



Newsletter

March 2024

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'Belong

Believe

Achieve'

Easter Activities

The Easter HAF programme starts on the 2nd April and there are lots of great activities happening over the school holidays. Children from reception to age 16, who are eligible for benefits related free school meals, will be able to access hundreds of activities throughout the Easter holidays including specific provision available for children with SEND or additional needs, at no cost.

There's a great range of activities across the city including Easter Egg hunts, Easter parties, bubble football, nerf wars, mindfulness, swimming, football, music, dance, cycling, gymnastics, theatre tech, cooking, discos, podcasting, arts and crafts, drama, basketball, trips out and nature walks! A meal will be provided for every child attending.

From Monday 11th March you can find out where your nearest scheme by clicking on this link <https://merseyplay.com/easter-haf-holiday-activities-food/> or go to <https://www.merseyplay.com> and click on the Easter HAF activities link.



What's happening?

March

- 12th Easter Show pm
- 12th Parents' Open Evening
- 13th Parents' Open Evening
- 28th EYFS Stay and Play
- 28th School closes for Easter

April

- 15th School opens for all pupils
- 26th PTA Meeting
- 30th Class Photograph Day

May

- 6th Bank Holiday
- 13th SATs Week for Y6
- 23rd School closes for all pupils
- 23rd Governors' Meeting
- 24th INSET

June

- 4th Schools opens for all pupils.
- 10th Phonics Check week for Y1 pupils

New Headteacher

The rigorous process for appointing the new Headteacher is now complete and I am able to inform you that Mrs Clare Parkinson has been appointed to be the new Headteacher from September 2024.

I am sure that she will have the opportunity to meet staff and pupils before the end of this academic year and get to know our Wavertree family over the coming weeks.

Congratulations!

Stay and Play

9am - 10.30am

Thursday 28th March

Parents of EYFS children can 'Stay and Play' at the end of the term. The theme will be Pirates.

Red Nose Day

The children enjoyed Red Nose Day on Friday 15th March. The Pupil Leadership Team planned a 'Splat the Volunteer' and red noses were available throughout the week.

A total of £236 was raised on the day.

Thank you for your generous contributions.



Measles

There has been a significant rise in the number of cases of measles nationally. I have attached a link to help you know what measles looks like.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

We have not had any cases of measles in school. However, if you suspect your child has measles, you must contact school immediately as it is highly contagious infection.

Two doses of the MMR vaccination prevent measles from becoming a serious infection. There is no upper age limit on receiving this vaccination. Please contact your GP if you wish to discuss this further.



Easter Service

We had an amazing time sharing our Easter Service with the school community this afternoon. The children shared the Easter story with us with such confidence. Catchy songs with two parts and solos were thrilling to listen to. Father Robert felt it was the best that he had attended in 30 years!

We do hope that you will remember the story of Easter as school finishes.

The PTA have provided every child with an Egg to take home at the end of tomorrow.



Toddler Group

Tuesdays

9am - 10.15am

Term Time

When you have dropped off your school aged children please take your little ones to the hall for an hour or so and enjoy some time with other parents whilst your children play.

Refreshments are available for both adults and children.



Extended Provision

Breakfast Club



Breakfast Club opens at 8.00am each day. Your children can choose a healthy breakfast and will be supervised until the start of the school day. A range of activities are available to keep the children entertained. The cost of this provision is £2.00 per day.



After School Club

After School Club provision is available via Kidz Place on Wavertree High Street.



It is wonderful to have Miss Burns back in school following her maternity leave. She has re-joined the team in our Early Years classroom!

Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet with the teachers to discuss your child's progress this month. If you missed this opportunity and would like to arrange a meeting, please speak directly to your child's teacher who will arrange a time to meet with you.



Attendance and Punctuality February 2024

Class	Attendance	Punctuality
EYFS	86.7	97.1
Class 1	89.9	95.1
Class 2	90.8	95.3
Class 3	92.8	94.7
Class 4	92.4	94.3
Class 5	93.3	96.5
Class 6	89.9	95.5
School Average	90.7	95.5

Our current attendance is 91.5%. This is lowest it has been for over seven years! Thank you to those parents who support good attendance. Please ensure that your child attends school unless they are genuinely too poorly to attend. Many minor ailments can be managed with paracetamol and do not require children to stay off school.

The following children have achieved 100% for the Spring Term:

Aleena Baten, Daisy-Mae Bennett, Mason Cain, Annabelle Cassidy, Arsima Habte, Amelia Helsby, Lana Helsby, George Howard, Ava Major-Gayter, Layla Marshall, Levi McMaster, Libby Mercer, Fekir Mesfun, Esmee Moug, Jayden Myles Mensah, Thuwaraka Navaneethan, Josephine Owusu, Omika Rajaguru Mudiyansele, Yasmin Rakham, Mikey Rimmer, Emelia Thompson, Mellaher Yowhanes, Marta Yowhans, Jade Yusuff. **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

These children have just missed 100%:

Logan Bennett, Mireya Cavanagh, Noah Cooper, Eliana McCreddie, Carter Wilcock.

There is a national DfE campaign '**Moments Matter, Attendance Counts**'. Its primary goal is to improve school attendance and reduce persistent absence.

Thank you to those parents who are following our absence procedures. Where attendance is an early concern I will write to parents and offer support where possible. As concerns grow, the Education Welfare Officer will be asked to investigate further and implement actions as necessary.



Book Review

Suitable for children aged 10- 11.

See that tall, skinny kid with the ball in his hand sayin see ya later to his mate?

*That's me: Nathan Wilder, Nate. 10 years old
and a week away from the end of Year 5.*



Life can be tough in your last year of primary school. Tests to take, preparing for the change to high school. Nate is ready for it all, knowing his best friend PS is at his side - they've been inseparable since Nursery.

But when they are put in two different classes and PS finds a new friend in Turner, the school bully, Nate's world turns upside-down. As he struggles to make sense of this and forge new friendships, he's dealt another blow when his youngest brother, Dylan is rushed into hospital.

His new teacher, Mr Joshua, sees a spark inside of Nate that's lit by his love of reading and writing and shows him how to use this to process what's going on. But with so much working against him, and anger rising inside him, will this be enough?

A powerful and lyrical story about finding your place in the world and the people that matter within it.

CLUBS FOR THIS HALF TERM

Day	Club	Who can go?	Time	Staff Responsible
Monday	School Council	School Council	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Mrs Brooksbank
	Circuits Sports Club	Y3- Y6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Mrs Hoare
	Sporting Competitions	Invitation	3.30pm - 4.30pm	Mr Holland
Tuesday	Multi-Sports Club	Y1/2	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Mr Woods
	Homework Club	Y6	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Miss Vaughan
	Games Club	Y2	3.15pm - 4.00pm	Mrs Midgley
Friday	Mindfulness Club	Various	1pm - 1.30pm	Mrs Humes

Please ensure that your child is collected promptly at the end of each session.

Road Safety

I would like to remind parents that there is no access to Rose Villas for vehicles at the beginning or end of the school day. This includes parents using the car park for dropping children off at Breakfast Club. Please do not park on Rose Villas and bring your children to the front entrance. Children must not be left unattended outside school.

Thank you for your co-operation.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE



Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS



Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS



Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY



When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS



Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE



Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS



Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES



It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION



It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College