



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

**Dear Parents,**

It has been another busy week in school and our children have definitely settled very well into this new school year.

Thank you to our cook Paula and her team for the first of our Special Lunch days of this academic year - the children really enjoyed their lunch and we appreciate the hard work of all our staff who work in the kitchen. Thank you. .

Detailed at the end of the Newsletter are the 2025/2026 School Holidays which have now been approved by our Governors. These have also been updated on the School website. <https://cronton-church-of-england-primary-academy.secure-primariesite.net/school-dates-1/>.

Finally - a huge congratulations to Miss Roberts who became a Nana again this week. We send congratulations to all Miss Roberts family.

Have a good weekend,

**Mrs Thomson**

**Headteacher**

**Building Work WC 21st October**

We will be having some building work taking place week commencing 21st October at the front of school so there will be a few changes for this week regarding pick up.

To drop off / pick up at Nursery in the morning and afterschool, please walk around the school and enter through the back as the shutters will be down for the week.

Nursery lunch time pick up and drop off, this will be at the School Office .

Year 1 pick up will be from the Cloakroom door opposite the Nursery Door.

Year 2 pick up will be from the back door of school (were the children enter of a morning).

All other classes will remain as they are.

**Parent's Evenings**

We are planning our Parent's Evenings for Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd October for all classes. The evenings will run from 3:30pm with the last appointment being at 6:20pm

Appointments will be for 10 minutes each and are on a first-come-first-served basis.

We ask where possible parents attend these meetings without your child.

At present we are having issues setting up via the school app and hope to have this rectified by early next week.

Alternatively, we will revert back to the paper booking slips for this term as a last case scenario.

### Multi - Skills

Multi-Skills will be cancelled from Wednesday 9th October - Wednesday 16th October

### Nursery - January 2025

Please share with friends and family if you know of anyone looking for a Nursery place in January 2025.

We still have full-time positions within our 'Outstanding' Nursery and we also offer Full time wraparound care from 7:45am—5:45pm.

### Free School Meals

Parents may find they are eligible to claim for Free School Meals for their child / children, even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or 2 and entitled to Infant Free School Meals.

Did you know that school earns extra funding for each child on Free School Meals?

So, if you are entitled to Free School Meals, even if you don't want to take up the offer, please still make the claim as school and your child would benefit from it.

Claims should be made to your home local authority.

### Reception and Secondary School Admissions

#### September 2025

The application period for 2025 entry to Reception Class in Primary Schools and Year 7 of Secondary Schools is now open.

To apply for a place for your child, Parents / Carers must complete the application form from the council in which the child lives regardless of which school they wish to apply to.

All applications are now made on-line.

For Knowsley residents at [www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

For Halton residents at [www.halton.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.halton.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

· **Knowsley Residents** - If you live in the borough of Knowsley you must only complete a Knowsley application form. You must apply online at [www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/schooladmissions). Parents need to list the schools they wish to be considered for in order of preference.

· **Halton & other Borough Residents** - If you live in Halton or any other Borough you must apply online to your home Borough Council website. For Halton residents this is [www.halton.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.halton.gov.uk/schooladmissions). Parents need to list the schools they wish to be considered for in order of preference. If you wish to apply for your child to be considered for a place in our school please name our school in your list of preferences.

**Secondary Admission** - The closing date for applications is **Thursday 31st October 2024**.

**Reception Admission** - The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 15th January 2025**

## 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!

### October

- Sunday 6th - Reception Welcome Service ( + Year 5)
- Thursday 10th - World Mental Health Day
- Tuesday 15th - Y5 Swimming Begins (Tuesday - Friday)
- Monday 21st - Parents Evening 3:30 - 6:30pm
- Tuesday 22nd - Y6 B Tales
- Parents Evening 3:45 - 6:30pm
- Y5 2nd week of Swimming (Tuesday - Friday)
- Wednesday 23rd - Y3 trip to Tatton Park
- Friday 25th - Y6 Trip to Imperial War Museum
- CAFE Worship @ 2:30pm
- **Finish for Half-term at normal time.**

### November

- Monday 4th - Back to school
- Individual School Photo day
- Flu Vaccinations
- Wednesday 6th - Year 6 SATS meeting @ 5pm
- Sunday 10th - Remembrance Sunday
- Monday 11th - Anti-bullying week
- Tuesday 12th - Odd Sock Day
- Wednesday 13th - Open Evening 5 - 7pm
- Y1 Trip to Liverpool Museum
- Tuesday 26th - Y4 B Tales
- Friday 29th - St Andrews Day (Blue Team)

### December

- Sunday 8th - KS1 Nativity (Y1 + Y2)
- Wednesday 11th - EYFS Christmas Production
- Thursday 12th - Christingle ( Reception + Y5)
- 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**

## Church News

This Sunday at Cronton Mission we welcome our Reception children, supported by their Y5 gardeners, at our service starting at 10.30am. This is a very special event for both school and church each year.

Next Sunday is a service of Morning prayer at Cronton starting at 10.30.

All welcome.

## Lunch Time Leaders

This weeks Lunch-time leaders are:

Reception - Kerenza

Year 1 - Vincent

Year 2 - Magnus

Year 3 - Amellia

Year 4 - Issac

Year 5 - Harrison

Year 6 - Maya

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.

## 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** - Luca, Alba, Rosabella, Parker, Freya

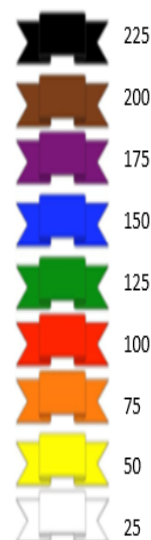
**Year 2** - Penny, Eleanor, Imogen, Eliza, Magnus

**Year 3** - Bella, Kennedy, Anais, Dora

**Year 4** - Finley, Robyn, Ralph, Luca

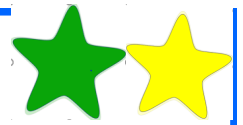
**Year 5** - Sammy, Jude

**Year 6** - Harper, Ava-Mae, Freddie, Oscar, Henry





## Our Celebration Winners Today -

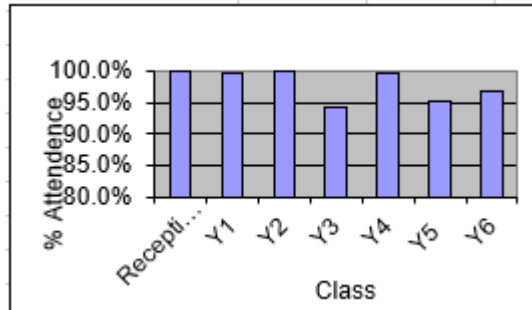


Well done to all our children who have worked and tried very hard this week.

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>Winners and Reasons</b>	
Year 6	<b>Evan</b> <b>Oscar</b> <b>Nathan</b>	For a fantastic independent write For a fantastic independent write For showing a love of reading and inspiring others (one whole book in one night!!)
Year 5	<b>Finlay</b> <b>Nidew</b> <b>Harrison</b>	For working hard on his writing and super sentence work. For really pushing himself in maths and completing the challenges well. For always having a 'can do' attitude and trying his 'best'.
Year 4	<b>Eibhleann</b> <b>Robyn</b> <b>Jess</b>	For being a responsible and independent learner. For always giving 100% and being an enthusiastic learner. For excellent drawing skills when learning about Picasso in Art.
Year 3	<b>Beau</b> <b>Jack T</b> <b>Violet</b>	For always being a wonderful role model to out class and going the extra distance to help adults and her peers For a fantastic learning attitude and always trying his best. For exceptional Mathematical work when looking at addition.
Year 2	<b>Arthur</b> <b>Imogen</b> <b>Penelope</b> <b>Esme</b>	For his amazing calculation skills and great 2 times tables. For always giving her best in every lesson, every day and being a great role model. For always giving her best in every lesson, every day and being a great role model. For a super start to her story using noun phrases and great punctuation.
Year 1	<b>Emilia</b> <b>Alba</b> <b>Lottie</b>	For working hard on her handwriting and presentation in her books. For being a kind friend and helping other children in class. For working independently to re-read her writing and make edits.
Reception	<b>Oscar</b> <b>Jenson</b> <b>Dave</b>	For fantastic writing in phonics and literacy. For fantastic focus during learning time. For always being kind and helpful to others.

## 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 27/09/2024 were: 1st place - **Reception + Year 2** with **100%**, 2nd place - **Year 1 + Year 4** with **99.7%**, 3rd place - **Year 6** with **97.7%**.



As you can see from the graph above, last weeks school attendance (excluding Nursery) was **98.1%**.

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>

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**  
**2025 - 2026**

**AUTUMN TERM 2025**

Open: Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 8:50am  
Close: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 3:15/20pm/30pm 39 Days

**HALF TERM**

Open: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 at 8:50am  
Close: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 2:00pm 35 Days

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

**SPRING TERM 2026**

Open: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 8:50am  
Close: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 3:15/20pm/30pm 30 Days

**HALF TERM**

Open: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 8:50am  
Close: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 3:15/20pm/30pm 25 days

**SPRING HOLIDAY**

**SUMMER TERM 2026**

Open: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 8:50am  
Close: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 at 3:15/20pm/30pm 29 Days

**(May Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026)**

**WHIT HOLIDAY**

Open: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 8:50am  
Close: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026 at 2:00pm 32 Days

**Total: 190 Days**



Parents of year 6 Children  
**It's time to apply for a secondary school place (year 7)  
September 2024 Intake**

Knowsley residents – Apply online by visiting [www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)

**CLOSING DATE 31ST OCTOBER 2023**

- If your child is currently in year 6 of primary school or their date of birth falls on or between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013, now is the time to apply for a year 7 secondary school place for September 2024.
- There is no automatic transfer – everyone must apply between 12 September 2023 and 31 October 2023 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](http://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](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk) and access the 'Knowsley, Secondary Admission Composite Prospectus'.

For further advice, contact Knowsley School Admissions Team

**Email: [schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@knowsley.gov.uk)**

**Tel: (0151) 443 5142 / 5143 / 3372**



Parents of pre school children  
**It's time to apply for a school reception class place  
September 2024 Intake**

Knowsley residents - Apply online by visiting [www.knowsley.gov.uk](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk)

**CLOSING DATE 15TH JANUARY 2024**

- If your child's date of birth falls on or between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, now is the time to apply for a reception class place in school for September 2024.
- There is no automatic transfer from nursery – everyone must apply between 12 September 2023 and 15 January 2024 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](http://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](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk) and access the 'Knowsley Primary Admission Composite Prospectus'.

For further advice, contact Knowsley School Admissions Team

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## iOS 18 Launch

Apple have recently released their latest operating system, iOS 18. iOS 18 offers lots of new features (some are restricted to newer phones) but one feature that you should be aware of is the ability to now lock and hide apps.

When an app is locked, Face ID, Touch ID or your passcode will be required to open it. This also means that notifications will no longer be shown for that app. Additionally, apps can now be hidden so they can only be accessed through a hidden apps folder that is also locked. This new feature illustrates the need to have regular chats with your child about what they are using their phone for.

## Vault (secret) Apps

Have you heard of Vault Apps? They are basically secret apps that are concealed by looking like a normal, less conspicuous app. For example, one of these apps looks and works like a working calculator when opened, but when a passcode is entered, it reveals photographs, videos, documents and contacts. One way to prevent your child from using these apps is to ensure parental controls are set up so you can review all app purchases. You can find out more here:

- <https://www.bark.us/blog/find-hidden-apps/>
- <https://www.safes.so/blogs/vault-apps/>

## Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams



### What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

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

### EE launches Age Guidance

EE has launched age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up.

You can read the full guidance here:

<https://newsroom.ee.co.uk/ee-launches-age-guidance-for-smartphone-usage-in-drive-to-improve-childrens-digital-wellbeing/>

### Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

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:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

### What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then Which? provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>

## Instagram: new Teen account features

### You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account.

Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls and send disappearing messages. Users can also upload to 'Stories' (which disappear after 24 hours), broadcast live and upload reels (short videos).



### Teen accounts – NEW feature

Instagram have introduced Teen Accounts to try and create a safer experience for them. With a Teen Account, who they can contact is limited and the content they access will be set to the most restrictive setting to reduce exposure to sensitive content. If a teen would like to override any of these settings, then they will need their parent's permission by setting up parental supervision. These changes will be in place for all new users straightaway so any users that sign up that are under 16 will automatically be given a Teen Account. Existing users will be moved over to Teen Accounts over the next couple of months (in the UK).

### Supervision settings – new features

Instagram already offers a supervision facility, but they have added to the features to include:

- The ability to see who your child has messaged in the past week (you will not be able to see the contents of these messages)
- The option to block your child from accessing Instagram at certain times e.g. during school or at night.
- The ability to see what topics your child has chosen to see.

Read the press release from Instagram, which outlines all the upcoming changes: <https://about.fb.com/news/2024/09/instagram-teen-accounts/>

### You may not be seeing everything!

Did you know that you can hide your stories and live videos from specific people so your child could be uploading content but restricting your account from viewing it?

### Safety Features

Ensure your child knows how to report posts and people, how to unfollow and block people, delete and turn off comments. View here: <https://help.instagram.com/269765046710559>

Make sure your child understands that there is a risk that content they upload can be shared with others without their permission as other users can screenshot it.

### More information

- Visit the family centre to learn more about the features available: <https://familycenter.meta.com/uk/>

## Learn Through Play with Sesame Street

The Sesame Street website has a whole host of resources, activities, and games from supporting with learning ABCs to discussing tough topics such as grief.

<https://sesameworkshop.org/>

## Expert Approved Apps for Learning at Home

On the Google Play Store, you can find a list of expert approved Apps for learning at home suitable for children up to the age of 12.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/category/FAMILY>

## Be aware of what you share

Get Safe Online have produced a set of tips to help you avoid oversharing and outlines what the consequences might be if you do:

<https://www.getsafeonline.org/whatdoyoushare/>

## Staying safe online with Google Families

Google have a one stop resource to help you and your family stay safe online. It includes how to set up parental controls and important steps on how to keep your children safe online. You can find out more here:

<https://families.google/>