Thursday 22nd October 2026

Churchtown Chatter

Newsletter 8



Joy



Acceptance



Connection



Independence



Growth



A message from the Headteacher:

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Parents' Evening appointments. It was lovely to welcome so many of you into school to discuss the children's progress, celebrate their achievements and work together to support their next steps in learning. Thank you also to everyone who visited and supported our Book Fair. It is always wonderful to see such enthusiasm for reading, and your support helps us to continue nurturing a love of books across the school.

Tomorrow, our staff will come together for a Trust INSET day. These days are a valuable opportunity for colleagues from across the Trust to share ideas, take part in workshops, develop our knowledge and learn from one another. We are always looking for ways to strengthen our practice and provide the very best opportunities for our children, and I know the team will come away with lots of new ideas and inspiration to bring back into school after the break.

As we head into half term, there is plenty to keep families busy! Please take a look at the information below about our PTA Smarties Challenge, which we hope lots of children will enjoy taking part in over the holiday. There are also some lovely local events taking place, including The Book's Alive, Once Upon a Town event in Southport, offering some fantastic opportunities to celebrate stories, creativity and reading beyond the classroom.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I hope all our children, families and staff have a wonderful, restful half term, enjoy some quality time together and return refreshed and ready for the next part of the Autumn term.

from Mrs Payne

Contact:
01704 508500

Follow us on:
Twitter:
@ChurchtownSch

Facebook:
Churchtown Primary School

Attendance

This week's Attendance Champions are:

Sunflowers

for most improved attendance at 99.4%!

The Year Group with the highest attendance this week is:

Year 2

Well done everybody!



The BBC 500 Words competition celebrates imagination and creativity, making it a brilliant opportunity to inspire a love of reading and writing.

The competition opened on 29 September, and encourages children from across the UK to create an original story in no more than 500 words. Stories are judged on creativity, character, plot and originality. Spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked! Visit the competition webpages to find a wealth of supporting information - including tips and insights from favourite children's authors.

Entries close on 6th November 2026



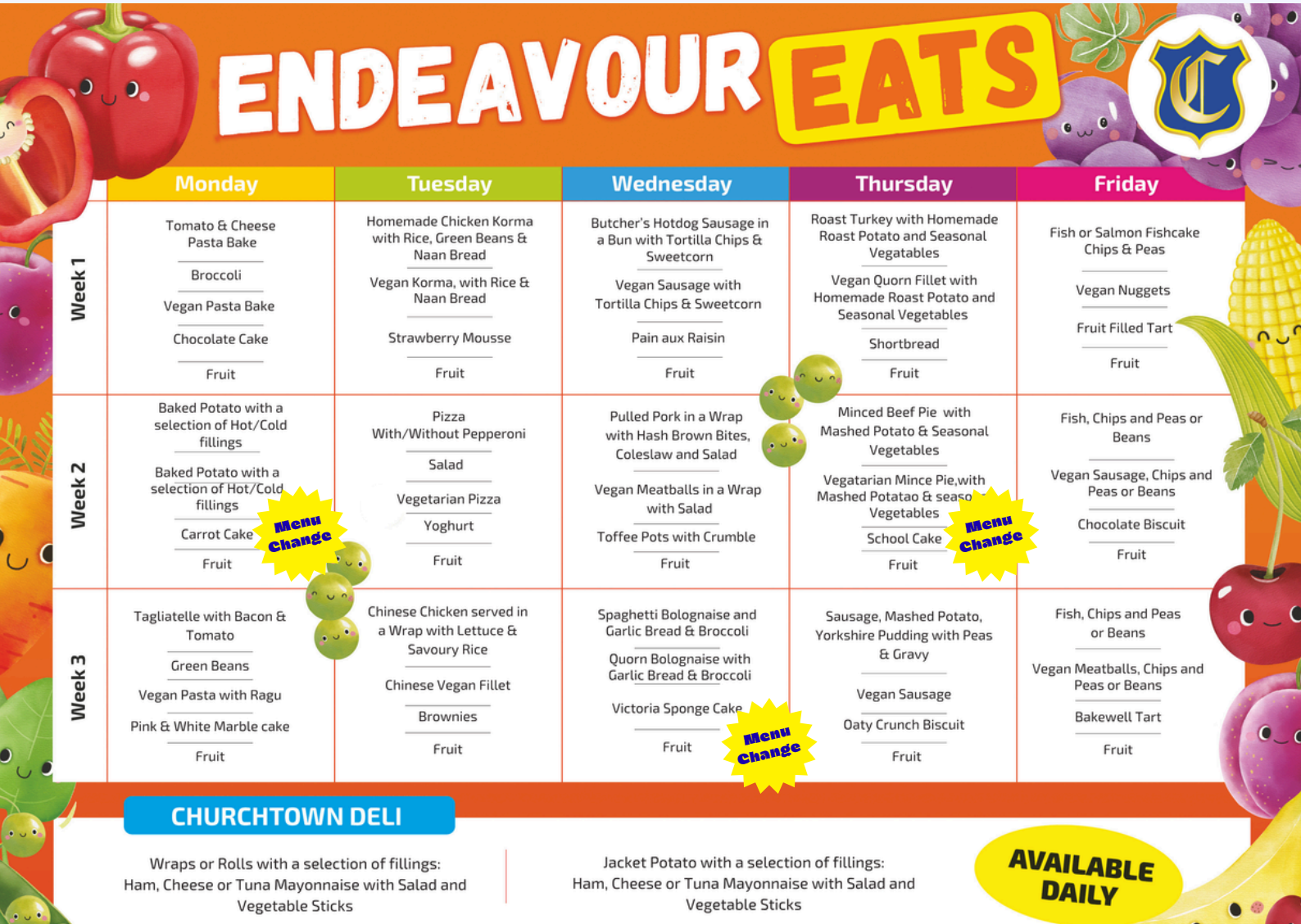
Menu Changes

Please see below for a few changes to our school lunch menu. The following menu changes have been made:

Week 2 – Monday: Mac and cheese has been changed to baked potatoes.
Week 2 – Thursday: Beef stew and stewed beef pie have been changed to minced beef pie.
Week 3 – Wednesday: Lasagne has been changed to spaghetti bolognese.

After Half Term

When we return after half term, we will resume on Week 3 of our school lunch menu, with a special Bonfire menu on Thursday 5th November (more info on the next page).



Bonfire Celebration

Special Lunch

Special menu change to celebrate Bonfire Night!

Thursday, 5th November Bonfire Night!



Bangers in a Bun
(Meat & Vegan Options)

Allergens:
Cereals containing gluten, soya



Firework Fries

Allergens:
Cereals containing gluten



Sparkling Sweetcorn

Allergens:
None



Shooting Star Biscuit

Allergens:
Cereals containing gluten

Meal Price
£2.90

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Southport Foodbank
Together with Trussell

COMMUNITY MARKET

FoodPantry

Thank you for suppporting us for Harvest

Churchtown Primary School

Who kindly donated:

210.8kg

to support Compassion Acts projects. We really appreciate your contributions!

Richard

Richard Owens
Chief Executive Officer

COMPASSION ACTS

Dympna

Dymna Edwards
Chair of Trustees

Date: SEPT-OCT 2026



Churchtown PTA

SMARTIES CHALLENGE

Tubes will be sent home on

Thursday 22nd October

Children are to do jobs and help out at home to get some pennies to fill their tubes over the half term holiday!

Tubes to be returned no later than 2nd November.

Everyone who joins in is entered into a prize draw
The raffle will be drawn on the 9th November and notified by the 10th.

1st prize – Splash world VIP pass for family of 5
2nd prize – £20 for R/s Fine Chocolates
3rd prize – £15 Vue cinema voucher

📚 Scholastic Book Fair 📚

A big thank you to everyone who visited our Scholastic Book Fair during Parents' Evening last night! It was lovely to see so many families browsing the books and supporting our school.

If you didn't get a chance to visit, don't worry! The Book Fair is open again today (Thursday 22nd October) and will return after half-term on Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd November. There is a fantastic range of books available for all ages and interests, helping to inspire a love of reading at home. Payments are taken using the QR codes displayed at the fair. Please remember to bring your phone and payment card to complete your purchase.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope your children enjoy discovering their next favourite book!



Churchtown Open Mornings

Join us for our Churchtown Open Morning and discover all that our school has to offer!

We are delighted to invite prospective families to visit Churchtown, explore our facilities, and experience our welcoming school community.

🏫 Tour our school and learning environments
👩‍🏫 Meet our dedicated staff and pupils
🌳 Discover our excellent indoor and outdoor facilities
📚 Learn more about life at Churchtown
💬 Ask questions and find out what makes our school so special

Next Date:
📅 **Date: Friday 20th November**
⏰ **Time: 9:30am – 11:00am**
Book your place **here**

Upcoming date now open:
📅 **Date: Friday 8th January**
⏰ **Time: 9:30am – 11:00am**
Booking opening soon

Places are limited, and the booking forms will close once capacity is reached.









SOME EVENTS MAY BE DISRUPTED OR CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE/SOCIALS

Step inside a world of imagination and adventure this half term as Southport is taken over by a living storybook.

Books Alive! is bringing a world of storytelling, creativity and fun to Southport on 24-31 October.

With a magical 'The Jolly Postman' Trail taking over the town centre, a packed 'Festival of Stories' at The Atkinson and Southport Library, and a town-wide Fringe Festival filled with book-themed events and activities, this totally free festival brings children's stories to life in exciting new ways.

Families can explore immersive storybook scenes inspired by 'The Jolly Postman', enjoy events with leading children's authors and illustrators, and discover creative experiences hosted by local businesses and venues across Southport.

All Festival of Stories events are free to attend & you can book your tickets now.

GLOWEEK

Road Safety Awareness Campaign

Child Brain Injury Trust

Be Seen Not Hurt



The nights are drawing in...

It's getting darker earlier but we can all help keep each other safe.

Be seen, not hurt!

- WEAR REFLECTIVE CLOTHING
- USE LIGHTS & TORCHES
- BE VISIBLE ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL

GLOWEEK

Be Seen Not Hurt

Nights are drawing in... Let's make sure we're **seen, safe** and **together.**

Churchtown Primary School

Rooted in kindness, growing through hope.

Rotary SHOEBOX SCHEME

Organised by our School Council

Our School Council are organising the Rotary Shoebox Scheme this year.

The scheme helps to bring joy and support to people in need, both in the UK and overseas, by providing shoeboxes filled with useful and thoughtful gifts.



Please complete our Expression of Interest form using the link below.

https://forms.gle/9vvEtjAnwNMuAJtN7

This is just an expression of interest at this stage.

No charge is taken when you complete the form.

Playgroup









This Autumn term we have been getting creative with all the treasures that Autumn brings at Playgroup on Monday mornings. We have explored colours and textures with the children, developing their fine motor skills.

If you'd like more info please contact our office on office@churchtown.org.uk

Express your Interest here

Scan Me!

BUTTERCUPS PRE-SCHOOL

PLAY, LEARN, AND GROW TOGETHER



AGE 3-4 YEARS

SPACES AVAILABLE IN 2027 & 2028

Snowdrops Nursery



Age 2 years +

Spaces available in 2027 & 2028

Express your Interest here

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising: this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

Meet Our Expert



A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keeffe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 24.05.2023

UK Government

NHS

Is my child too ill for school?

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in

A cough, cold or sore throat



Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

Threadworms



Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Should go in (let the school know)

Cold sores

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice & nits

You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Hand, foot & mouth disease

If they are well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Slapped cheek syndrome

Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Seek treatment before returning to school

Impetigo

They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Chickenpox

Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Keep them off (at first)

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Measles

They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go, in case measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

Vomiting & diarrhoea

Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).



Feeling worried or anxious?

It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help.

If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search **www.NHS.uk** for the specific illness or infection, or "Is my child too ill for school?'

APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE

Is your child born on or between 01/09/2022 and 31/08/2023?

If so, your child is due to start school September 2027!



You MUST apply for a school place online before 15 January 2027

For more information or to make an application, scan our QR code or go to **www.sefton.gov.uk/startingschool**

sefton.gov.uk 0151 934 3590
admissions@sefton.gov.uk

Sefton Council



Secondary School Applications for September 2027

Parents and carers of Year 6 pupils should now apply for their child's secondary school place for September 2027 entry. Applications for Sefton residents can be made online via the Sefton Citizen Portal. Applications opened on 1 September 2026 and must be submitted by 31 October 2026.

Families can select up to three preferred secondary schools and are encouraged to read Sefton's admissions guidance before applying, as it contains important information about deadlines and admissions criteria. Parents and carers who live outside Sefton must apply through their own local authority, even if they wish to include Sefton schools as preferences. Further information, admissions guides and the online application portal are available via the Sefton School Admissions website:

http://www.sefton.gov.uk/startingschool

EARLY YEARS SEND TEAM

Parent / Carer Coffee Mornings



Has your child got Special Educational Needs/Disabilities?

Do you want to know more about SEND processes and the support available in Sefton?

Do you want to meet other parents/carers of children with SEND?

Meet with professionals from Aiming High, Early Help, Speech and Language Therapy, Sefton Parent Carers, SENDIASS, Occupational Therapy, the Autism and Complex Needs Team, and other local support services, all in one place

Talbot Street Family Hub

St Andrew's Place
Southport
PR8 1HR
10am-12pm

Friday 9th October
Monday 25th January
Friday 14th May

🗨️ Parent Feedback

"Lovely morning, all staff were fantastic with the kids and us as tired mums needing reassurance and advice. Great to feel supported and gain more knowledge on what's available to help."

Take time for you and have a brew! All children welcome.

For more information please contact:
Lauren.Wilding@sefton.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 21st October- Wednesday 4th November 2026	Scolastic Book Fair (after school, in the Old Hall)
Thursday 22nd October 2026	PTA Smarties challenge tubes being sent home
Friday 23rd October 2026	INSET Day
Monday 26th October-Friday 31st October 2026	Half Term
Monday 2nd November 2026	Back to school, rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine!
Monday 2nd November 2026	PTA Smarties challenge tubes to be returned
Monday 9th November- Friday 13th November 2026	Anti Bullying Week
Monday 9th November 2026	Odd Socks Day (come to school in mismatched socks!)
Thursday 12th November 2026	PTA Reception Disco (3:10-4pm)
Friday 13th November 2026	Children in Need Charity Day
Tuesday 17th November 2026	Year 1- Imagine That! Educational Visit
Friday 20th November	Churchtown Open Morning (9:30-11)
Tuesday 8th December 2026	Year 3 Roman Educational Visit to Chester
Friday 18th December 2026	End of Term- School closes at 1:30pm for Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January 2027	INSET Day
Tuesday 5th January 2027	Back to school, rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine!

New additions to the diary in red

OCTOBER HALF TERM TENNIS CAMP



DATES:
Monday 26th &
Tuesday 27th

PRICE:
£30 for 1 day or
£50 for both days

CAMP RUNS:
9am - 2pm

TUCK SHOP:
Available

AGES:
4-16 year olds

Fun games,
tournaments,
learn new skills
and meet new friends

VENUE:
North Meols
Tennis Club

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

Nursery Snowdrops (open 51 weeks of the year)- closure dates 2026/27

CLOSED- Friday 23rd October 2026 (INSET DAY)

CLOSED- Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)
CLOSED- Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)
CLOSED- Monday 28th December (BH Boxing Day)
CLOSED- Thursday 31st December 2026 (NYE)
CLOSED- Friday 1st January 2027 (NYD)

2026/27 Term Dates

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 Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January 2027	INSET Day
Tuesday 5th January 2027	Back to school, rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine!
Monday 15th- Friday 19th February 2027	Half Term Week
Thursday 25th March	End of Term for Easter Holidays
Friday 26th March- Friday 9th April 2027	Easter Holidays
Monday 12th April 2027	Back to school, rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine!
Monday 3rd May 2027	Bank Holiday
Monday 31st May- Friday 4th June 2027	Half Term Week
Tuesday 20th July 2027	End of Term - School closes at 1:30pm for Summer Holidays
Wednesday 21st July 207	INSET Day