# Churchtown Chatter

Imagine … Believe … Achieve…

**Newsletter 14**

Friday 12th December 2025

**Don't forget to follow us on:**
https://twitter.com/churchtownsch & https://www.facebook.com/ChurchtownPrimarySchool

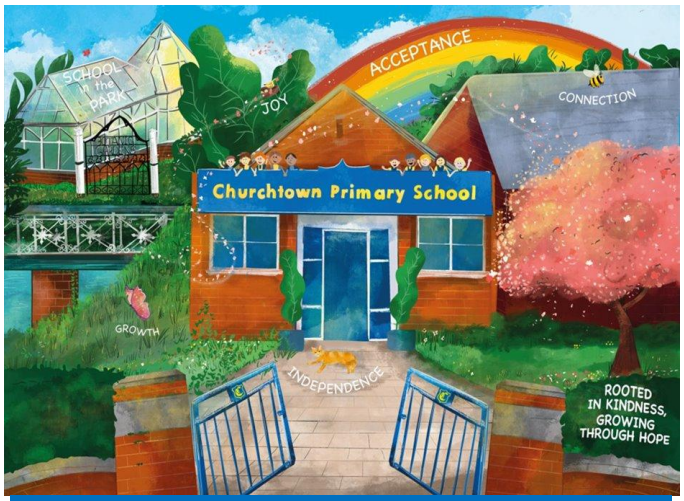
What an exciting penultimate week of the Autumn term we have had—from Buttercups Nursery singing Christmas songs, to Reception performing their Christmas story in St Cuthbert's, to Year 5 enjoying their Victorian Day today in full Victorian outfits and holding a traditional Christmas Carol service at St Cuthbert's as well.

Staff and children enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner yesterday. The food was beautiful—restaurant standard—and you would be super impressed that most children tried at least one Brussels sprout in our Brussels Sprout Challenge! A big thank you to the kitchen team and midday supervisors for making a truly festive Christmas lunch.

Next week is party week, with further information in the newsletter below. The festive spirit will be in full swing with parties, and we will end our Christmas term with assemblies in St Cuthbert's on Friday.

A massive thank you to the PTA for everything they have done over Christmas. Santa's Grotto looked beautiful, and the children will cherish these moments in their memory bank of Churchtown Primary.

**Have a good weekend, Mrs Payne**




## Values

- **Independence**

*Being self-directed and self-determined — having the confidence to carry out tasks independently, take responsible actions, and be accountable for our choices, all while feeling safe and supported in our environment.*

- **Connection**

*Being part of a happy, loving community where positive relationships are built through knowing, supporting, and respecting one another — where we feel valued, learn how to mend friendships, and create meaningful connections by being respectful to all.*

- **Growth**

*Growth comes from facing challenges with resilience, knowing that it's okay to find things difficult — because with purpose, determination, and something to strive for, we learn, improve, and become stronger*

- **Acceptance**

*Embracing who we are and valuing others for who they are — celebrating diversity and creating a community where everyone feels they belong.*

- **Joy**

*Grows through purposeful, active learning and a broad, balanced curriculum full of variety — creating space for play, shared experiences, and the simple recognition that making time for fun brings energy, connection, and balance to life.*

## ATTENDANCE

This week's attendance champions are:

**Hedgehogs**

for having 100% attendance!

The year group with the highest attendance this week is:

**Year 4!**









**Please can we remind parents that we are a <u>nut-aware school.</u>**
**We have many children with severe allergies, and the presence of nuts can cause serious harm.**
**We have seen a rise in Nutella and Kinder Bueno bars, which both contain nuts.**
**Thank you for your understanding and support.**







# Churchtown Primary School Open Mornings

We would like to invite prospective pupils and their families to our Open Morning. This is a great opportunity to take a look around Churchtown Primary, meet our staff and current pupils. The Open Mornings will start at 9.30am prompt at the main school entrance (school office).

Booking for this event is essential as we have limited spaces for each Open Morning. To reserve your space, please visit our website: **https://churchtown.org.uk/**

or contact our school office on **01704 508500** or email us at **office@churchtown.org.uk**

**<u>Available dates are</u>:**

**Thursday 8th January 2026**




**Admission to Reception: September 2026**
Please click here to access further information in relation to this on our school letters page on our website titled *'Arrangements for Admission to Reception – September 2026'.*



Churchtown PTA

# What's going on in the Christmas Term

## ELF RAFFLE



On sale 3rd Nov – 24th Nov
Winner Announced 25th

£1.50 – From the Office or Arbor

## RECEPTION DISCO



13th November 3.10-4.00pm

£3 Includes drinks, sweets and a party hat!

## MUFTI DAY



11th December
Own Clothes & Christmas Jumpers

£1 on Arbor

## STORYTIME WITH SANTA



15th and 16th December
Nursery – Year 4

£3.50 on Arbor – includes a present

## CHRISTMAS MOVIE



16th December 3.20-5.15

£3.50 on Arbor
includes popcorn, sweet & drink
Year 5/6 only

# ATTENDANCE Rewards

For Autumn Term

Well done to Years 3 & 4 you have won the attendance reward for this term!

| | |
|---|---|
| • Reception | 2 |
| • Year 1 | 6 |
| • Year 2 | 5 |
| • Year 3 | 8 |
| • Year 4 | 8 |
| • Year 5 | 4 |
| • Year 6 | 6 |

**All children in Years 3 & 4 may wear their own clothes on the last day of term (Friday 19th December 2025). You will also receive additional playtime on this day!**

**Who will be the winners for Spring term?!**

Churchtown PTA

# CHRISTMAS MOVIE



## 16th December

3.20-5.15 approx

£3.50 includes popcorn, sweets & drink

Must be booked on Arbor

Year 5 and 6 only

## Have you seen those CHEEKY ELVES?

Those pesky Christmas elves are back – and they've been up to their tricks again! Hiding in the windows of our independent traders, waiting to be found by eagle-eyed children.

Armed with a special map, little explorers can embark on a magical trail through the village, spotting mischievous elves as they go. Will you find them all?

Collect your map from many of our traders including Hesketh Arms, RS Fine Chocolates, Tiny Treasures, Remedy & Lucy Lous Boutique

Once your hunt is complete, pop your entry in to the magical Post Box outside Little Sparks Play Cafe (25 Botanic Road) and you could be one of four lucky winners chosen to receive a special prize!

15th November - 21st December

Botanic Road, Churchtown Village, Southport

# Christmas Party Days – Lunchtime Menu

We're excited to share that for this year's Christmas Party Days (dates at the bottom of the newsletter), our wonderful catering team will be providing a special party buffet lunch for children. **This means, unlike in previous years, no food needs to be brought in from home for party days.**

Children in **Reception–Year 2** can enjoy the meal as part of the **Universal Free School Meal** offer. For pupils in **Key Stage 2** who are **not eligible for Free School Meals**, the cost of the party lunch is **£2.80**, payable via **Arbor**.

The menu can be seen below:



**A choice of wrap swirls – tuna/ham/cheese (including vegan cheese option)**
**Pizza Fingers**
**Sausage Rolls/Vegan Sausage Rolls**
**Chicken Nuggets**
**Crisps**
**Vegetable Selection**
**Ice Cream**



All allergen information can be found on our website:
https://churchtown.org.uk/parent-and-carers/lunchtime-menu

*Please note, the menu (week 3) will alter slightly during the WC 15th December to accommodate the party days, with KS2 having the Chicken Korma Curry on Monday 15th and EYFS/KS1 having this on Tuesday 16th.*
*We're looking forward to a fantastically festive celebration!*

## Let's get ready for the Year of Reading in 2026




The Winter Challenge is **now open**.

To take part, follow the link and create an account for your child to access. They then input the books that they have read and a short review.

https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/




https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/

# Christmas Dinner Day

A big thankyou to our incredible kitchen team and midday supervisors for serving us up the most delicious Christmas dinner on Thursday! All of the staff and children are very grateful.







# Shoeboxes are on their way!













Last week, an impressive 92 shoeboxes were collected by the Rotary Club, with a big thank you to Beech Class for their help loading them into cars. These thoughtfully filled boxes are now on their way to Eastern Europe, in particular Ukraine, Romania and Moldova. We are extremely grateful for everyone's generosity and dedication in supporting this initiative.
During the collection process, an additional £395 was raised to help cover transport costs, ensuring the shoeboxes reach the children who need them the most.

# *The Southport Christmas Card Competition 2025: Finalist from Churchtown Primary!*














Jessica from Year 6 Beech class was a finalist in The Southport Christmas Card Competition 2025. The competition was for all schools in the area so Jessica did so well to be shortlisted! Her design was based on the theme 'Christmas on the Coast' (see above) and it is absolutely beautiful. Well done Jessica!

# Managing infectious illnesses

Here is some guidance to help manage seasonal illnesses and keep children well during the winter months:

- Education Hub Blog: Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance – a helpful blog for parents and staff.
- NHS Guidance for Parents: Is my child too ill for school? – a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.
- Preventing and Controlling Infections Guidance: Includes advice on vaccination, ventilation, and good respiratory hygiene.
- A–Z of managing Infectious Diseases: Practical guidance on managing specific illnesses.



# Melody Makers

Tuesday was a very busy day for Melody Makers. The wonderful children visited a local care home and sung and spread festive cheer to the residents and then in the evening raised money for Bebe's Hive and Alice's WonderDance by singing at Tesco. The children were amazing and we all thoroughly enjoyed singing in the community.

We raised **£254.91** and we are donating half to Bebe's Hive and Half to Alice's Wonderdance.

Well done Churchtown Melody Makers!






## SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL VACANCY

Sefton Borough Council's excellent School Crossing Service is currently looking to recruit people to become School Crossing Patrols.

We are appealing to Schools, Parents and Grandparents of our children that have a few hours to spare each week.

We offer £13 per hour plus travelling expenses where applicable. You would also be entitled to holiday pay plus a retainer fee when the Schools are closed. There is no upper age limit.

If you, or anyone you know would be interested in becoming a Patrol please telephone the School Crossing Office on 0151 288 6154 in the first instance.

## Natural Christmas Trees

**A message from Mr. Cocks (Year 2 teacher and Forest School leader):**

For those families who choose to have a real Christmas tree, we would like your help for our Forest Schools firewood.

We DON'T require the actual tree but the wooden base/stump that the tree stands on, would be really useful. Once you're finished with your tree after Christmas, please can you drop the wooden base/ stump of by the bike sheds at the front of school.

Thankyou for your support and wishing you all a wonderful festive season.



# Play Group

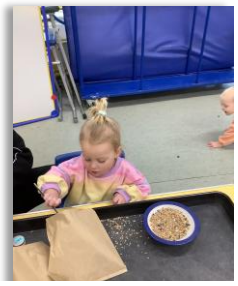
Playgroup has now finished for the year and I would like to wish all the playgroup families a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have had so much fun this year in group, we have ended our year making Christmas cards for our families and reindeer food. I look forward to seeing you all again on the 12th January 2026, from Miss Cornish













## Sefton Family Hubs

**North Family Hubs**
**Talbot Street**

| Wednesday 10th December | Monday 15th December | Wednesday 17th December | Monday 22nd December | Tuesday 23rd December |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Christmas Wreath Making**<br><br>Time: 4pm - 5:30pm<br>Ages: Parents, carers and anyone aged 11+<br><br>Join us for a festive, hands-on session where you'll learn how to create your own beautiful Christmas wreath.<br><br>**Booking required** | **Christmas Brunch/Supper with Santa**<br><br>1st session<br>Time: 1pm - 3pm<br>Ages: 0-5 years<br><br>2nd session<br>Time: 4pm - 6pm<br>Ages: 5 - 11 years<br><br>Start the day with festive fun! Children can enjoy dancing, musical statues, and pass the parcel, all designed to encourage movement and joy. The highlight of the morning will be a special visit from Santa, who will bring a small gift for each child and create magical memories with a photo opportunity.<br><br>Food: A warm breakfast featuring muffins, pancakes, and fresh fruit with berries.<br><br>**Booking required** | **Christmas Party - Reindeer Visit and Santa's Grotto**<br><br>Time: 3:30pm - 7:30pm<br>Ages: 5-18 years<br><br>Families can enjoy meeting real live reindeer, playing festive games, and dancing at our fun-filled Christmas disco. Every child will have the chance to visit Santa in his grotto, receive a small age-appropriate gift, and take home a special photo to create lasting family memories.<br><br>Food: Warm winter dishes and a fruity seasonal dessert will be provided to keep everyone cosy and happy.<br><br>**Booking required** | **Christmas Chefs**<br><br>1st session<br>Time: 1pm - 3pm<br>Ages: 5-8 years<br><br>2nd session<br>Time: 3:30pm - 5:30pm<br>Ages: 9 - 11 years<br><br>Join us for an enchanting festive cookery session! This fun, interactive experience promotes physical, social, and emotional growth while encouraging creativity in the kitchen. Children will enjoy making Christmas-themed treats in a supportive, family-friendly environment.<br><br>**Booking required** | **Christmas Explorers**<br><br>Neurodiverse Sessions<br>Time: 11am - 1pm<br>Ages: 5 - 8 years<br><br>Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm<br>Ages: 9 - 11 years<br><br>Children will explore the magic of Christmas through play, imagination, and expressive physical activities to boost learning and development, while families enjoy opportunities to strengthen attachment and positive parenting. These festive activities also support school readiness in a fun, interactive environment.<br><br>Food: Healthy Christmas-themed snacks will be provided.<br><br>**Booking required** |







Talbot Family Hub, St. Andrews Place, Southport, PR8 1HR | 01704534975 | TalbotSt.FWC@sefton.gov.uk
Call us to book your place

# After School Clubs- Spring Term

**Please see below for information regarding the after school clubs that will be on offer for the Spring Term, which commences January 2026. Please keep in mind that not all clubs start at the same time.**

**Arbor now open for bookings until 1st January**

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|---|---|---|
| Nurture Club<br>(12:00-12:30) | Nurture Club<br>(12:00-12:30) | Nurture Club<br>(12:00-12:30) |
| | Starting Tuesday the 6th of January (11 weeks)<br>Netball with Lynne Barnett for Year 4, 5 and 6 children<br>MUGA (12noon – 1.00pm)<br>NETBALL COURT<br>(20 children) LUNCHTIME | Chipmunks – Mrs Coysh (12:00-12:30) Tulips Class |

The Lodge gate will be open for all clubs at 4.20pm

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
|---|---|---|
| Starting Monday the 12th of January (10 weeks)<br>Tennis with Megan Hyland Years 3, 4, 5 and 6<br>3.20pm – 4.20pm<br>Playground/EYFS Hall<br>EXIT: PLAYGROUND<br>PAID CLUB £4.00 per session | Starting Tuesday the 6th of January (11 weeks)<br>Football (WLSP) Years 5 & 6<br>3.20pm – 4.20pm<br>Playground/MUGA<br>EXIT: PLAYGROUND<br>PAID CLUB £4.00 per session | Starting Wednesday the 7th of January (11 weeks)<br>Gymnastics (WLSP) Years 3 & 4<br>3.20pm – 4.20pm<br>Old Hall<br>EXIT: PLAYGROUND<br>PAID CLUB £4.00 per session |
| Starting Monday the 12th of January (10 weeks)<br>Netball with Lynne Barnett YEAR 4, 5 AND 6<br>All Registered<br>3.20pm - 4.20pm<br>NETBALL COURT<br>EXIT: PLAYGROUND<br>PAID CLUB £4.00 per session | Starting Tuesday the 6th of January<br>Melody Makers with Mrs Watkinson YOUNG VOICES<br>All Registered<br>3.20pm - 4.20pm<br>Music Room<br>EXIT: MUGA DOOR<br>FOC | Starting Wednesday the 7th of January (11 weeks)<br>Cheerleading with Mrs Bartley YEARS 2 - 4<br>(20 children)<br>3.20pm – 4.20pm<br>EYFS HALL<br>PAID CLUB £4.00 per session |
| | Starting Tuesday the 6th of January<br>Meols Cop High School Community Dance Festival with Miss Wynne & Miss Suffell<br>All Registered<br>3.20pm - 4.20pm<br>Early Years Hall<br>EXIT: PLAYGROUND<br>FOC | Starting Wednesday the 7th of January (11 weeks)<br>Performing Arts with Mrs Hibbert Years 3,4,5 and 6<br>(35 children)<br>3.20pm - 4.20pm<br>Music Room<br>EXIT: MUGA DOOR<br>PAID CLUB £4.00 per session |

| Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|
| Nurture Club<br>(12:00-12:30) | Nurture Club<br>(12:00-12:30) |
| Starting Thursday the 8th of January<br>Melody Makers with Mrs Watkinson (Years 1 - 6)<br>Lunchtime<br>Willow Classroom<br>LUNCHTIME | |

| Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|
| Starting Thursday the 8th of January (11 weeks)<br>Dance (WLSP) Reception & Year 1<br>3:20pm-4:20pm<br>Old Hall<br>EXIT: PLAYGROUND<br>PAID CLUB £4.00 per session | |
| Starting Thursday the 8th of January (upto and including the 12th of Feb) 6 weeks<br>Hero Quest with Mr Bowen (Year 6)<br>(12 Children)<br>3.20pm - 4.20pm<br>Alder Classroom<br>EXIT: PLAYGROUND<br>FOC | |

Hero Quest (Thursday after school), Performing Arts (Wednesday after school) and Melody Makers (Thursday lunchtime) MUST be reapplied for via Arbor

Melody Makers (Young Voices) – Tuesday – Children are already registered




| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| Monday 15th December 2025 | Early Years & Key Stage 1 Party Day (mufti/party clothes) |
| Monday 15th December 2025 | 8:40-9:30 Snowdrops Sing a long and Santa Visit |
| Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th December 2025 | P.T.A. Storytime with Santa (Nursery to Year 4) |
| Tuesday 16th December 2025 | Key Stage 2 Party Day (mufti/party clothes) |
| Tuesday 16th December 2025 | PTA Christmas Movie (Year 5 & 6) – 3.20pm to 5.15pm |
| Friday 19th December 2025 | Christmas Assemblies in St. Cuthbert's Church |
| Friday 19th December 2025 | School closes at 1.30pm for the Christmas Holidays |
| Monday 5th January 2026 | INSET Day |
| Tuesday 6th January 2026 | Back to school – rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine! |
| Thursday 8th January 2026 | 9.30am - Churchtown Primary School Open Morning for prospective families |
| Tuesday 27th January 2026 | Year 1 - Imagine That! Educational visit |
| Monday 16 – Friday 20 February 2026 | Half Term Week |
| Friday 27th March 2026 | School closes at 1.30pm for the Easter Holidays! |
| Monday 13th April | Back to school – rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine! |
| Monday 25 – Friday 29 May 2026 | Half Term Week |
| Friday 17 July 2026 | End of Term – School closes at 1.30pm for Summer Holidays! |
| Monday 20 July 2026 | INSET day |
| Tuesday 1st September 2026 | INSET day |
| Wednesday 2nd September 2026 | INSET day |
| Thursday 3rd September 2026 | Back to school – rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine! |
| Friday 23rd October 2026 | INSET day |
| Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026 | Half Term Week |
| Monday 2nd November 2026 | Back to school – rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine! |
| Friday 18th December 2026 | End of Term – School closes at 1.30pm for the Christmas Holidays! |
| Text in red is a new addition to the calendar | |



**Nursery Snowdrops (open 51 weeks of the year) – closure dates (2025/2026)**

CLOSED – Monday 22nd December to Friday 26th December 2025 (Christmas Holidays) – re- open Monday 29th December
CLOSED – Thursday 1st January 2026 (New Year's Day Bank Holiday)
CLOSED – Friday 3rd & Monday 6th April 2026 (Good Friday and Easter Monday Bank Holidays)
CLOSED – Monday 4th May2026 (Early May Bank Holiday)
CLOSED – Monday 25th May 2026 (Spring Bank Holiday)
CLOSED – Monday 31st August 2026 (Summer Bank Holiday)

CHURCHTOWN Butterflies WRAPAROUND CARE

**Butterflies Holiday Club**

Age: Nursery (Buttercups) – Y6
Time: 7.30-5.30 Location: Dining Hall
Entrance/Exit: Butterflies Door
(previous F4K/BC entrance/exit)
Price: £30.00
Food: Snack provided school
Packed lunch to be provided
OPEN ALL INSET DAYS

# Butterflies Holiday Club……

**will be open to Churchtown Primary School children on**

Friday 24th October 2025 – INSET Day
Monday 27th to Friday 31st October 2025 – Half-Term Holidays
Monday 29th December to Friday 2nd January 2026 – Christmas
CLOSED – Thursday 1st January 2026 (New Year's Day Bank Holiday)
Monday 5th January 2026 – INSET Day
Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2025 – Half-Term Holiday
Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April 2026 – Easter Holidays
CLOSED – Friday 3rd & Monday 6th April 2026 (Good Friday and Easter Monday Bank Holidays)
CLOSED – Monday 4th May 2026 (Early May Bank Holiday)
CLOSED – Monday 25th May 2026 (Spring Bank Holiday)
Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th May 2026 – Half-Term Holiday
Monday 20th July 2026 – INSET Day
Tuesday 21st July to Friday 28th August 2026 – Summer Holidays
CLOSED – Monday 31st August 2026 (Summer Bank Holiday)