

Victoria Road Newsletter Autumn 2 2025-26

As we reach the end of our first Autumn term, I would like to thank all our wonderful children and staff for making our school the special place it is. This is, of course, only possible with the ongoing support of our parents and carers, governors, PTA, community and Trust colleagues.

Our five classes have enjoyed a range of rich learning opportunities this half term:

ROBINS

During Autumn 2, the Robins have continued to grow in confidence as they explored their learning through stories, seasonal activities and play. The children have developed their independence, built strong friendships and shown great enthusiasm across all areas of the curriculum. They especially enjoyed performing our Christmas play for parents and carers—and made us all very proud.

WRENS

Wrens have been very busy across the curriculum this half term. In English, we made and tasted porridge just like Goldilocks, and wrote letters to the Three Bears. In Maths, we explored 2D and 3D shapes and had great fun creating our own models. In Geography, we learned about human and physical features. In RE, we enjoyed exploring the Nativity story, which we shared as our Christmas performance. In DT, we designed and made our own moving vehicles.

GOLDFINCHES

The Goldfinches have been inspired by the book *Winter's Child* by Angela McAllister this half term. They used the narrative to create persuasive discussions about why winter should last forever. They also thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Liverpool World Museum and their Ancient Greece workshop—where they even had the chance to try on helmets and shields!

STARLINGS

This term, Starlings have been reading Ted Hughes' *The Iron Man*. They created a life-size model using recycled boxes, now proudly displayed in our hall. They also visited the World Museum as part of our History curriculum and took part in an Ancient Greece workshop. It was a fantastic day, and the children loved exploring the entire museum.

OWLS

The Owl Class have also been busy! They've been writing inspiring speeches for the Aspire Speech Festival and exploring topics such as global foods, sustainability and how migration shapes what we eat. To bring learning to life, the children prepared a delicious three-course meal featuring leek and potato soup, homemade pizza and traditional German biscuits—all while applying their understanding of fractions in a practical and meaningful way.

STAFF NEWS

It is with sadness that we share that **two members of staff will be leaving us at the end of December 2025.**

Mrs Clare Bell has decided to begin her well-earned retirement after 33 years in education. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her every happiness in the exciting new adventures ahead. We are delighted to confirm that **Mrs Louise Jones**, who has been teaching in Goldfinches since September, will continue with us for the rest of the school year.

Mrs Megan Margeson has secured a promotion as Bursar Support across all Trust schools. After eight years at Victoria Road, we are pleased that she will continue to work with and support us in her new role. We are also delighted to welcome **Miss Sam Kerr**, who will join us as our new bursar from January 2026. She brings valuable experience from another Aspire Trust school, and we look forward to her joining our team.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donations this term to support both the school and our chosen charities.

Halloween Disco (school funds): **£203.10**

Bingo Night (school funds): **£288.65**

Dress Down Day (Children in Need): **£25.00**

Christmas Jumper Day (Save the Children): **£15.41**

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming you back in 2026!

Miss Thompson
Head of School

FUTURE EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS SPRING 2026

Children return to school	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
Year 4 brass instrument tuition starts- Victoria Road	Tuesday 6 th January 2026 2-3pm
Starlings swimming lessons start – Brio	Thursday 8 th January 2026 1-2pm
Census Day	Thursday 15 th January 2026
Children’s Trust council meeting-Victoria Road	Friday 16 th January 2026 1.30pm
Trust Governor Conference	Friday 23 rd January 2026
Holocaust Memorial Day	Tuesday 27 th January 2026
National Children’s Mental Health week starts	Monday 9 th February 2026
LAC Governors Meeting – Victoria Road	Monday 2 nd February 2026 4-6pm
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 10 th February 2026
School breaks up half term	Friday 13 th February 2026 (normal time)
Valentine’s Day	Saturday 14 th February 2026
Chinese New Year	Tuesday 17 th February 2026
Start of Ramadan month	Tuesday 17 th February 2026
Shrove Tuesday - pancake day	Tuesday 17 th February 2026
Ash Wednesday – start of 40 days of Lent	Wednesday 18 th February 2026
Children back in school	Monday 23 rd February 2026
Parents/Carers evenings	Tuesday 3 rd & Wednesday 4 th March 2026
Holi Festival	Wednesday 4 th March 2026
World Book Day	Thursday 5 th March 2026
Science trip to the Catalyst Museum – Years 3,4 & 5	Thursday 5 th March 2026
Science Week starts	Friday 6 th March 2026
International Women’s Day	Sunday 8 th March 2026
Trust Speech Festival	Thursday 12 th March 2026
Mother’s Day	Sunday 15 th March 2026
St Patricks Day	Tuesday 17 th March 2026
National day of action against bullying & violence	Friday 20 th March 2026
Shakespeare week starts	Monday 23 rd March 2026
School breaks up Easter	Friday 27 th March 2026 1.15pm
Palm Sunday	Sunday 29 th March 2026
Good Friday	Friday 3 rd April 2026
Easter Sunday	Sunday 5 th April 2026
Easter Monday	Monday 6 th April 2026
Children back in school	Monday 13 th April 2026

<u>Reception Places September 2026</u>	<p>The closing date for Reception 2026 applications is the 15th January 2026. Please click the following link to apply:</p> <p>https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-admissions/reception-admissions/making-an-application</p>
<u>Breakfast Club/ After School Club</u>	<p>We would like to remind parents/carers that paid breakfast club opens from 8am. The free breakfast club runs from 8.15am to 8.45am. After school club runs until 4.15pm or 6pm.</p> <p>Sessions for the Breakfast Club & After School Club must be booked in advance and any due payments paid for prior to the sessions. Please ring the bell by the front office labelled breakfast and after school club when dropping off for the paid breakfast club and collecting from the paid after school club.</p>
<u>School start time</u>	<p>We would like to clarify that the school gate opens at 8:40am for Robins children and 8:45am for Wrens, Goldfinches, Starlings & Owls. The school gate closes at 8:55am. Anyone arriving later than 8.55am will need to bring their child/children in via the school office and sign them in.</p>
<u>School finish time</u>	<p>The school gates will open around 3.05pm for parents/carers to enter onto the playground. At 3.10pm the Robins children can be collected from their teacher in their outdoor area. At 3.15pm Wrens can be collected from their teacher via the porch area of the main playground and the Goldfinches, Starlings & Owls will come out to meet parents/carers through the door near the kitchen and wait with their teacher. The school gate closes at 3.20pm as we have outdoor clubs running some evenings. Anyone arriving after the gates have closed will need to collect their child via the front office.</p>
<u>Leave of absence requests</u>	<p>All applications for holidays/ special circumstances must be made in writing on our leave of absence request form and must be forwarded to the school office. For more detailed guidance, please read our attendance policy, which can be located on the school website.</p>
<u>Year 7 High School Places September 2026</u>	<p>Notification of offers will be communicated on 2nd March 2026 by Cheshire West & Chester (not the school). These can be accessed via parents/carers online application account and also sent via email. The closing date for appeals is 30th March 2026. Any appeals made before the closing date will be heard before 16th June 2026.</p> <p>Please see the email link below for more information:</p> <p>https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/asset-library/secondary-school-admissions-booklet.pdf</p>

ATTENDANCE

We have recently noticed an increase in pupil absences due to medical appointments. While we understand that some appointments are unavoidable, we kindly ask that, wherever possible, these are arranged outside of school hours.

Where this is not possible, we would be grateful if appointments could be scheduled at the beginning or end of the school day so that disruption to learning is kept to a minimum.

Going forward, please be aware that medical evidence (such as an appointment letter, text message confirmation, or similar) will be required for the absence to be authorised.

Thank you for your support in helping us to ensure that pupils do not miss valuable learning time.

ATTENDANCE HEADLINES

Our current attendance for Autumn (3rd September'25 – 16th December'25) is as follows:

	SCHOOL	NATIONAL (up to 21.11.25)
Attendance	92.6%	93.99%
Authorised Absence	5.25%	4.2%
Unauthorised Absence	2.16%	1.8%

As you can see, our current absence rate is below the national average, and we are very concerned about the amount of learning our children are missing by not being in school. In the new year, we will be exploring ways to support children and parents/carers to improve attendance. This will include working with the DfE to ensure we are following best practice and providing the right support.

Below is a link to the NHS website to help you check the guidance on when your child should stay off school if they are unwell.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

HOLIDAY DATES 2025 TO 2026

Holiday dates 2025 TO 2026

	Date of opening (First day back at school for pupils)	Date of closing (Last day in school for pupils)
2025 Autumn Term	Wednesday 3rd September	Thursday 23rd October
Autumn Term	Monday 3rd November	Friday 19th December 1.15pm Finish
2026 Spring Term	Tuesday 6th January	Friday 13th February
Spring Term	Monday 23rd February	Friday 27th March 1.15pm Finish
2026 Summer Term	Monday 13th April (Bank Holiday Monday 4th May)	Friday 22nd May
Summer	Tuesday 2nd June	Friday 17th July 1.15pm Finish

INSET DAYS 2025-2026 (Staff Only)

INSET DAY 1 - Monday 1st September 2025

INSET DAY 2 - Tuesday 2nd September 2025

AET TRUST DAY - Friday 24th October 2025

INSET DAY 4- Monday 5th January 2026

INSET DAY 5 - Monday 1st June 2026

INSET DAY 6 - Monday 20th July 2026

HOLIDAY DATES 2026 TO 2027

2026-27	Date of opening (First day back at school for pupils)	Date of closing (Last day in school for pupils)
Autumn Term 1	Wednesday 2nd September	Thursday 22nd October
Autumn Term 2	Tuesday 3rd November	Friday 18th December 1.15pm Finish
Spring Term 1	Tuesday 5th January	Friday 12th February
Spring Term 2	Monday 22nd February	Thursday 25th March 1.15pm Finish
Summer Term 1	Monday 12th April (Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May)	Friday 28th May
Summer Term 2	Monday 7th June	Friday 16th July 1.15pm Finish

INSET DAYS 2026-2027 (Staff Only)

INSET DAY 1 - Tuesday 1st September 2026

AET TRUST DAY - Friday 23rd October 2026

INSET DAY 2 - Monday 2nd November 2026

INSET DAY 3- Monday 19th July 2027

INSET DAY 3- Tuesday 20th July 2027

INSET DAY 3- Wednesday 21st July 2027



SEND Parent Carer Coffee Morning

Starting Well and the Parent Carer Forum are hosting a friendly
SEND drop-in coffee morning.

Come along for a relaxed chat, meet other parent carers, and
find out about services that can help you and your family.

In attendance:

**Early Navigation Team • Starting Well • PCF •
West Cheshire Community Learning Disability Team**

Everyone welcome, we'd love to see you there!

Venue: Lache Children's Centre

Hawthorn Rd, Chester, CH4 8HX

www.pcfcheshirewest.org/whats-on

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org

Developed in partnership with

