Friday 6th November 2026

Churchtown Chatter

Newsletter 9



Joy



Acceptance



Connection



Independence



Growth



A message from the Headteacher:

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to Churchtown after the half-term break. The children have returned looking refreshed and ready to get stuck into the new half term, and it has been wonderful to see them settling straight back into their learning and routines.

We have also brought our Scholastic Book Fair to a close this week. A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who came along and supported the event. Your continued encouragement of reading makes such a difference, and it is always lovely to see the children so excited about choosing their next book!

This Sunday, we will be taking part in the Remembrance Service in Southport. I would like to say a special thank you to the children and adults who will be attending and representing our school community. It is important that we take time to remember and reflect, and we are very grateful to everyone giving up their time to be involved.

Looking ahead to next week, we have lots to look forward to, including our Reception Disco and our charity day in support of Children in Need. Reception Disco bookings can be made through Arbor, and further information about both events can be found below in the newsletter. We are looking forward to another week of fun, fundraising and bringing our school community together.

Thank you to all parents and carers who consistently uphold our school values and show respect in their interactions with staff, whether face to face, through the school office or during meetings. The way we communicate sets an important example for our children, modelling the respectful behaviour we expect both in school and in the wider community. We would like to offer a gentle reminder of the importance of maintaining respectful communication at all times. There is a poster below with some reminders.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

from Mrs Payne

Contact:
01704 508500

Follow us on:
Twitter:
@ChurchtownSch

Facebook:
Churchtown Primary School

Attendance

This week's Attendance Champions are:

Class

Squirrels

for most improved attendance at 100%!

The Year Group with the highest attendance this week is:

Year

1

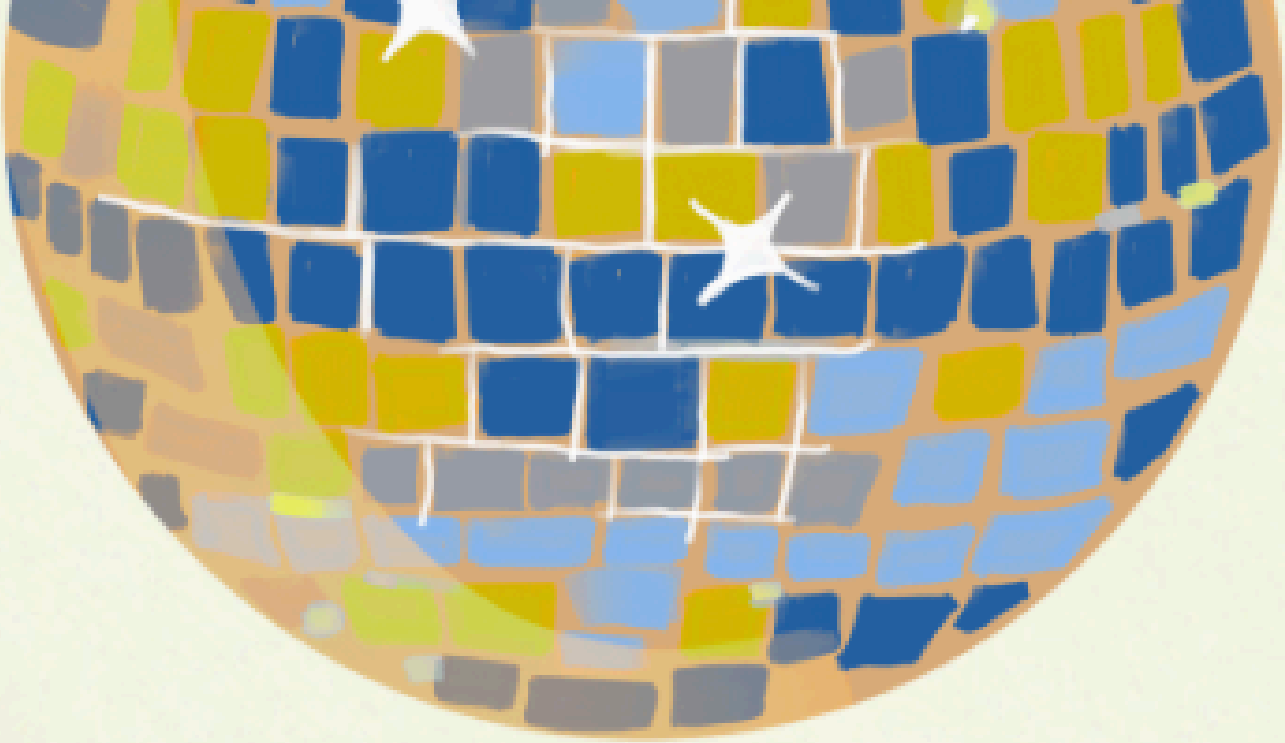
Well done everybody!











Reception Disco

THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

3:10 – 4:00

£3.50 – INCLUDES DRINKS, SWEETS AND A 'CREATE YOUR OWN' PARTY HAT.

PAY ON ARBOR

DISMISSAL THROUGH EYFS CLASSROOMS

PLEASE USE EYFS GATE

BBC

Children in Need

Children in Need 2026

Mufti Day! / **Crazy Hair Day!** / **Crazy Hat Day!**

We are excited to be supporting Children in Need on **Friday 13th November!**

Children are invited to come to school in their own clothes for our special Mufti Day, in return for a £1 cash donation.

We have an extra special treat too, as Pudsey Bear will be visiting our school! 🐻



Our School Council children have chosen this fun theme, so get creative with your crazy hair or hats! With parental permission, children are welcome to use coloured hair sprays and other fun accessories to make their look as wacky and colourful as possible!





ZERO TOLERANCE

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

We value our school community and expect all parents and carers to: speak and behave respectfully towards staff and other parents.

BE POLITE AND RESPECTFUL

Use kind and courteous language, even when you are frustrated or disagree.

RESPECT OUR STAFF

Value the work of our teachers and support staff. They are here to help your child.

RESPECT OTHER PARENTS

Be inclusive, avoid gossip and do not speak negatively about other families or children.

RAISE CONCERNS CONSTRUCTIVELY

Follow school communication channels and speak privately with the appropriate member of staff.

NO SHOUTING, SWEARING, THREATS OR INTIMIDATION

In person, by phone, online or on school grounds.

Unacceptable behaviour will be addressed by the school and may result in further action in line with school policy.

WE ARE ALL PART OF THE SAME TEAM

Thank you for helping our children thrive.

Reception RWI Phonics Parent Workshop

Support your child's early reading journey!

Read Write Inc. Phonics



Tuesday
10th November

2:30pm – end of day

Arrive: 2:20pm at school office

Book via Arbor

Let's help your child become a confident reader!

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 Da
📅 **Date: Frida r**
⏰ **Time: 9:3**
Book your p

NOVEMBER DATE NOW FULL

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

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







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.

Library Volunteer

Make a difference at our school!



We're looking for a Library Volunteer!

Could you spare some time to help support and develop our school library?

Volunteer Responsibilities may include:

- Tidying and organising the library
- Keeping the collection up to date
- Recommend new books
- Help us develop the library provision
- Explore the possibility of a lending library
- Run lunchtime clubs (e.g. reading or book-themed)
- Listen to children read



Why volunteer?

- Make a real difference to our pupils
- Share your love of books and learning
- Develop new skills and experience
- Support our school in a meaningful way

If you are interested in becoming a Library Volunteer, please contact the school office for more information.

office@churchtown.org.uk

We Love

CHURCHTOWN

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

BOOK YOUR TICKET NOW!

Friday 5th February 2027

7PM ARRIVAL · THE MASONIC LODGE, SOUTHPORT

£35 PER PERSON

£10 deposit by the end of November to secure your space

Welcome glass of prosecco ✦ Three-course dinner ✦ Raffle

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT BY

♫ Hayley Murray ♫

ADULTS ONLY

The response has been amazing — don't miss out!

Come with friends or get a table together through your class WhatsApp group.

Email the PTA to book your ticket or find out more:

churchtownpta2@gmail.com

PTA
HOME & SCHOOL TOGETHER

Brought to you by the Churchtown Primary PTA

Every ticket includes a £10 donation to the PTA

Helping children and young people with

MANAGING DEVICE STRESS AND ANXIETY

The internet and advances in the capability of digital devices have afforded us arguably the fastest period of technological and social evolution in living memory: creating opportunities for us to interact with people anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. It's also, however, blurred safety boundaries and added new stresses for young people, who are often less aware of the hidden hazards. With almost half of 10–15-year-olds experiencing bullying online and algorithms pushing content in front of our children every day, it's important to know how to address some of these challenges.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LIVING ONLINE

The internet is awash with sophisticated algorithms that learn from our online behaviour and try to predict our wants and needs. That's very helpful in some respects, but it can make the online world difficult for children and young people to negotiate. Content can be brought to them at any time – it may not always be appropriate, and children may not have the ability or the support to deal with it.

PUSHY NOTIFICATIONS

Content is also directed at us through notifications from our apps: letting us know we have a new message or social post to read, for example. While that's useful in some circumstances, it conditions us to keep going back online (and is designed to do so) and can be a near-constant demand on your child's attention. As such alerts become more common, are we experiencing an 'attack of the pings'?

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

There are now so many ways we can communicate online in real time (like instant messaging apps) or with a delay (such as on social media) that it's possible to be constantly in conversation. Young people often prefer quickfire exchanges of text – but using fewer words can cause distressing miscommunications through the lack of non-verbal cues like facial expressions or tone of voice.



DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

As devices allow access to immediate external help in challenging situations, it's a concern that children may not be developing the inner confidence to work things out for themselves. Likewise, group membership is hugely important to young people – both in digital and 'real' life – and being excluded from online conversations can cause damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation.

DISGUISED DISTRESS

Children often haven't yet developed the emotional resources to deal with many of the setbacks of everyday life, so identifying when it's specifically something online that's worried them can be tricky. A certain level of stress is a normal response to a problem: it spurs us into action to keep ourselves safe. If the stress is excessive, though, it can feel overwhelming and potentially lead to anxiety or depression.

ANTI-SOCIAL SOCIALS

Social media can bring people together in hugely positive ways. Sadly, it does also have a darker side, including 'flame war' arguments which can escalate quickly and have hurtful consequences. With so many people looking on, 'group shaming' situations are also common – while there are continual opportunities for young people to compare themselves negatively with other social media users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LEARN THE BASICS

It's impossible to keep up with every online change or every new app. The best option is to make yourself aware of the fundamentals of how the internet operates, so you can help your child to grasp how – and why – content reaches them. Devices and the digital world can be confusing, so learning to understand them better will give you the confidence to talk to your child about them.

PUSH DISTRACTIONS AWAY

Notifications to our phones and tablets can be helpful, but they sometimes make one wonder who's really in charge: the person or the device? Checking our phone as soon as it goes off is an easy habit to fall into – especially for young people. Try switching off non-essential alerts on your devices and encourage your child to do the same: you should both feel less triggered and more in control.

KEEP CHECKING IN

Healthy emotional regulation balances three systems: threat, drive and grounding. Down the various rabbit holes of the internet, however, that balance can easily slip away – so it's important to help your child manage their emotions when they're online. Check in with them regularly when they're on their device, and remember that 'distraction' and 'relaxation' aren't always the same thing.

TALK IT OUT

If a child mentions a comment that's been directed at them in a text chat or on social media, it may sound minor but can actually have a much bigger effect than we realise. In our evolved brains, any perceived threat can get internalised while our body reacts as if we were in physical danger – raising stress levels. It's always worth encouraging your child to get any concerns out in the open.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

This is tricky – and may depend on the child's age – but any sudden change in behaviour is worth looking out for. If your child seems to be checking their phone or tablet more, doesn't want to be parted from them, or appears unusually secretive, anxious or withdrawn, it could be a sign that something is amiss in relation to their device – and, possibly, that they're in need of extra support.

BE KIND: UNWIND

Be kind to yourselves as parents and carers. Remember that we're all in the same boat, trying to safely guide our children through this complex, fast-moving digital environment. Getting into the habit of having natural, relaxed conversations with your child about their online life (and yours) can level the playing field and make it far easier for them to open up to you about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert



Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with and offers bespoke training to businesses and organisations, supporting positive and effective online communications – often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the various mediums.

National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/the-big-ask-big-answers/
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/childrensexualabuseinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020

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

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

Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Tuesday 1th November 2026	RWI Phonics Parent Workshop for Reception Parents
Thursday 12th November 2026	Reception Disco (3:10-4pm)
Friday 13th November 2026	Children in Need Charity Day (£1 Voluntary donation)
Monday 16th November- Friday 20th November 2026	Anti Bullying Week- Thme: 'Break the Silence'
Monday 16th November 2026	Odd Socks Day (come to school in mismatched socks!)
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
Wednesday 10th December	Christmas Jumper/Dinner Day
Wednesday 10th December	Reception Show (Details TBC)
Thursday 11th December	Year 5 Carol Concert (at St Cuthberts Church 9.30am)
Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th December	PTA Santa Story Time
Monday 14th December	Early Years and KS1 Party Day
Tuesday 15th December	KS2 Party Day
Tuesday 15th December	PTA Christmas Movie Night
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Assemblies In Church

New additions to the diary in red

Date	Event
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

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- 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