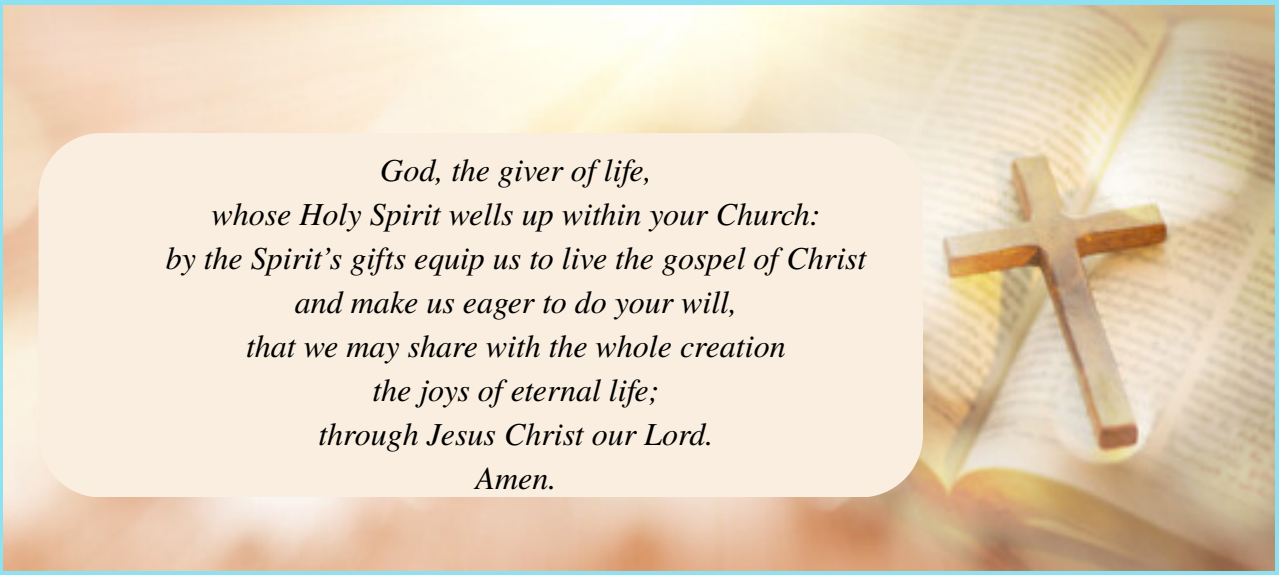
St Ethelwold's VA School

NEWSLETTER

23rd October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your St Ethelwold's VA School newsletter.

As we reach the final day of this half term, I would like to thank everyone across our school community for their continued support. The weather is certainly changing and the nights are drawing in, but it has been a wonderfully vibrant and busy half term as usual at St Ethelwold's!

Highlights This Half Term

· Our New School Council: We are delighted to announce our newly elected School Council! Two pupils have been elected to represent each of the following groups:

o **Eco Council**
o Criw Cymreig
o Digital Wizards
o Faith and Worship
o Culture and Standards

Congratulations to all 11 pupils who have been chosen to represent their peers and contribute to making our school the best it can be.



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· NSPCC Assemblies and Lessons: We used the excellent NSPCC resources to deliver assemblies and workshops across the school. These sessions focused on helping children recognise how to stay safe and empowering them to speak up to a trusted adult if they ever feel worried or unsafe.
· PCSO Visits (Road Safety & Bonfire Safety): Our local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) joined us for two important assemblies. The children learned essential rules for staying safe near busy roads, as well as crucial safety advice ahead of bonfire night.
· Young Minds 'Wear Yellow' Day: Thank you to everyone who participated in our Wear Yellow Day to support Young Minds! It was fantastic to see a sea of bright yellow across the school while raising awareness about young people's mental health and wellbeing.
· ALN Coffee Morning: We enjoyed welcoming parents and carers to our Additional Learning Needs (ALN) coffee morning—a great opportunity to connect, share information, and discuss how we support all our learners.
· Flu Vaccinations: Our annual flu vaccination clinic took place smoothly, helping to keep our pupils protected as we head into the colder months.
· Open the Book & Harvest Services: We held a wonderful Harvest Service with a fantastic turnout from families. Thank you for your incredible generosity with donations for the Flintshire Foodbank, and well done to the pupils for their beautiful singing! We were also delighted to welcome back our Open the Book team for their inspiring assembly.
· Class 3 Visit to DangerPoint: Class 3 had an important and engaging trip to DangerPoint, where they learned vital life skills regarding health and safety both at home and within the wider community.
· Class 3 'Never Such Innocence' Project: Class 3 also participated in the Never Such Innocence creative arts project, giving pupils a platform to express their thoughts and feelings through art.

Key Information & Dates
· Half Term Holiday: School breaks up today for a well-deserved rest. We hope all of our pupils enjoy the week off to relax and recharge.
· School Reopens: Monday 2nd November.
· Breakfast Club: Available every school day for all pupils from 8:00am – 8:50am at £1.50 per child. It is a fantastic, positive way to start the morning!
· Parents' Evening: Tuesday 17th November. Information and booking details for appointments have been sent out via the School Spider App.

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Attendance & Punctuality: Every Day Counts!

As we head into the second half of the autumn term, we want to gently remind all families about the vital importance of regular attendance and being on time:

· Why Attendance Matters: Good attendance is directly linked to children's academic progress, confidence, and social development. Missing school means missing key learning opportunities, social interaction, and routine.

· The Importance of Punctuality: Arriving on time allows children to settle into the day calmly alongside their classmates, listen to essential morning instructions, and start learning without feeling rushed or anxious.

· How You Can Help: Please aim for your child to arrive promptly each morning. If your child is unwell, please remember to notify the school office as early as possible on the day of absence.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership in helping our pupils build strong, positive habits for their learning journey.

Clubs After Half Term

Clubs will be starting up when we return after the half-term break:

· Mondays:

o Playmakers: Class 1 pupils (3:15pm – 4:00pm)

o Art Club: Class 2 & Class 3 pupils (3:15pm – 4:00pm)

· Thursdays:

o Young Voices: Class 2 & Class 3 pupils (12:20pm – 12:45pm)

o Football: Class 2 & Class 3 pupils (3:15pm – 4:00pm)

Letters have already been sent out, but if you have not received one, please ask Mrs Duggan in the school office.

Staying Safe Online During the Holidays

As the evenings get darker and children spend a week away from school, they may end up spending more time on devices, playing games, or watching videos online. We kindly encourage parents and carers to keep an eye on digital safety during the break:

· Remind children never to share personal information online.

· Keep gaming consoles and devices in shared family spaces where possible.

· Ensure privacy settings and parental controls are up to date.

· Reiterate the importance of telling an adult if they see or experience anything online that makes them uncomfortable.

Thank you all for a brilliant start to the academic year. Have a safe, happy, and relaxing half-term break!