



Christian Value - Our Christian Value this half term is Friendship

Dear Parents,

School has been buzzing with the excitement of Christmas this week and I have been very impressed and extremely proud of our children taking part in the various Christmas productions and events.

Our Infant Nativity last Sunday was magnificent - the children gave a wonderful performance and I know from the many positive comments how much Parents enjoyed it. Well done to our Year 1 and Year 2 children.

Well done to our Nursery and Reception children who took part in their EYFS Carol Concerts on Wednesday - its always a very special service and all the children performed beautifully.

I am so proud of our wonderful school choir, they joined with Holy Family School to form the choir at the Ecumenical Service on Wednesday evening. Well done to them and our Year 6 children who helped to lead the service - a truly wonderful community event. Congratulations to Darcie who was the VIP and switched on the lights!

Finally - a big thank you to Paula and her team for our delicious Christmas Lunch yesterday, a favourite with both children and staff alike.

Next week we look forward to the Christmas parties!

Please don't forget to look out for your child's Autumn Term interim report which will be sent home on the last day of term. I hope you find the information useful and informative.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Thomson
Headteacher

School Calendars.

With the help from one of our parents, Mr Beresford, we have managed to create a school calendar for next year.

These will be sold at the School Office at the Price of £2.00 for this year.

Please bring the correct change if you wish to purchase a calendar.

Afterschool Clubs

Multi-skills, Friday Football and Tuesday Choir have now all finished until we return in January 2025.

Multi-Skills will resume the first week we return on the 6th January.

Choir will resume from Tuesday 7th January.

Ju-Jitsu will resume Monday 6th January - Payment via ParentPay to book your place

Football will resume Friday 10th January - this will be added to ParentPay once we return to school.

Bluebirds Afterschool Club

On Wednesday 18th December Afterschool Club will be having a Movie Night watching The Grinch (Animated Film).

On Thursday 19th December will be Afterschool Clubs Christmas Party night.

Also, If you are having a Christmas clear out and have any Board Games you no longer want, we would be happy to take these off your hands for our Bluebirds Wraparound Club.

Uniform

Can we remind parents, Nail varnish or false nails of any kind are not part of our School Uniform and children should not be wearing anything on their nails.

If your child has been advised to wear a coating on their nails for medical reasons please speak to your child's class so that we are informed.

Stamp Collection - RNIB

As we are coming up to one of the busiest times for post, please don't throw away any envelopes with stamps on. We are collecting used / new/ foreign postage stamps for the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB), who can turn them into funds to support blind and partially sighted people.

Blindness can strike anyone at any age and for lots of reasons, including Glaucoma.

So many stamps sadly end up in the rubbish heap, but we can collect them and help those with sight loss.

Once we have collected 1 kilogramme, we will send them to the RNIB, who receive £20 for every kilogramme.

Please carefully cut the stamp off the envelope leaving a 1cm gap around the stamp and send them into the school office. Please do not send any large gold Post Office labels or pre-printed marks as these have no value for the RNIB.

Missing Coat

A child is missing a Navy coat from George age 4-5 years. If anyone comes across this, please hand in to the School Office.

Uniform for all children Rec - Year 6 from September 2024

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.

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 - Jamie, Amelia N

Year 3 - Inda

Year 6 - Jessica

Yellow Belt Winners:

Year 1 - Emily, Amelia S, Connor

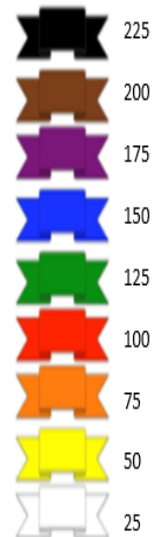
Year 4 - Ruby

Year 6 - Addison, Joshua, Thomas, Jake

Orange Belt Winners:

Year 1 - Vinnie, Charlotte

Year 4 - Finley, Eibhleann



Church News

There is no service at Cronton this Sunday. There is a 10.30 service at St Lukes Church... ALL WELCOME.

Next Sunday will be a service of HOLY COMMUNION at Cronton at 10.30.

Also - CHRISTINGLE SERVICE at St Lukes on CHRISTMAS EVE at 3pm and 5 pm. Booking not required. Bring your Christingle. Candles supplied.

Non Uniform Days

We are planning to hold non uniform dates as detailed below.

16/12/24 - Nursery Christmas Party. The Nursery children come into school ready in their party clothes.

17/12/24 - Reception, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Party. The Rec / Y1 / Y2 children come into school ready in their party clothes.

18/12/24 - KS2 Christmas Party. The KS2 children come into school ready in their party clothes.

19/12/24 - Whole School Disco. The children come into school ready in their party clothes.



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	Darcey - Leading so well in the Ecumenical service. Maya - Leading so well in the Ecumenical service. Ava-Mae - Leading so well in the Ecumenical service.
Year 5	Jude M - For having an excellent learning attitude and focus in lessons Isla T - For working hard on her cliffhanger story. Finlay - For excellent Spanish work. Well done Harry - For working really hard on his maths work all week. Isabella - For working hard all term . Well done.
Year 4	Whole Class - For all writing amazing outsider narratives using correct structure and language features!
Year 3	Ethan - For an outstanding description about Fox. Bella - For trying hard with her handwriting and presentation. Elliot - For a fantastic effort when learning his times tables.
Year 2	Whole Class - For an amazing Nativity performance and great singing in our music concert.
Year 1	Arabella - For writing fantastic sentences independently in English. Rae - For writing a great lost toy poster in English. Ayana - For trying hard with her handwriting and presentation when writing her story in English.
Reception	Whole Class - For a fantastic Christmas Concert!

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.

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!

December

- Monday 16th - Nursery Christmas Party (PM)
- Tuesday 17th - Rec + KS1 Christmas Party (PM)
- Wednesday 18th - KS2 Christmas Party (PM)
- Thursday 19th - Talent Show
- School Disco (PM) More details to follow.
- Friday 20th - Breakfast with Santa
- **Finish for Christmas @ 2pm - NO Bluebirds Afterschool Club**

Lunch Time Leaders

This weeks Lunch-time leaders are:

Reception - Addison

Year 1 - Charlotte

Year 2 - James

Year 3 - Ruben

Year 4 - Luca

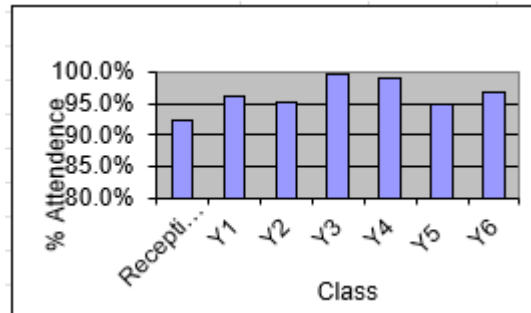
Year 5 - Dollie

Year 6 - Anayai

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.

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 02.12.2024 were: 1st place - **Year 3** with **99.6%**, 2nd place - **Year 4** with **99%**, 3rd place - **Year 6** with **96.8%**.



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

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>



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Dear parent/carers,



I am very excited to announce that Cronton CE Primary School is taking part in the Knowsley Healthy School Awards.



The Healthy School Awards provides a whole school approach which will enable pupils to access nutritious food to fuel learning and promote opportunities for children to be physically active throughout the school day. All children and young people have the right to be healthy. Over recent years this has become increasingly challenging for Knowsley children and families due to a range of factors. We recognise that school is an important place for children to eat healthily, be active to develop healthy habits for life.



As we work towards the award, I would like to draw your attention to just some of the exciting and positive changes that will be made to achieve the Healthy Schools bronze level, and request parents support and involvement throughout.



Healthier school menus- To support healthy children and healthy teeth our menu will offer milk and water only and provide fruit and yoghurt as dessert three days per week.



Healthy packed lunches- On going support/advice for healthy packed lunches, with potential provision of a healthy swap station.



Staff training- Staff will take part in training that will support them to have health promoting conversations with children and parents and increase knowledge of local services to signpost families.

Healthy school events- We will be working towards providing healthier options at our schools PTA events, fairs/galas.

Healthy School Champions- Our team of chosen staff and pupils will help drive these exciting changes and support our school in being as healthy as possible!



Thank you for your support. Both the pupils and staff will be working hard to ensure that school continues to have a healthy focus and help us to achieve our Healthy Schools status.

Kind regards

S. Thomson



Mrs S Thomson
Headteacher



Online Safety Newsletter

Dec 2024

Talkie AI App

This app is rated as 17+ by the App store and 12+ by Google Play.

Talkie is an AI chatbot app. Users can use the app to create and interact with AI characters.

You should also be aware that this app includes in app purchases ranging from £4.99 - £49.99.

Talkie does offer a Teenager Mode; however, the content still may not be appropriate for your child. Bark reviews this app here, and recommend that your child **should not be using this app**:

<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/talkie-app-review>

Tips to help you talk about cyberbullying

Internet Matters have collated their tips to help you talk about cyberbullying with your child based on different age categories. The information is divided into four sections:

1. Before you start the conversation
2. Things to talk to them about such as how to deal with cyberbullying
3. What to do next
4. Where to get further help

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/cyberbullying/cyberbullying-conversation-starter-guide>

New Technology

With Christmas nearly here and with some children receiving new technology or related games, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.

Games/Consoles

- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games.
- Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.
- If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child.
- On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits and managing who they can communicate with. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for some devices here:

Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

PSS: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Nintendo Switch: <https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>



Tablets/Smart phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android Device: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Why is it important?

Parental controls are important to help provide a safer experience for your child by reducing/preventing access to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, communication with strangers and restricting purchases.

Further information

You can find out more about parental controls here: <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/parental-controls/>

Roblox

You may have seen the recent investigation about Roblox by Hindenburg, which highlights very worrying concerns about the content that can be seen on Roblox, even when users have listed their age as under 13. You can read the full report here: <https://hindenburgenresearch.com/roblox/>

What is Roblox?

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls.

PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is difficult to rate due to the huge level of user generated content.

What should I be aware of?

Game content – as mentioned, users create games so the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child.

Chat Facility - Players can chat to each other. You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories.

Age Categories

This article discusses the difference in accounts based on age (under age 13 and aged 13 – 17):

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428367965460-What-happens-as-I-get-older-on-Roblox>

Roblox accounts with Parental privileges - NEW

Roblox have just launched a new system to manage your child's experience on Roblox through 'Roblox accounts with parent privileges.' The new format allows you to view and update parental controls from your own device. Controls include setting content restrictions, managing screen time and setting a spending limit. You can find out more here:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428248050068-Parental-Controls-FAQ>

Content Labels - NEW

Roblox have begun labeling experiences based on the type of content rather than by age. You can set limits on which content labels are accessible in parental controls. The labels are Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted. You can find descriptions of each here:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

How do I report abuse and block users?

This article outlines the different reporting facilities:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410-How-to-Report-Rule-Violations>

What else can I do?

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.

Positively online

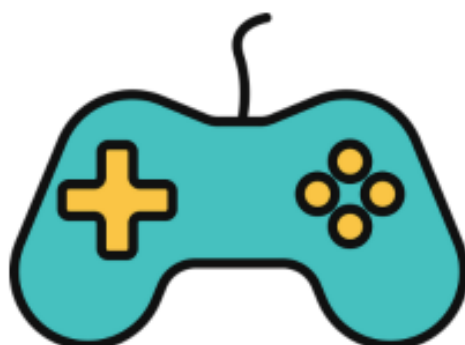
The NSPCC have published six tips to help you improve your family's online wellbeing. They also provide you with a guide on how to talk to your child about what they are doing online as well as a quiz that you can play together. You can find our more here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/>

The 'Add Everyone' Explicit WhatsApp Group

The INEQE Safeguarding group have issued an alert regarding a WhatsApp group known as 'Add Everyone.' Find out more here:

<https://ineqe.com/2024/10/31/safeguarding-alert-add-everyone-whatsapp-group/>



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