NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM MRS JEVONS

We've definitely been feeling festive this week as donations have been coming in for the Christmas Fair. As ever, we are extremely grateful to the PTA who have been working so hard to make the Christmas Fair a lovely, festive experience for everyone. I can't wait!

Backford Christmas Tree farm

Huge thanks to Backford Christmas Tree Farm, who very kindly gave us a heavily discounted Christmas Tree for our school hall. The children enjoyed singing Christmas Carols in the hall while the staff decorated the tree this morning. It looks beautiful.



Visitors

We have welcomed several visitors again this week, including our Diocesan Officer and our Safeguarding Governor. They both enjoyed their visits and finding out more about our school and, the systems we use and, in particular, how we ensure everyone feels safe and a sense of belonging here at St. Werburgh's & St. Columba's Catholic Primary School. All of the visitors felt that the children are delightful and hardworking. They passed on their thanks to all of the staff for their continued hard work.

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM MRS JEVONS

Road Safety

We have, unfortunately, had a couple of near misses this week when children are crossing the road in front of school. Pedestrians and Drivers are all reminded to be vigilant when crossing. Don't assume cars will stop for pedestrians, and children can be unpredictable so please can drivers take extra care when driving away. Although not an official crossing, please cross via the speed bump where the cones are as this is more visible to drivers.

Being a few minutes late for school or work is preferable to risking a child's life!

Werbie Tots

We absolutely love having visits from our Werbie Tots and their grownups on Tuesday mornings. We will be having a Christmas Party on Tuesday 8th December, and this will be the last session until the new year. Werbie Tots will return on Tuesday 5th January 2027.

Warm regards,
Mrs Jevons
Headteacher



Our Mini Vinnies had a wonderful time during their recent visit to Grosvenor Villas Care Home. Together, with the residents, they mixed ingredients to make salt dough. Then, they used their creations to make beautiful Christmas decorations.

The children enjoyed chatting and working alongside the residents, sharing smiles and laughter throughout the activity. The finished decorations will be proudly displayed on the care home's Christmas tree, helping to make the festive season even more special for everyone.

We are very proud of the kindness, creativity and respect our Mini Vinnies showed during their visit.









Thought of the Week
Matthew 25:31-46

One day Jesus was speaking to a group of followers about the day when the Son of Man would come in all his glory. He said, "He will sit on his throne and all of the nations would be gathered before him. He will separate the people like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left." How did he know the sheep from the goats?

Jesus went on to explain, "He will say to those on his right, 'I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

"When did we do that?" the righteous ones will ask.

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

"Then he will turn to those on the left and say, 'I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

"Then they will ask, 'When did we refuse to help you?'
"He will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'
"And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

The point of this lesson is not that doing good things will get people to heaven. The point is, if we truly belong to Jesus, we will show love for others as Jesus shows love for us. That is how Jesus can tell his sheep from the goats.

Our Father,
Help us to show love for others as you show love for us.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



UPCOMING DATES

December 2026	
2nd	Reception 2027 New Intake Tour
4th	Coffee Morning – Year 2 Recycling theme
9th	KS1 Nativity
11th	Storyhouse
16th	EYFS Nativity

Families receiving Free School Meals

Support with food during the school holidays through the Crisis and Resilience Fund is now open again for applications.

This support is available for £30 per week per school age child that receives income based Free School Meals if families are struggling to meet these additional costs during the school holidays.

This payment will cover the combined October half term and Christmas holidays period of 3 weeks, and therefore if successful, an award of £90 will be given per eligible child, which will be paid via a payment to your bank account.

To apply or find out more details, you can visit
School Holiday Support Payment | Cheshire West and Chester Council

If you're not in receipt of Free Schools Meals but need help with a sudden financial crisis, you can apply for our Crisis Payment scheme
Crisis payments | Cheshire West and Chester Council

Music for Life Christmas News!

INSPIRE | CREATE | PERFORM

December 2026

> "I honestly think music plays a crucial part every day in my daughter's life. It gives her something that is in the here and now, not online, something she can excel at and feel how her practise helps her make tangible improvements".

Christmas is coming! Give the gift of music to your young learner this year. We have three packages available for music tuition beginning in the new year:



Shared Lesson

Great entryoption forbeginners to learn the fundamentals of their chosen instrument with friends.



Individual 20

Mostpopular option, attention of the tutor on your child's individual musical development tuition.



Individual 30

Premiumoptionfor extratime with your child's specialist tutor.

How it works:



Visit our **online portal**, complete your details and we'll confirm lesson times with one of our fantastic tutors.

More information on our **website** including advice on choosing an instrument, up-to-date fees, and all the extra Music for Life Magic!



- Lessons start from just £31.95 per month (pupil premium subsidies may be available)
- Weekly lessons in school time making life simple for you
- Access to experienced tutors, ensembles, workshops, performances and MfL's not-for-profit commitment to invest in your child's musical journey

info@musicforlife.org.uk 01244 728 922 musicforlife.org.uk

SCHOOL ICT SUPPORT

GTA 6: What Parents Need to Know

Grand Theft Auto 6 has just been released and lots of children will be talking about it. Here's why it isn't suitable for primary age children.

PEGI 18

Online Safety · 23/11/2026

GTA 6 came out on 19/11/2026 for PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X and S. It has been rated **PEGI 18** in the UK, the highest age rating there is, which means it is made for adults only. Even children who don't own it are likely to see clips online or hear about it from friends, so we wanted to help you have those conversations at home.

1 Why Is It Rated 18?

1. Strong, graphic and realistic violence, including against people and police
2. Strong sexual themes and nudity
3. Players can take illegal drugs as part of the game
4. Frequent strong swearing throughout

It is illegal for shops to sell an 18 rated game to anyone under 18.

2 How It Can Influence Children

1. The player is rewarded for crime, so it can make violence and theft feel normal or funny
2. Graphic scenes can be upsetting and may cause worries or disturbed sleep
3. Children don't yet have the maturity to separate game behaviour from real life

3 Seeing It Without Playing

1. Clips and gameplay videos are all over YouTube, TikTok and Twitch
2. Older siblings or friends may play it while younger children watch
3. Children may feel left out if they hear "everyone" is playing it

It's worth asking what your child has seen, not just what they play.

4 Online Play and Spending

1. There is no online mode yet, but one is widely expected in 2027
2. Online play would mean chatting with adult strangers through voice and text
3. Previous GTA games have encouraged in game purchases with real money

5 How It Can Disrupt Learning

1. Late night gaming leaves children tired, unsettled and struggling to concentrate in lessons
2. Violent or sexual storylines retold in class can upset and confuse other children
3. Swearing and inappropriate chatter picked up from the game can spread through the class
4. Acting out scenes at playtime can lead to rough play and fallouts between friends

If you notice changes in your child's sleep, mood or behaviour, please speak to their class teacher.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ✓ Set age limits in your console's parental controls
- ✓ Use YouTube Kids and check app age settings
- ✓ Talk calmly about why some games are for adults
- ✓ Turn on purchase approval for all spending
- ✓ Keep consoles in shared family spaces
- ✓ Suggest age appropriate games they'll enjoy instead

For step by step parental control guides, visit **internetmatters.org** or **askaboutgames.com**

Christmas Call to all Young Singers!

We are inviting our parish children and young voices from **St Werburgh's and St Columba's Primary School** and **the Catholic High School** to join a **special choir of young voices** to sing at St Werburgh's Church at the following:

Sat 19th Dec, 3pm:
Chester Bach Singers Christmas Concert*

Thurs 24th Dec, 4pm:
Christmas Eve Family Mass

SUNDAY REHEARSALS
(after 10.45am Mass, with 15mins refreshments before start)
(1) Sun 29th Nov: 12-1pm
(2) Sun 6th Dec: 12-1pm
(3) Sun 13th Dec: 12-1pm
(4) Sun 20th Dec: 12-1pm

As the parish have our own DBS-checked team of helpers, parents can consider dropping their children off and collecting them or they can stay for the entire rehearsal. Perhaps they may consider bringing their children to the 10.45am Mass too.

Please register your child's interest asap at music@stwerburghchester.co.uk.

***Attendance**: if you would like your child to participate in the CBS concert, they will have to attend the first three Sunday rehearsals and a final rehearsal on the day of the concert at 2pm. You are encouraged to commit to at least two to three rehearsals for the Christmas Eve Family Mass.

We hope these seed events, along with our primary school collaboration at the Family Mass, will lead to a regular group of Goslings who will participate actively in the music liturgy at St Werburgh's.

St Werburgh's & St Columba's Catholic Primary School

Love, learn, laugh

Pastoral Support

at St Werburgh's & St Columba's

We are here to support the whole family. Our dedicated pastoral team is committed to ensuring every child feels happy, safe and valued – and we are always here to help.

ELSA



Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) provides individual and group support to help children develop strategies to manage their emotions.

Nurture Group Support



Our nurture group offers a calm, supportive space where children can build confidence, develop self-esteem and learn key social and emotional skills.

Art Therapy



Through creative expression, art therapy helps children explore their feelings, build self-confidence and find new ways to cope.

Therapy Dog



Our therapy dog provides comfort, reduces anxiety and brings joy to our school community.

Access to the Sensory Room (Fox's Den)



Fox's Den is a calm, safe space designed to support regulation through sensory resources and relaxation activities.

Therapeutic Body Worker



Our Therapeutic Body Worker helps children release tension, build body awareness and support their emotional wellbeing through therapeutic techniques.



Access to the Mental Health Support Team

We have strong links with the Mental Health Support Team, who can offer advice, support and intervention for children and families when needed.

How to Access Support

If you have any worries or would like to discuss support for your child, please get in touch. You can:

- Speak to your child's class teacher
- Contact a member of our pastoral team
- Call or email the school office to arrange a meeting

We are always here to listen and to help.

Faith | Care | Respect | Inclusion | Achievement

You can now recycle your medicine blister packs at St Werburgh's and St Columba's and Primary School

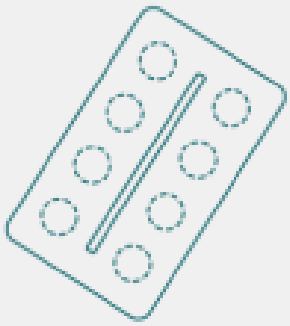


Recycling aluminium saves up to 95% of the energy required to produce it from raw ore.

Each tonne of blister packs recycled can avoid up to 3.5 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent emissions.

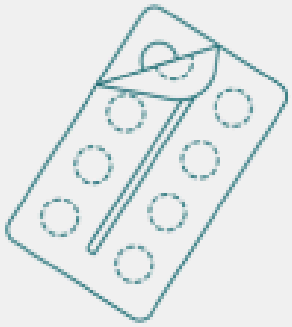
The recycling box has been provided free of charge by Eco Communities.
Scan the QR code or click HERE to find out more about their work in Chester and beyond.

What happens to your recycled blister packs?



PLASTIC (PVC)

Pre-shredded, washed and refined into a 5mm granulate, with microplastics captured and reprocessed at every stage. The material is then heated and pressed to form **MYboard™**, a durable, plywood-like product used as a lumber alternative in construction, joinery, shop and event fittings and commercial furniture.



METAL (FOIL)

Removed through a combination of magnets, current separation and infrared detection, as well as further shredding. Recovered foil is smelted into ingots for onward supply chains at a local refinery, or repurposed for new products.

Merry & Bright Christmas Lunch



ST WERBURGH'S & ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Wednesday 16th December 2026

Main Choices

Traditional Christmas Roast Turkey Lunch with all the Trimmings Served with Roast & Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Sprouts & Gravy

Vegetarian option available

Desserts

Festive Christmas Biscuit



IS YOUR CHILD STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2027?

COME AND VISIT ST WERBURGH'S AND ST COLUMBA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tour Dates

- Wednesday 30th September 2026 — 9:30am
- Wednesday 7th October 2026 — 9:30am
- Tuesday 20th October 2026 — 9:30am
- Wednesday 4th November 2026 — 1:30pm
- Wednesday 11th November 2026 — 9:30am
- Wednesday 2nd December 2026 — 9:30am



During your tour, you will have the opportunity to:

- Meet our Headteacher
- Explore our classrooms, outdoor spaces and facilities
- Learn about our curriculum, values and wider opportunities

To book your tour — please contact the school office

Whether you are new to the area or beginning your child's school journey, we would love to show you what makes our school community so special

Book your tour:
01244 478968
office@lovelearnlaugh.org.uk

Scan to view admissions page

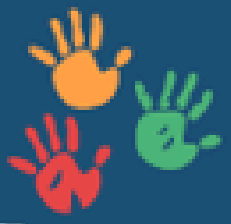
STARTING 15th SEPTEMBER

Werbie Tots

BRAND NEW toddler group

Tuesdays 9:15 - 11 am







JOIN THE FUN!

• art • stories • music • singing •
• creative play • nature exploring •

FIND US AT

St Werburgh & St Columba Primary School
Lightfoot Street, Hoole, Chester CH2 3AD
Tel: 01244 478968
Email: office@lovelearnlaugh.org.uk

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE REMINDER

Attendance and absence: **For safeguarding reasons we ask that you please leave a voicemail each day to report your child absent on 01244 478968 unless there is an exclusion period where we know not to expect them for a certain period (e.g. 48h after the last incident of sickness or diarrhoea). We are required to record a reason for all absences.** As always, **please complete a leave of absence request** (available on the website or from the office) before taking your child out of school in term time. Family holidays in term time cannot be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances, and please bear in mind that **unauthorised absence of five school days longer (not necessarily consecutive) in a rolling 10-week period may incur a fixed penalty. New regulations regarding attendance and absence are now in force, details have been sent out separately.** Absence for medical appointments (or music exams, etc) is authorised, **but please email a screenshot of any appointments your child needs to attend during school time to office@lovelearnlaugh.org.uk.**

Attendance continues to be priority for St Werburgh's & St Columba's Catholic Primary School and we support and encourage all children to attend school as often as possible.

