



Christian Value - Our Christian Value this half term is Courage

Dear Parents,

Our children (and staff) looked amazing yesterday for World Book Day. Thank you for supporting our event. We have had a great week this week focusing on books and reading. Thank you to our Friends of Cronton who recycled costumes to raise funds for school.

Don't forget as from today - our ever popular Book Fair will be in school until Tuesday 11th March. Cash only is accepted for payment, we cannot accept card payments. For every book purchased the school receives commission which we use to replenish all class libraries. Your support is greatly appreciated!

A reminder next Tuesday is our Year 3 Class worship starting at 2:45pm in the hall. Year 3 parents are invited to come along and join us for this special service

We have a new exit system out of school. To add to our security measures, the Green exit button has now been disabled. There is a fob system in place and school staff are able to release the doors to allow exit.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Thomson

Headteacher

Mothers Day

On Friday 30th 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

Y6 Tuition

The Year 6 whole class tuition for Wednesday 12th March will be cancelled and rescheduled for Thursday 13th March for next week.

Apologies if this means some children are unable to attend.

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.

School App

In order to be more environmentally friendly and to save costs, we will be no longer sending paper letters regarding trips, class activities, etc.

The school app, MyEd will be used to issue all correspondence. We advise all parents both Mums and Dads have access to the app.

If you have any issues, please contact Mrs Aldridge at the School Office.

Llandudno 2025

ParentPay is open for parents to make weekly or monthly instalments for the Y5 Llandudno trip. The total cost is £260 so if you have only paid the deposit that leaves a balance of £220. **Full payment is needed by Friday 14th March 2025.**

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.**

Church News

There is no service at Cronton this Sunday. There is morning prayer at 10.30 and JAM at 3pm, both at St Lukes. All welcome

30 Hour Nursery Provision

Parent in receipt of 30 hour Nursery Provision need to reconfirm their eligibility every three months. If your details have not changed you only need to tick a box on your childcare service account to confirm this. If you don't reconfirm you may lose your 30-hour childcare provision.

Car Park

We ask parents to refrain from using the Staff Car Park at all times. This is for Staff parking only.

We also ask that Parents **do not walk** across the car park at anytime.

Cross Country

On Monday afternoon, a team of dedicated runners took part in the Knowsley Cross Country race. The children were exceptional and showed how resilient they are on a tricky course. They all did amazingly well and we are so proud of them!



Lunch Time Leaders

This weeks Lunch-time leaders are:

Reception - Madison

Year 1 - Amelia

Year 2 — Penny

Year 3 - Inda

Year 4 - Isabelle

Year 5 - Noah

Year 6 - Jack

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.

PTFA

Thank you to all the parents/children who purchased Crepes/Pancakes this week afterschool. We hope you had a scrumptious Pancake Day.

We are in the process of planning our next event taking place around May, keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon.

Don't forget as a parent you are automatically part of the PTFA and we are always looking for help to organise and run the events we organise.

We will also be keeping our Friends of Cronton section on the School Website up to date and have a Facebook page available to follow: [Friends of Cronton CoE Primary](#)

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 10th - Book Fair 3:20pm - 4:15pm
- Tuesday 11th - Y3 B Tales - Parents welcome @ 2:45pm
- Book Fair 3:20pm - 4:15pm
- Monday 17th - St Patricks Day (Green Team)
- Wednesday 19th - Y5 Llandudno Meeting @ 3:30pm
- Friday 21st - Singing Show
- 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
- Wednesday 30th - Y5 Llandudno Residential

May 2025

- 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.

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	<p>Beau For great work finding percentages of amounts in maths this week.</p> <p>Tom For a fantastic response to our work around the Great Kapok Tree.</p> <p>Frankie For a fantastic attitude this work and leading by example on the football pitch.</p>
Year 5	<p>Nidew For always being enthusiastic in maths</p> <p>Cole For showing focus and working well in class</p> <p>Jude For having a good learning attitude and working well in class</p>
Year 4	<p>Max For showing advanced knowledge in Maths and applying yourself to every lesson.</p> <p>Ellis For bringing joy to our classroom with your interesting facts and knowledge.</p> <p>Violet For always being ready to learn and being a role model to others.</p>
Year 3	<p>Autumn For a huge improvement in handwriting and presentation. Keep it up!</p> <p>Jacob For being a responsive learner and always going 'above and beyond' in everything he does.</p> <p>James For showing a great understanding when exploring fractions on a number line.</p>
Year 2	<p>Brodie H For great stamina and resilience in our reading comprehension work.</p> <p>Genevieve For great stamina and resilience in our reading comprehension work.</p> <p>Penelope For a super re-telling of the Rainbow Bird - aboriginal dreamtime story</p>
Year 1	<p>Jamie For amazing arithmetic adding and subtracting work.</p> <p>Freya S For great effort with adding the suffix -ing to verbs.</p> <p>Alice For fantastic reading comprehension work and answering questions about different texts.</p>
Reception	<p>Otto For fantastic independent sentence writing.</p> <p>Oscar For super measuring and use of size vocabulary in maths.</p> <p>Una For putting 110% effort into all that you do!</p>

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.

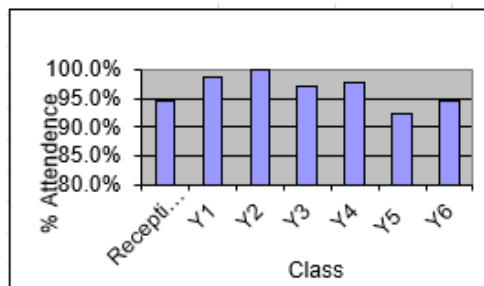
Any further absences will result in prosecution in the Magistrate Court for the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the first penalty was issued.

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 28.02.25 were: 1st place - Year 2 with 100%, 2nd place - Year 1 with 98.6, 3rd place - Year 4 with 97.9%.



As you can see from the graph above, the last week of terms school attendance was **95.9%**.

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 3 - Harley

Year 4 - Isaac

Yellow Belt Winners:

Year 3 - Harley

Year 4 - Ellis

Red Belt Winners:

Year 3 - Noah, Finley

Year 5 - Cole

Green Belt Winners:

Year 3 - Penelope, Amelia

Year 5 - Isla

Blue Belt Winners:

Year 3 - Bella

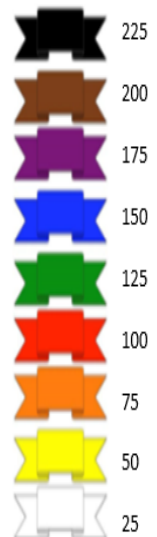
Year 4 - Robyn

Purple Belt Winners:

Year 3 - Kennedy, Dora

Year 4 - Luca, Erika

Year 5 - Jude, Sammy





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.

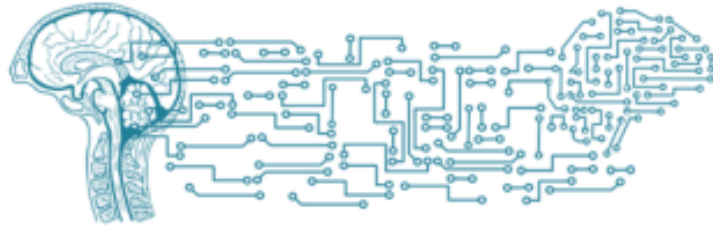
If your child is using a smartphone then please try to ensure they maintain a healthy screentime limit.

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/>



CAMPS 2025 INFORMATION

EASTER CAMPS

WEEK 1: 7th - 11th April (5 day week)

Alderley Edge School for Girls, SK9 7QE

Lancaster University Chaplaincy, LA1 4YW

St Pius X Catholic Prep School, Preston, PR2 8RD

DONT
FORGET TO
BRING YOUR
PACKED
LUNCH!

WEEK 2: 14th - 17th April (4 day week)

AKS Prep School, Lytham, FY8 1DT

The King's School, Chester, CH4 7QL

Eccleston Lane Ends School, Prescot, L34 2QN

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