

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 6th September 2023

Welcome Back

Welcome back everyone I hope you have all enjoyed the lovely summer and are ready to be back at school. A huge thank you for all your support and generous gifts at the end of last term, staff were overwhelmed and genuinely appreciate the thoughts.

We are looking forward to another year of exciting adventures and the challenges ahead. Please note that Nursery return to school tomorrow 7th September.

This year there will be a continued focus on attendance and punctuality as we want every child to achieve the best possible outcome. We are aiming for all children to attend at least 96% of the school year, obviously if there are illnesses and unavoidable hospital appointments please let us know.

If parents are struggling to get children to school due to their illness please contact school and we will do our best to arrange for the children to be picked up at the beginning of the day and taken home. We need to be contacted as early as possible for us to arrange this, the school office is open from 8.00AM. Please see the [school attendance policy](#).

Vision

Our school vision drives forward everything we do for all our children and all those in our Christian family. All decisions are made with our vision at the heart.

'Teach children how they should live and they will remember it all their life.' (Proverbs 22:6)

Through basing our vision on the bible teaching above we will promote an inclusive school community, rooted in mutual respect, understanding and kindness towards others.

'Life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

In living out the statement above our vision is to develop resilience and a love of learning, which will enable the children to achieve their aspirations.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is significant to a child's educational development and progress. When a child's attendance falls to 90% or below it is classed as persistent absence by Sefton Council. We will be looking at each child's attendance for the school year 2022 - 2023 and contacting those parents whose child's % attendance fell to this level. We hope that by working together, their attendance will improve and they will achieve their full potential in school.

We reward good attendance each week and are aiming for at least 96%. Our **Year 1** class had the highest attendance for the last week of last term (3 days) **98.8%**. Other classes attendance was follows: **Y6 - 98.7%**, **Y4 - 90.5%**, **N - 89.3%**, **Y3 - 87.2%**, **R - 85.2%**, **Y2 - 83.3%**, **Y5 - 82.7%**.

The classes in **green** are above our target of **96%** and those in **red** are below, some significantly below. We will be targeting those with poor attendance.

The class with the highest attendance figures were as follows:

Half term 05/06/23 - 19/07/23 Y1

Summer term 17-04-23 - 19-07-23 Y1
Whole school year 2022 - 2023 Y4

Parents can notify school of their child's absence through the School Spider App. You will need to log into School Spider to do this, if you need help logging in, please let school know.

Swimming In September

Swimming will commence for the following classes as follows in September:

Year 4 each Wednesday from today 6th September until February half term. Then year 5 will swim at that time for the remainder of the year.

Year 6 will be swimming for a two week block 4 days a week from Monday 18th September to Thursday 28th September.

Year 3 will be swimming for a two week block 4 days a week from Monday 8th January 2024 to Thursday 18th January 2024.

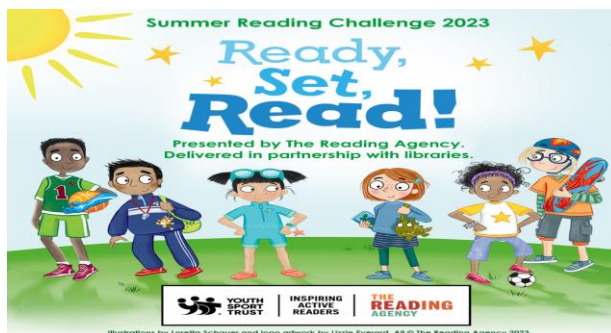
Swimming kit information can be found by clicking on this [link](#).

Summer Reading Challenge

Just a reminder that the children should aim to complete the challenge by Saturday 9th September to ensure that they get their certificates.

Summer Diaries

If any child has completed a diary over the summer holidays please do bring them in by the end of this week. I am looking forward to reading what the children have all enjoyed in the holidays



Harvest Festival 01.10.23

We are delighted to be able to have our Harvest Festival celebration this year at school on **Sunday 1st October at 10.00AM**. All families are welcome, we do hope that as many children as possible can attend, in school uniform.

Each class have prepared a piece for the service and the children need to be there to present it during the service. All **food donations** will be gratefully received and will be donated to the food bank at St. Oswald's church.

New School Menu

The new school menu can be found on our [website](#).

STOSWAY

St Oswald's Deli Bar "STOSWAY" is still running each Thursday for children in Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6. If your child is on packed lunch, but you would like your child to have STOSWAY each Thursday, you can set a meal pattern with the office, just give the office a call or send an [email](#).

Uniform

With the cost of living continuing to increase we are doing our absolute best to help support parents. We will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale from 8.45am - 9.15am on the following dates and times in the school hall. All items are good quality and will be sold for 50p per item. If anyone has any donations of uniform which is no longer needed and still in good condition please bring them into school including pumps and school shoes.

Aintree Fire Station

Please find attached a poster for the upcoming Fire Station Open day on **Saturday 30th September at Aintree Fire Station – 11 – 4pm**.

There will be:

Fire service demonstrations – ladder drills, RTC demo, house fire demo, etc.

Tours of the station & Fire engines

Try on the fire kit

Food stalls – cakes, coffee, ice cream

Face painting

Raffles & competitions and much more

Aintree Fire Station is to close in May next year, so this will be the last chance to see around this historic Fire Station.

Dates for Next Year

For school term dates and upcoming events next year please see the school calendar on our [website](#).



Mental Health and Wellbeing

The NHS are constantly keeping their website up to date there are plenty of activities and ideas to help you & your child. It gives information on how to talk to you child if they are showing signs of concern. <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/>



There are online resources available to help you and your child with mental health, including:

- [MindEd](#), a free educational resource from Health Education England on children and young people's mental health
- [Rise Above](#), which aims to build resilience and support good mental health in young people aged 10 to 16
- [Every Mind Matters](#), which includes an online tool and email journey to support everyone to feel more confident in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing
- [Bereavement UK](#) and the [Childhood Bereavement Network](#), provide information and resources to support bereaved pupils, schools and staff
- Barnardo's See, Hear, Respond service, provides support to children, young people and their families who aren't currently seeing a social worker or other agency, and who are struggling to cope with the emotional impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- You can access via the ['See, Hear, Respond' service self-referral webpage](#) or Freephone 0800 151 7015
- It is also vital to report any safeguarding concerns you have about any child. Contact us at school or the [NSPCC helpline](#).
- Kooth - free website which provides support for young people in Sefton. The website is monitored by counsellors where children can read articles, engage in online chats about mental health and wellbeing topics and learn ways they can support their own mental health. It is suitable for our year 5 & 6 pupils.

Christian Values

This week's Christian Value is **Generosity**.

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" **Acts 20:35**



Article 29

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

Generosity

A Prayer for our School



*This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,
let peace begin with me.
Let the room be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love of human kind, love of life itself
And love of God
Let us remember that as many hands build a
house,
Many hearts build a school.
Amen*

Yours sincerely,

Miss E Murtagh
Headteacher



"Generosity consists not of the sum given, but the manner in which it is bestowed"

- Mahatma Gandhi

