



Christian Value - Our Christian Value this half term is Creativity

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. We now look forward to the start of a new calendar year.

It has certainly been a challenging week weather wise!! Thanks to the parents who helped with some of the snow shovelling - we appreciate your support to keep our school open.

We started off our New Year with a range of fantastic Science activities. We have been supported by many parents and students from Cronton College. If you have twitter you will have been able to follow all of the events. A huge thank you for all the support and also to Miss Roberts for organising all the activities.

We finished the week with a fabulous panto, which, judging by all the shouting and cheering, was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children. I would like to thank our Friends of Cronton CE for organising our treat.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Thomson
Headteacher

Special Lunch Day - Thursday 16th January

On Thursday 16th January we will be having the first of our Special Lunch Days. All the children are invited to join us for the Special Lunch for just £1 – even if they don't normally stay for School lunches. The menu that day will be Crispy Salt and Pepper shredded chicken with noodles/boiled rice. Vegetable spring rolls and prawn crackers or Soup + Sandwich

Please remember Reception, Year 1 & 2 children do not pay for school meals.

Spaces at Cronton CE Primary School

We currently have class spaces in our Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 classes if you know anyone who may be interested, please ask them to contact the School Office for more information.

School Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor & Wrap Around Support Worker/Teaching Assistant. If you would like more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.cronton.co.uk/vacancies>.

Multi-Skills Thursday 16th January

Multi-skills will be cancelled on Thursday 16th January for the Year 3 children as Mr Doyle will be attending a Dodgeball competition.

Little Bluebirds

We are still looking for donations of Board Games and other Games we could use in our Little Bluebirds. If you are having a sort out over the Christmas Holidays, we would be happy to take these off your hands.

Thanks

Reception 2025

Don't forget the window for applying for a Reception place for September 2025 closes on 15th January 2025. Don't miss out on applying for a place.

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!

January 2025

- Wednesday 15th - PTFA AGM Meeting @ 5pm
Tuesday 21st - Y5 B Tales - Parents welcome @ 2:30pm
- Y4 Swimming Starts (Tues - Fri)
Thursday 23rd - Y3 Theatre Trip @10am

February 2025

- Monday 3rd - Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 7th - Safer Internet Day
Monday 10th - Parents Evening (3:30 - 6:30pm)
Tuesday 11th - Parents Evening (3:30 - 6:30pm)
Wednesday 12th - Y2 Trip to The Blue Planet Aquarium
Friday 14th - Finish as normal for Half-term.

Lunch Time Leaders

This weeks Lunch-time leaders are:

Reception - Frederick

Year 1 - Connor

Year 2 - Brodie H

Year 3 - Jack T

Year 4 - Henry

Year 5 - Ethan

Year 6 - Joshua

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.

Uniform for all children Rec - Year 6

White polo shirt; **(No tie)**

Grey trousers / shorts / skirt / pinafore,

Royal blue cardigan / V Neck sweatshirt or V Neck Knitted jumper with or without the school logo,

Grey socks or grey tights

Black shoes **(no trainers please)**

Blue gingham dress (with white socks)

Black/Navy sandals are acceptable in warmer weather but please make sure that your child's feet are adequately supported.

Please note, trainers and white sandals / shoes are not part of the school uniform.

Coat - children should wear a sensible and weather appropriate coat - there is no specified colour.

PE Uniform

Indoor PE

White T-shirt

Royal blue shorts (Not black shorts)

Black pumps

No trainers

Outdoor PE

Royal blue sweatshirt or hoodie with or without the school logo. (Children can wear their school jumper or cardigan.)

Plain black or navy tracksuit bottoms

Black pump

No trainers please

Jewellery

From September there will be a no jewellery policy. Children will be allowed to wear a wrist watch only. This should not be a smart watch - it should not be able to record or link to the internet.

If your child has their ears pierced, their earrings should be removed before school each day. This is for the safety of all children. If you are considering having your child's ears pierced, it would be beneficial to have this done at the start of the 6 weeks holidays in July. This will allow a full six weeks for them to heal and settle before the return to school in September.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Could you be eligible for free school meals and extra support in the Christmas, 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 -

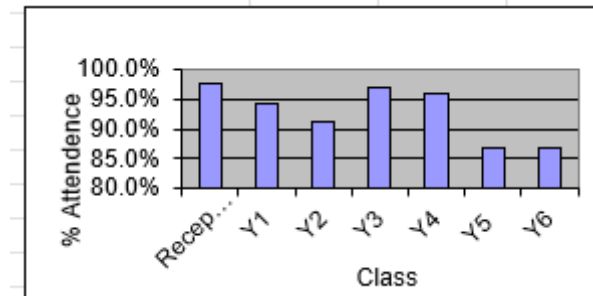


Well done to all our children who have worked and tried very hard this week.

CLASS	Winners and Reasons
Year 6	Sienna For excellent DT skills - very accurate cutting and measuring. Jude For showing a great attitude all week - you have worked so hard!
Year 5	Noah For working hard on his handwriting and presentation this week Harrison For a good working attitude this week
Year 4	Maximos For excellent knowledge and curiosity during Science Week. Larissa For showing perseverance when completing tasks. Harry For always wanting to help others and being a supportive friend.
Year 3	Beau For a wonderful attitude and trying very hard with her presentation. Finley W For fantastic handwriting and presentation. Dora For a huge improvement with her handwriting and presentation.
Year 2	Paul For being a fantastic kind, thoughtful member of Year Two. Max For having a fantastic first week back and really working hard. Ralphie For being a fantastic phonics work and motivating his partner to read.
Year 1	Vinnie For a great effort with his handwriting and presentation. Amelia N For being a respectful learner and having a positive attitude towards learning. Leon For trying hard in phonics lessons.
Reception	All of Reception For Such a fantastic start to the year.

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 16.12.2024 were: 1st place - **Year 3** with **100%**, 2nd place - **Reception** with **97.7%**, 3rd place - **Year 4** with **95.9%**.



As you can see from the graph above, last weeks school attendance (excluding Nursery) was **92.7%**.

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.

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>

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:

Yellow Belt Winners:

Year 3 Noah, Jacob

Year 4 Lucas, Aimee

Year 5 Ellie-Rae, Ethan, Isabella, Evelyn, Luca

Orange Belt Winners:

Year 2 James, Rosie, Elodie, Penelope, Hugh

Year 3 Anais, Autumn, Ethan, Amelia, Sia

Year 4 Gabriella, Phoebe

Year 5 Isla B, Ava, Dollie

Red Belt Winners:

Year 1 Ayana

Year 2 Arthur, Eleanor

Year 3 Penelope, Kennedy, Dora, Bella

Year 4 Robyn, Finley

Year 5 Chloe, Sammy, Jude M

Year 6 Oscar, Darcey, Henry

Green Belt Winners:

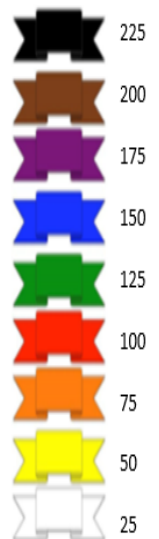
Year 1 Parker, Freya S

Year 2 Eliza, Jessica

Year 3 Dora

Year 4 Erika, Luca, Ralph

Year 5 Sammy





Social Media Influencers

What is an Influencer?

An influencer is somebody on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account.

What should I be concerned about?

Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share content that is for example, misogynistic, racist or misleading. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact, so it is important to talk to your child and encourage them to fact check and critically analyse what they see and hear online.

What we see on social media

What we see is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, creating an echo chamber and therefore we do not see a balanced picture. Find out more here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>

What can I do to help my child?

Talk to your child about social media and who they follow. If there is anybody that you are unsure of, then check their feed and discuss with your child if you find anything worrying.

Further information

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/social->

Fortnite Battle Royale



Fortnite Battle Royale is rated PEGI 12 due to moderate violence, meaning it is not suitable for children under the age of 12.

What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including Fortnite Battle Royale, which is free to play (although it contains in-app purchases). In Battle Royale, up to one hundred players compete against each other until one winner remains.

What do I need to be aware of?

- **Chatting and inappropriate language:** Fortnite includes voice and text chat, which may mean your child encounters strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report/block any players that make them feel uncomfortable.
- **In app purchases:** Players can purchase V-Bucks so make sure you restrict purchases and do not store your card details.

Parental Controls

Fortnite provides several parental controls in your child's Epic account to help you create a safer environment for your child. The controls allow you to:

- disable voice chat
- filter language
- manage which experiences your child can access based on their age
- set a PIN to add friends
- set a PIN for purchases
- set time limits
- set appropriate privacy settings.

Also, remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on.

Reporting/Blocking Features

As always, ensure your child knows how to use the reporting and blocking features and that they know they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

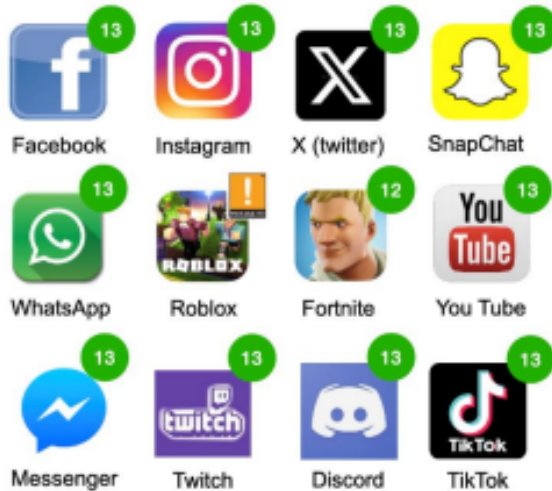
Further information

You can find out more here:

- <https://safety.epicgames.com/en-US/parental-controls>
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite>

Get to know age ratings

Age ratings exist to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing.



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online or using social media – make sure you check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI (Pan European Game Information) provide further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence or bad language.

What else should I review?

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls. For example, does it include the ability to communicate with others and are in game/app purchases available?

What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child and how they protect them.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

You can find out more here:

<https://eegamesmart.co.uk/articles/how-age-ratings-help-families/>

Smartphone Free Childhood



Smartphone Free Childhood is a parent-led movement whose mission is to protect children from the dangers of using smartphones too young.

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age. Are you ready to join? Find out more here:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

Digital differences between men and women revealed

Ofcom have released their annual report into our daily habits. The findings show that women and teenage girls are more worried about online harms. You can read the full report here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/online-habits/digital-differences-between-men-and-women-revealed/>

X (Twitter) Checklist

You should be at least 13 years of age to have a Twitter account. The SWGfL have created a free Privacy and Security checklist for you to download. The resource is available here:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/introducing-the-x-checklist-keeping-your-profile-under-control/>

Parents of pre school children
It's time to apply for a school reception class place
September 2025 Intake

Knowsley residents - Apply online by visiting www.knowsley.gov.uk

CLOSING DATE 15TH JANUARY 2025

- If your child's date of birth falls on or between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, now is the time to apply for a reception class place in school for September 2025.
- There is no automatic transfer from nursery – everyone must apply between 12 September 2024 and 15 January 2025 by completing the application form of the Local Authority in which you live.
- Knowsley residents should apply by accessing the online application portal via the Knowsley website www.knowsley.gov.uk.
- It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure they have read the admission policy of each school they are considering applying for and provided all the information required to support their application – this may include completing a supplementary information form with some individual schools where requested.
- For full information about the application and allocation process and admission policies for individual schools, visit the school admission pages at www.knowsley.gov.uk and access the 'Knowsley Primary Admission Composite Prospectus'.

For further advice, contact Knowsley School Admissions Team

Email: schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk

Tel: (0151) 443 5143 / 5142 / 3372



Knowsley Council