



Christian Value - Our Christian Value this half term is Courage

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy week again in school this week.

Thank you to all the children and parents who have supported our book fair this week. All the commission from the sale of books will go towards new books for our library.

Thank you to Year 3 who led a wonderful Worship on Tuesday about our Christian Value 'Courage'. I was very impressed with your performance and I know how much you enjoyed the day with "B Tales." Well done.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Thomson

Headteacher

Y2 + Y5 Singing Performance

On Friday 21st March we are having a singing show for Year 2 + Year 5 children and would like to invite their parents to attend. The service will begin at 9:15am.

Y6 Tuition

Year 6 whole class tuition will again for next week take place on Thursday 20th April.

Book Fair

Wow! Thank you so very much to everyone who came along to the Book Fair! Through all your great support the school has earned £700 to spend on new books across all classes and for our school library!

Mothers Day

On Friday 28th March we will be celebrating Mother's Day in school. We are inviting all Mums to a coffee and biscuit session with their child's class. The session will be:

9:15 - 10am - **Year 3 and Year 4**

10:15 - 11am - **Year 5 and Year 6**

1:30 - 2:15pm - **Nursery + Rec** (Morning nursery mums and children are invited to come along during these times for this event)

2:30 - 3:15pm - **Year 1 and Year 2**

If you have more than 1 child please select the session you prefer and we will bring all your children to you.

Due to fire regulations we must limit the numbers in our hall therefore we can only accommodate **1 adult per Family**.

If mum's cannot make this event, we would welcome a grandparent / aunt or other relative in their place, please advise your child's class teacher

Llandudno - Y5 - Final Meeting

We are really looking forward to our upcoming residential to Llandudno- it is going to be a fun and memorable time for the children, full of rich experiences. We hope that your children are feeling excited for it too!

If there are any anxieties, worries or just anything at all ahead of the trip, then please don't hesitate to come and talk to us and we will do our best to help.

There will be a final meeting on **Wednesday 19th March at 3:30pm**. The meeting will be around 30 minutes long.

We will take you through all that we are doing on the trip and talk about what the children need to bring.

There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Magic Keys

This year we have launched our Magic Keys Award Scheme. As introduced at the Meet the Teacher evenings in September, each year group has their own set of Magic Keys to collect across the year. These are simple targets for the children to try to achieve.

Most of Keys are ones the children will achieve in school but each year group also has three Keys for the children to do at home. The children will be bringing home a small exercise book containing the list of the Keys. The book is for you to keep at home and use to evidence the three 'Home Keys'. These can be evidenced in anyway you prefer - photos or a written entry - it is up to you. We will ask for the books to be returned to school in the Summer term so that the children can share them with each other and so we can further update the keys we have achieved in school.

At the end of the year the children will have an award ceremony where they will be awarded their Magic Key badge for the year and a pennant to keep them on.

Each year group has a different colour badge to collect and keep. Eventually, by the end of their time with us the children will have collected a Key for each of their years in school.

There will be a small charge of £2.00 for the badges which can be done via parent pay in the Summer term.

Church News

This Sunday is CAFÉ STYLE WORSHIP at Cronton Mission on Sunday starting at 10.30.

If you have not been before, this is an informal service of worship around tables with refreshments, suitable for all ages. All welcome - we meet in the school hall.

Next Sunday will be HOLY COMMUNION at Cronton, also a 10.30 start.

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.

Boys Football

Well done to all the Year 5 and 6 boys who represented the school this year at football.

The last two weeks of final fixtures went very well with 4 wins and a draw in our league matches, as well as plenty of friendlies.

These results were key to securing a joint 3rd place finish overall for the year.



Y6 Leavers Hoodies.

It is that time of year as we begin to look for the future for our Year 6 class.

They have all received their secondary school places and are preparing for the end of the year. Part of this is receiving a Leavers Hoodie from their parents.

The children are able to wear the hoodies in school for PE up until they return from Robinwood on the 21st May where they can then wear them for school.

Robinwood 2025

ParentPay is open for parents to make weekly or monthly instalments for our Robinwood trip. The total cost is £425 so if you have only paid the deposit that leaves a balance of £375. **All balances must be paid by Friday 4th April 2025.**

Lunch Time Leaders

This week's Lunch-time leaders are:

Reception - Oscar

Year 1 - Ayana

Year 2 - Penelope

Year 3 - Bella

Year 4 - Jack

Year 5 - Chloe

Year 6 - Florence

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.

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!

March 2025

- Monday 17th - St Patricks Day (Green Team)
- Wednesday 19th - Y5 Llandudno Meeting @ 3:30pm
- Friday 21st - Singing Show Y2 + Y5 parents welcome @ 9:15am
- Wednesday 26th - Spring Concert 6pm - 7pm - Choir and Y4 Violins
- Friday 28th - Mothers Day Coffee Morning
- Y4 Trip to Catalyst

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

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.



Our Celebration Winners Today -



Well done to all our children who have worked and tried very hard this week.

CLASS	Winners and Reasons
Year 6	Max - For being a great partner in class - well done! Joshua - Having an amazing attitude to all areas of school life! Mia - For amazing work with area and perimeter this week!
Year 5	
Year 4	Harry - Having an excellent attitude to learning and being respectful to others. Harriett - Listening to and applying feedback carefully, always trying your best. Ellie - Being so enthusiastic about learning - especially fractions!
Year 3	Heidi - For always giving 100% to lessons and being a ray of sunshine! Kennedy - For using innovative vocabulary and creating fantastic sentences in English. Bella - For a huge improvement in handwriting and presentation.
Year 2	Felix - For super recall of our history learning on Victorian Houses. Arthur - For making good predictions on our new text this week. Kaitlin - For working hard with multiplication and division this week.
Year 1	Rae - Great work partitioning numbers into tens and ones. CJ - Fantastic counting forwards and backwards to 50. Neve - For always having a 'can do' attitude and putting 100% effort into everything.
Reception	Lulu - For great effort in phonics. Jenson - For fantastic independent learning. Dave - For beautiful handwriting in Literacy.

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.

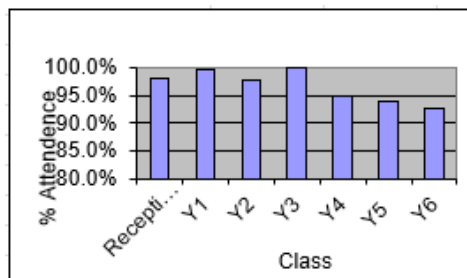
Any further absences will result in prosecution in the Magistrate Court for the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the first penalty was issued.

Further information can be found at:

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

Attendance and Punctuality

Every week we will publish a chart of individual class attendance. The class with the highest attendance over the half term receives a reward. The winners for week ending 07.03.25 were: 1st place - Year 3 with **100%**, 2nd place - Year 1 with **99.6%**, 3rd place - Reception with **98%**.



As you can see from the graph above, the last week of terms school attendance was **95.8%**.

Please try to ensure your child is in school as much as is possible, unless of course they are ill. A reminder that if your child is going to be absent from school you must ring school (using Option 1) as early as possible on the first morning they are absent, and this must be followed up with an absence form available from our website explaining the absence on their return to school. **Holidays in term time will not be authorised.**

Ninja / Accelerated Readers

Our Ninja Readers have really been doing really well. This scheme is always extremely successful and hopefully we will beat the scores of previous years.

Each time your child reads at home please ensure you sign their book. Once they have read 25 times they will get their first colour 'belt' - White. When they have read another 25 times (and all signed for) they will get their next colour "belt" - Yellow. Each time they read for another 25 times they will achieve their next colour 'Belt', all the way through the colours up to black and then move onto Dans. But please make sure your child's book is signed by an adult or their reading will not count towards their certificate.

Well done to all our Ninja Readers this weeks:

White Belt Winners:

Year 1 - Leon

Yellow Belt Winners:

Year 1 - Arabella

Orange Belt Winners:

Year 1 - Amelia S

Year 4 - Aimee

Year 6 - Sienna, Joshua

Red Belt Winners:

Year 2 - Imogen

Year 4 - Gabriella, Ellie

Green Belt Winners:

Year 1 - Phoebe

Year 2 - James, Milo

Year 3 - Penelope

Blue Belt Winners:

Year 1 - Vinnie

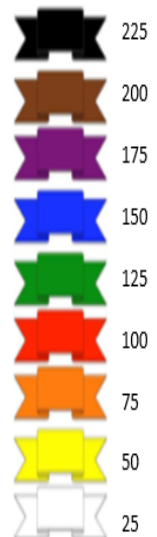
Year 2 - Brodie H, Arthur, Elodie, Evie

Purple Belt Winners:

Year 1 - Rosabella

Year 3 - Autumn

Year 6 - Henry, Darcey





The impact of smartphones



There is a growing concern on how excessive use of smartphones can affect our children.

In addition to the effects of seeing inappropriate content online, the risk of cyberbullying and grooming, it is important that we also highlight the effects of smartphone use on our children's mental health.

If your child is using a smartphone then please try to ensure they maintain a healthy screentime limit.

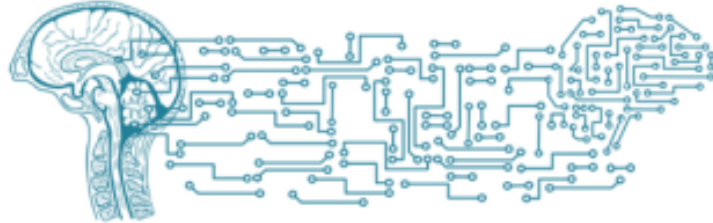
According to King's College London, "two new studies of smartphone habits in teenagers have identified links between problematic smartphone use and depression, anxiety and insomnia." You can read more about these studies here:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/teens-with-problematic-smartphone-use-are-twice-as-likely-to-have-anxiety-and-many-are-eager-to-cut-down>

Compass have published an article as well on what effects mobile phones have on children here:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)



What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to increase, and examples include:

- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat

Potential Risks of AI?

- **Chat apps** - A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of apps already available and just scrolling through, you can see that they are not suitable for children with many rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos which can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

Child Rescue Coalition discuss the dangers in more detail here:

<https://childrescuecoalition.org/educations/the-dark-side-of-ai-risks-to-children/>

How can I protect my child?

As always, to keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Develop your child's digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

For further information, the NSPCC and Internet Matters provide useful guides on their websites:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

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TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security/privacy settings are applied.



Account set up

It is important that when setting up an account, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics or adult themes. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

Stranger contact

Talk to your child about who is following them online and ensure that they understand that people may not be who they say they are when online. It is important that children understand not to share personal information.

Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-your-for-you-feed>

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- <https://safeguarding.thekeysupport.com/factsheets-and-briefings/child-safety-tiktok-parent-factsheet/>

Talk PANTS with the NSPCC

Talk PANTS was developed to help you have conversations with your child to help them understand that their body belongs to them.

You can find out more here as well as a further link to helpful questions:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

LEGO Arcade

Are you looking for games for your child to play online? LEGO have a selection of fun games including Lego Ninjago and Lego Friends:

<https://kids.lego.com/en-gb/arcade>

Stars Messenger App

The Stars Messenger App is rated as 4+ on the App store. It is a free messaging and video app designed for children to use. Users need their friend's username as well as their unique private Friend Code to add each other. There is also an optional Parent View available for a monthly charge.

South West Grid for Learning provide a full guide to staying safe on this app as well as safety considerations:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/a-guide-to-staying-safe-with-the-stars-messaging-app/>

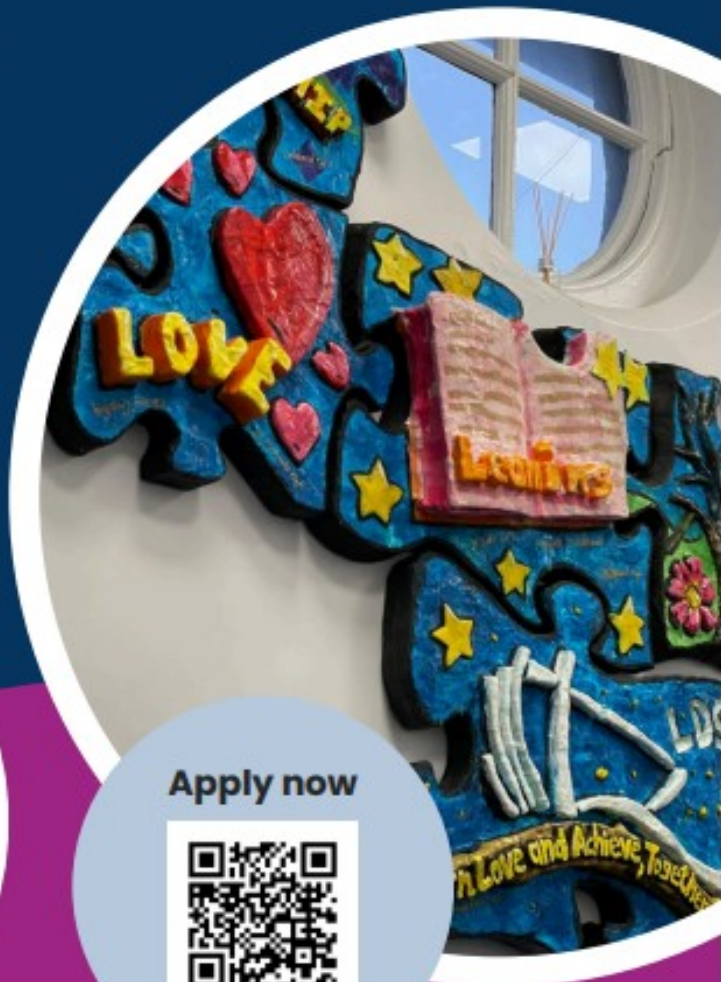
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