresholds.

Per Parent/Per Child

Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent per child. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance the fine will be charged at: £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

(Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Second Offence

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or irregular attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at: £160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Third Offence

On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued. The case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000 or legal proceedings under Section444 (1a) can include a fine of up to £2500

IF A FAMILY GOES ON HOLIDAY IN TERM TIME SCHOOL WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY WORK FOR THE PUPILS. TIME OUT OF SCHOOL, FOR A HOLIDAY WILL RESULT IN THE CHILD/REN MISSING TEACHING AND LEARNING AND THEY MAY FIND IT CHALLENGING TO CATCH UP WITH THEIR PEERS ON THEIR RETURN.

Do you have a concern about a child?

Anyone can make a call if they have concerns about a child. This call can be made confidentially.

Cheshire East Consultation Service

The Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS) is the 'front door' for access to services, support and advice for children and their families.

General public

Phone ChECS on **0300 123 5012 (option 3)** Callers will be directed to a Unit Coordinator who will ask if the concerns are early help or safeguarding. You will then be directed to either Practitioner Support Officer for Early Help requests for support or a Social Worker (ChECS) for safeguarding concerns. The worker will gather your information and advise you of the next steps.

If you need to contact someone out of hours and you believe it to be an emergency that can't wait, please call our Emergency Duty Team on **0300 123 5022**.

If you have something that you would like putting in our newsletter please email it either to head@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk or admin@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk

It needs to be with us by 12.00 on Thursday and attached to your email on a WORD document so once approved we can easily cut and paste. Thank you

We always welcome pieces about Goostrey pupils and their achievements outside of school. I love to hear what our pupils are celebrating and achieving outside school so we can celebrate in the newsletter and assembly.

The responsibility to get permission for other people's children to be on photographs lies with the sender not with the school.

We will usually allow local events to be advertised in the newsletter, especially if we think they will be of interest to our pupils and their families.

However we do not endorse or take responsibility for anything not directly organised by the school.



Keep up to date with PTA news and events on our social media pages:



goostrey_primary_school_pta



Goostrey Community Primary School PTA

<https://www.facebook.com/GCPSPTA>

GUIDE TO OUR APP FOR PARENTS & CARERS

School Spider allows you to receive and return information directly to and from the school. Receive instant messages, complete surveys, book your parents' evenings and make payments.

LOGGING IN

Once you have selected the school, you will see posts from the school website. Click parent dashboard to login or create an account. Create an account by pressing "create account" and enter your email address. You must have your email linked with the school

TAKE A LOOK AROUND

See all action items on your dashboard

Click to respond or book for each child

Click the envelope to see your recent messages

Click these 3 lines to:

- Switch between areas
- Edit your profile
- Logout

DOWNLOAD NOW

[Available on Google play](#) [Download on the App Store](#)

Goostrey All Stars
After School Club

Please click on the link below for full details of our after school provision and electronic copies of our registration and booking forms.

We are open Monday to Friday - 3pm to 6pm.

If you would like to see what the children have been up to this week, please follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

<https://www.goostreyallstars.co.uk/>

The school's official communication with families comes through the newsletter, website, class pages, messages through the app, email and occasionally paper letters.

Useful contacts and numbers.....

If there's any other information that you feel should be added to this page, as a weekly standing item, please let me know.

www.goostreypreschool.org.uk

Telephone: 07471 756720 -
available during pre-school hours
only.

The local clinical network has devised a website where they have put all of the organisations nationally and locally that support children and families that are neurodiverse

[Neurodiversity support pathway - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

The Chair of Governors and the Head teacher meet at least once a week. If you have anything you would like them to discuss / consider please let us know. We will always respond to you.

The web address for ordering school uniform is:
www.myschoolstyle.com/school/goostrey



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<https://www.goostreyalstars.co.uk/>



Before School Club

If you would like to enrol your child for Goostrey Before School Club, please either download a booking form from our website www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk or collect from the reception desk. The cost is £4.00 per session and the club operates on each school day, from 8.00 AM to 8.50 AM. Please note no food is served at this club.

Class pages, on the school website have lots of up to date information for your child's class. Please keep looking at these as they are updated every week for you.
Thank you

Compliments and Comments and Suggestions.

If you wish to give school general feedback about any aspect of school life, please email either Miss Atkins on head@goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk or class teachers, whose email addresses are on each class page on the website; <http://www.goostrey.cheshire.sch.uk/classes>