



**Christian Value - Our Christian Value this half term is Courage.**

**Dear Parents,**

It was a pleasure to spend Wednesday evening with a group of our Year 4 children at a musical concert organised by Knowsley Music and Performing Arts service. Their violin playing was excellent and shows how hard they have worked and the progress they have made since starting lessons in September. One parent has emailed us to say,

" it was so wonderful to see how sensibly the year 4 children acted. They demonstrated such respect by showing patience whilst others performed and they showed such maturity. They were all such a credit to our school and great representatives."

Several children from Year 4 and Year 5 performed as part of the "Tutti" music group. They were also excellent. We are a school full of budding musicians!!

Thank you to all the Mums / Nans / Aunties who came along to our Mother's day Coffee morning / afternoon sessions today. We hope you enjoyed them! I hope you have a wonderful Mothers Day this weekend.

Don't forget the hour goes forward Saturday night / Sunday morning!

Have a great weekend.

**Mrs Thomson**

**Headteacher**

**Changes to Snack Policy**

As you will know we are moving towards becoming an accredited Healthy School. As part of this the School Council consulted with their classes and staff to discuss our current snack policy. They suggested moving from a four day healthy snack, with one 'treat' day to healthy snacks five days a week. This will be applied as soon as we return from the Easter holiday.

The children suggested a very simple snack list to avoid any confusion. This is:

- Crackers, breadsticks, rice cakes (not chocolate covered)
- Cheese
- Fruit - fresh or dried
- Yoghurt
- Raisins and yoghurt covered raisins.

Please avoid pain au chocolates, chocolate pancakes, cereal bars etc.

Children bringing in snacks that are not from the list will be asked to place them in their trays to take home and offered a swap of fruit.

We thank you for your support.

### Easter Bonnet / Cap Competition

On Friday 4th April we will be having our popular Easter Bonnet / Cap or Hat parade in school.

We are asking the children to decorate a bonnet / cap / hat with an Easter theme.

They can come to school wearing their creation. We will have one prize winner in each class, but everyone who takes part will receive a small prize.

Get your thinking Easter hats (or caps) on children.

### International Studies

Last week, as part of our International Studies Curriculum, Reception Class had a video call with Arise School in Tanzania.

Mrs Durr read the children at Arise a story we know and love - Little Red Riding Hood.

The teacher at Arise then read us a traditional African tale about an Elephant that wanted to be king. It was a wonderful experience for us all and we loved the story that we listened to.

We are looking forward to sharing more learning with the teachers and children at Arise School next half term.



### Parental Questionnaire

Please find the link below to our Parental Questionnaire. We value your opinions on our school and ask that as many parents complete the questionnaire as possible.

We would appreciate parents not using the names of any specific children or staff and inputting any details regarding any complaints they may have.

Any specific complaints/issues should be raised using the appropriate channels.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=U9gdjHaqak6KIGKwmOOZ-IGcKVMxveJPn7MFfZTyx21UQIE1TFdPNDZTR1ROM1BUVDRPQVZUS1IGRSQIQCNjPTEu>

The questionnaire will close on Monday 31st March.

### Church News

There is a special Mothering Sunday Service on Sunday at St Lukes Church at 10.30am.

Cafe worship will take place in school after the Experience Easter event on Wednesday 2nd April. All welcome at 2.30.

## Dates for your Diary / Upcoming Events

Please note these are subject to change or may be added to so please check these dates every week!

### April 2025

- Friday 4th - Easter Bonnets
- Friday 4th - **Finish as normal for Half-term**
- Tuesday 22nd - **School opens at normal time**
- Wednesday 23rd - St George's Day
  - Y3 Trip to Chester
- Thursday 24th - Rec trip to Norton Priory
- Friday 25th - Café Worship
  - Non - Uniform Day for PTFA Bingo - Fine is Bottles
- Wednesday 30th - Y5 Llandudno Residential

### May 2025

- Friday 2nd - Non - Uniform Day for PTFA Bingo - Fine is Chocolates/Gift Sets
- Monday 5th - Bank Holiday - School Closed
- Tuesday 6th - Y3 Swimming Starts (Tuesday - Friday)
- Monday 12th - Y6 SATS week
- Tuesday 13th - Y3 Swimming Week 2 (Tuesday - Friday)
- Friday 16th - Quidditch
- Tuesday 20th - School Class Photos
- Wednesday 21st - Y2 BTales - Parents welcome @ 2:45pm.
  - Y6 Robinwood Residential.
- Friday 23rd - **Finish for Half-term @ normal time**

### June 2025

- Monday 9th - **School opens at normal time**
- Tuesday 10th - Y1 BTales - Parents welcome @ 2:45pm
- Wednesday 11th - Y6 leavers service
- Tuesday 17th - Sports Day
- Wednesday 18th - Reserve Sports Day
- Friday 20th - Y4 Trip to Knowsley Safari Park

### July 2025

- Tuesday 1st - Big Sing @ Liverpool Cathedral Y2 & Y5
- Tuesday 8th - Y6 + Choir Production @ 2pm
- Wednesday 9th - Y6 + Choir Production @ 2pm & 5:30pm
- Friday 11th - PTFA Colour Run 3:30pm - 6pm
- Friday 18th - BEST Awards
- Wednesday 23rd - Leavers Service @ 9:15am
  - **School Closes @ 2pm - No Wraparound**

## **Could you be eligible for free school meals and extra support in the February and Easter 2025 holidays?**

If you receive certain benefits, your child or children may be eligible for free school meals. This provides nutritious lunch options to support your child's learning and well-being, and until Easter 2025, they also entitle you to vouchers worth £15 for each child, each week of the following school holidays: Christmas 2024, February half-term and Easter 2025\*.

### **Who is eligible:**

Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (wages below £616.67 a month)

Income Support

Income-based Jobseekers Allowance

An income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Child Tax Credit with an annual income of £16,190 or less (but not if you are in work and receive Working Tax Credit)

The guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

### **How to apply**

Check the list above and if you are eligible, visit the Council's website and use the Parent Portal to apply for free school meals.

[Apply here](#)

### **Is your child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2?**

Children in these years receive 'Universal Free School Meals'. You do not need to apply for this, every child will automatically receive a free school lunch. However if you meet the criteria above for free school meals and apply, your child's school will also receive extra money (known as the Pupil Premium) which can help pay for extra resources and support for pupils.

### **Extra support**

Visit the benefits calculator on the Turn2Us webpage to check your benefit entitlement

Visit the Council's Household Support Fund page to find details of organisations who can help if you are struggling with the cost of food or essentials

Visit the Council's Benefits page to find details of benefits and entitlements you could receive including Council Tax Reduction

\*£15 per child per week supermarket vouchers are available to and including Easter 2025 for each child who is in receipt of free school meals.

## Changes to the Law on School Attendance -

### Please read carefully if you are planning to book term time holidays in 2024/25

The Government have introduced new laws regarding attendance from August 19th 2024.

The main changes are:

ALL term time holidays will be unauthorised, including holidays which involve a circumstance such as a wedding abroad, trip to see family etc.

In a 10 school week period, pupils who have more than 10 sessions unauthorised (a session is a morning or afternoon) may be fined, whether the absences are 5 days together or single days taken over a ten week period.

An increase in the amount of the penalty notice (fine) from £60 to £80 (if paid within 21 days) and £120 to £160 (if paid within 28 days) for the first penalty notice issued. This is fine is per parent per child. It is not per day but per period of absence (10 sessions+)

Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within 3 years of the date the first penalty notice, will be £160 to be paid within 28 days. No discount is offered.

Any further absences will result in prosecution in the Magistrate Court for the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the first penalty was issued.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

## Lunch Time Leaders

This weeks Lunch-time leaders are:

Reception - Delilah

Year 1 - Alice

Year 2 – Lowenna

Year 3 - Isabella-Rose

Year 4 - Aimee

Year 5 - Isabella

Year 6 - Freddie

Each of the above children have been chosen by the Mid-day supervisors based on behaviour and manners in the lunch hall and get to be in the front of the dinner queue for next week.



## HAF EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

Book your child's free HAF space at our holiday club...

- Football, dance games, indoor & outdoor activities. Plus, much more!
- Full details of activities on our website ([raringstars.com](http://raringstars.com)).
- Contact us via email ([contact@raringstars.com](mailto:contact@raringstars.com)).

