

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wednesday 18th December 2024

Our School Vision

Through valuing all individuals as children of God we believe in promoting an inclusive school community, rooted in mutual respect, understanding and kindness towards others. As God taught us:

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

Our school's vision is to nurture a resilient community where the love of learning thrives. We foster an environment where every member feels supported in order to flourish, be empowered to overcome challenges, embrace growth and contribute positively to God's world.

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

Attendance

Last year we had a huge drive to improve attendance. This is a shared objective in schools across the country and in Sefton, particularly in our cluster of schools in the STRAND group (all local schools.) We will be sharing good practice among our schools and a shared message.

You have 190 days to come to school and 175 to do everything else!

Be in To Win

Last year we introduced Be in to Win which replaced the 100% attendance reward for the year. We appreciate that there were unavoidable absences and that some children were missing out when it was genuinely unavoidable that they were absent.

To ensure that **all** pupils were able to achieve, we reduced the 100% awards to a full month. To this end if they are absent for a genuine reason they will still be able to work towards the next full month to receive the award and a small prize. We hope that this will also build resilience and drive as they will be encouraged that if they haven't made it for this month then it is ok, because they can try again for next month. We feel it is important for children to know that not everything goes well all the time and that is how things go at times, however, there is always a new opportunity and other chances for success.

Date	Attendance 2022/23 (last year)	Attendance 2023/2024 (this year)	Improvement
November	87 pupils	142 pupils	+ 55 pupils
December	90 pupils	126 pupils	+ 36 pupils
Autumn Term	91.7%	93.6%	& 1.9%
January	91 pupils	126	+35 pupils
March	91	116	+25 pupils
Spring Term	91.5%	93.2%	+1.7%
May	131	140	+9
June	124	137	+13
Summer Term	91.5%	92.6%	+1.1%
Overall for the year	91.6%	93.6%	+2%

Date	Attendance 2022/23 (last year)	Attendance 2023/2024 (this year)	Improvement
September	142 pupils /228	151 pupils/228	+ 9 pupils = 3.94%
October	116 pupils / 228	132 pupils /228	+ 16 pupils = 7%
November	142 pupils /228	100 pupils /228	- 42 pupils = -18.43%

For December the prize will be a small selection box, this was decided by the school council made up of pupils voted on by each class.

Mentor Lunch 19th December

Our mentor lunch takes place tomorrow. Please return your envelope with payment to school as soon as possible. Please note that there is no facility for packed lunch on this day.

Parent's and Friend's Association (PFA)

Christmas Fair

Huge thanks to Mrs McNally, Mrs Varga, Mrs Bateman and Mrs Jefferies for all their help in getting the fair organised. Thanks also to Mr Rutherford, Miss Woolley and Mrs Gray for their help on stalls. Well done to Luna and Mrs McLelland for their initiative selling Luna's Looms and Mrs Chaudhry and Layla for their Funky Fidgets. Thanks to all of you for your support in helping to raise a whopping total of £1430.81.

Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets are still available, the draw takes place on Friday morning. If you would like extra tickets, please contact school.

Oranges for Christingle

We will be making Christingles on 19th December ready for the service – please bring oranges if you haven't already.

Parents Meetings

If you were unable to make the appointments yesterday and would like to see your child's class teacher, please get in touch.

Our Appreciation

As we approach the end of term we're aware of the heightened financial pressures that many families are facing at the moment.

As such, we want to emphasise that our staff are not expecting any 'thank you' gifts from pupils and parents. Should you still wish to say 'thank you', we always appreciate:

- Homemade cards and letters, or a spoken 'thank you' – kind words mean a lot!
- Donations to the local foodbank
- Paying it forward – volunteering your time to help others

We would like to wish you and your family well over this Christmas holiday and thank you for your continued support.

Dates for Next Year 2024/25

For school term dates for the forthcoming academic year and upcoming events for this year, please see the school calendar on our [website](#).

Year 3 will be swimming every Wednesday afternoon.

Beth Tweddle Gymnastics coaches for Years 4 & 6 every Tuesday afternoon.

After School Clubs for January 2025

This information can also be found on our [website](#). All clubs will start W/C 13.01.25.

There are two types of clubs.

- Clubs that we have received funding for – run for 11 weeks and end w/c 31.03.25.*
- Clubs that are funded by school – run for 10 weeks and end w/c 24.03.25

If you would like to request a place for your child in the club, please click to send an [email](#).

Upcoming Events in School

December

19th December Party day & Father Christmas visit. Christingle making.
20th December 9.45AM – End of term service at church. All families are welcome.
2.00PM – School Closes for the Christmas holidays.

St Oswald's and St Helen's Churches Events

24.12.24	4.00PM	St Oswald's	Carols and Christingles
	9.00PM	St Oswald's	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
	11.00PM	St Helen's	Christmas Eve Holy Communion
25.12.24	10.00AM	St Oswald's	Carols and Communion

January 2025

6th January School opens same time as usual 8.30AM for Nursery and 8.45AM for everyone else.
Year 6 start swimming 10.00AM
7th January Year 6 swimming AM
8th January Year 6 swimming AM Year 3 swimming PM
9th January Year 6 swimming AM

13th January After school clubs begin. Year 6 swimming AM, 11.15AM - Mini-church for Nursery and Reception at church, all families welcome.

14th January Year 6 swimming AM

15th January Year 6 swimming AM, 10.00AM Communion at church for Year 1 -Year 5 – all families welcome.
Year 3 swimming PM

16th January Year 6 swimming AM and Mentor lunch for all

22nd January Year 3 swimming PM

27th January Chinese Week to celebrate Chinese New Year

28th January Parent coffee afternoon/drop in for parents of children with SEND or concerns – Graduated Approach to SEND.

29th January Chinese New Year. Year 3 swimming PM

30th January Chinese New Year Lunch

31st January TT Rockstars competition

Swimming in January 2025

Year 6 will start swimming the first day back in January, and every day except Friday for two weeks. Monday 6th January – Thursday 16th January. They will need their swimming kit everyday from Monday to Thursday for the first two weeks of term.

Year 3 will swim every Wednesday from our first week until February half term. Year 4 will then swim after half term each Wednesday until the end of the year. Swimming kit information can be found [here](#).

Children's University Winter Challenge

Details of the winter holiday challenge is attached to the newsletter today. Children can collect extra Children's University credits during the Christmas holiday by completing this challenge.

Send evidence of your activity to this [email](#). This could be a photograph, video, a work sheet, or writing about what you did. Remember to include your name and the name of our school in your email!

Expert Support For Every Parenting Challenge

This is a free website that offers lots of parenting advice on a whole range of everyday topics and challenges such as friendships, screen time, school life and mental wellbeing. There are short videos and articles that you can access that offer you reassurance and strategies to use with your child/children. It is well worth a look. It is free to sign up to and you can unlock a wealth of parenting know how. <https://www.myfamilycoach.com/>

CAMHS

The Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) put together a monthly newsletter for parents and professionals, signposting support such as groups, training and workshops. Click the [link](#) to have a look and see if there is anything of any interest. If you have any questions you can contact Mrs Keiley (SENDco and Mental Health lead) via the school office.

Article 23: A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and independence. To play and active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to provide support to a disabled person.

Christian Values This month's Christian Value is **Creation. Colossians 1:16** "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers, or authorities – all things were created through him or for him



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