

Friday 18th September 2026

Churchtown Chatter

Newsletter 3



Joy



Acceptance



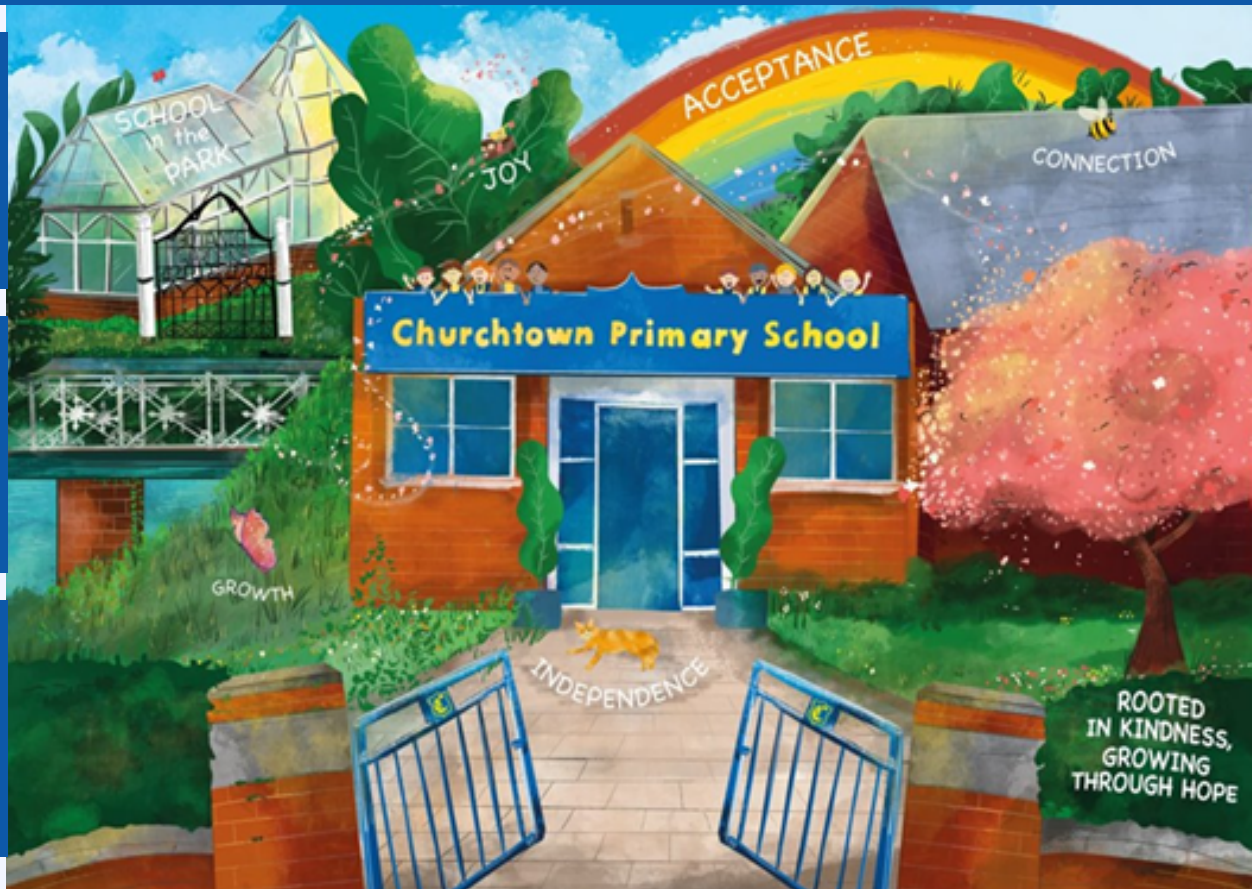
Connection



Independence



Growth



A message from the Headteacher:

It has been another wonderful week at Churchtown!

I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions this week. It was fantastic to welcome so many families into school and to see such a strong turnout. These meetings are an important opportunity to build partnerships between home and school, and I hope you found them informative and helpful as we begin the new academic year together.

Earlier this week, a uniform consultation created by the Trust was shared with families. We greatly value your views and would encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to complete the survey. Your feedback will help to inform future decisions, and we appreciate you taking the time to share your opinions. The consultation will remain open until 25th September.

[Uniform Consultation September 2026 - Parents and Carers – Fill in form](#)

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a great weekend, from Mrs Payne

Contact:

01704 508500

Follow us on:

Twitter:

@ChurchtownSch

Facebook:

Churchtown
Primary School

Attendance

This week's Attendance Champions
are:

Aspen

for 99% attendance!

The Year Group with the highest
attendance this week is:

Year 2

Well done everybody!



Attendance Notice

For Year 6 children who are not attending the Robinwood trip, school will remain open as usual from 23rd–25th September 2026, and we look forward to welcoming them into school.

We have planned a range of enjoyable activities for the children during these days, ensuring they have a positive and engaging experience while their classmates are away.

Thank you for your continued support.



Attendance Incentives

At Churchtown Primary School, we encourage and celebrate excellent attendance. 'Sergeant Snuggles' (named by the children!) has become a much-loved member of our school community and visits one class each week who are titled the 'Attendance Champions'. This can be for reasons such as 100% attendance, exceptional punctuality or most improved attendance. The winners also have the 'attendance star' on their classroom door as an acknowledgement of their achievement.

SERGEANT SNUGGLES RETURNS!



In addition to the weekly 'Attendance Champions', we have an additional termly attendance award. Each week, the year group with the highest attendance receives 2 points and the second highest year group receives 1 point. At the end of each school term, the points are calculated and the winning year group receives a treat. Last year's treats included children wearing their own clothes, a craft afternoon, ice lollies and a film of choice.

Children are provided with the weekly scores in their Friday assemblies and this reminds children about the importance of school attendance, as well as creating some healthy competition amongst the year groups.

We understand that families can experience challenges which consequently affect their child's attendance. If you therefore have any concerns regarding your child's attendance, please ask to speak to Mrs Welsh who is part of the pastoral team. She is happy to help and support where needed. (h.welsh@churchtown.org.uk).

Churchtown Open Morning

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

 Date: Monday 28th September

 Time: 9:30am – 11:00am

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

Book your place [here](#)

Other upcoming Open Morning dates are: 19th October, 20th November, 8th January, booking for these dates will open in the next few weeks



School Photography

We would like to let parents and carers know that a photographer will be visiting the school on 22nd September to capture candid photographs of school life and learning activities. These images may be used in school publications, promotional materials, and on our website or social media channels. This is not a school portrait photography session. As always, we will respect our photography permissions, and any pupils who do not have consent for photography will not be photographed. Please call the school office if you would like to update your child's photography permissions.





Join our Butterflies Holiday Club for days filled with fun, creativity, and laughter

Butterflies Holiday Club OPEN from Monday the 26th of October to Friday the 30th of October

CLOSED ON FRIDAY THE 23RD OF OCTOBER (INSET DAY)



Please book your child's place and make payment via Arbor

WE'RE EXCITED TO RUN THE HOLIDAY CLUB AND CREATE A FUN, SAFE, AND ENGAGING EXPERIENCE FOR THE CHILDREN, HOWEVER, MINIMUM BOOKING NUMBERS MUST BE REACHED IN ORDER FOR THE CLUB TO GO AHEAD.

We would like to make parents and carers aware that our new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Michelle Newman, will be visiting school on Tuesday 21st September. She will be visiting classes throughout the day, meeting pupils and introducing herself as part of her role in supporting our school community.





**DETAILS WILL BE SHARED SOON,
PLACES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO
BOOK VIA ARBOR**

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
ACTIVITIES
COMING
SOON**



A huge thank you to BotanEco!

We'd like to say a massive thank you to BotanEco for giving up their time this afternoon to help clear, tidy and transform our Year One outdoor area — completely voluntarily! ❤️

They did a fantastic job, and we are so grateful for all their hard work. Our outdoor space is looking so much better, and we can't wait to get outside and start using it to enhance the children's learning beyond the classroom.



Thank you again, BotanEco, for your generosity and support. It really is appreciated! ❤️

If any of our parents or carers have a service, skill or time they would be willing to volunteer to support school in any way, we'd love to hear from you! Whether it's a practical skill, helping with a project, or offering your time, please email our school office at office@churchtown.org.uk. We would be incredibly grateful for any support.

Thank you to our wonderful school community for helping us make a difference!



SOUTHPORT



BEACH CLEAN

Join us for a beach clean at Southport Beach

- All equipment provided
- No booking needed- just turn up on the day
- Wear suitable outdoor clothing, sturdy shoes and bring your own gloves

19TH SEP 26 | 1 - 3PM

SOUTHPORT BEACH ENTRANCE, NEXT
TO RNLI LIFEGUARD STATION, MARINE
DR, SOUTHPORT PR8 1RX

green
Sefton

Sefton Council 



HARVEST FESTIVAL WEEK

WEEK BEGINNING 29TH SEPTEMBER

Autumn has arrived, and we are looking forward to celebrating Harvest Festival together during the week beginning 28th September.

Working with organisations across our local community is an important part of life at Churchtown. We are proud of the many ways our children live out our school values throughout the year by supporting others and making a positive difference.

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are once again collecting donations for the Southport Foodbank. Children across school will be invited to bring in donations, which will be distributed to individuals and families in our local area who may need a helping hand.

Our Harvest Assemblies will take place on Friday 2nd October, when we will come together in our buddy assembly groups to celebrate and reflect on the importance of helping others.

The Foodbank has advised that the following items are particularly needed at the moment:

Savoury crackers
Pasta sauce
Tinned meat (e.g. corned beef, ham)
Tinned fruit
Tinned tomatoes
Instant noodles
Tomato sauce, brown sauce and mayonnaise
Long-life juice and cordial
UHT milk
Free-from items
Jam

Donation Drop-Off Information

Donations can be dropped off at St Cuthbert's Church during the following times:

Thursday 1st October – 3:00pm–3:45pm

Friday 2nd October – 8:00am–8:45am

The donations will be collected on Friday following the Harvest Assembly.

If you are unable to drop donations off at St Cuthbert's Church during these times, items can be brought into school instead.

Please note that the Foodbank will also gratefully accept additional food items that are not included on the list above.

Thank you for your support of this important celebration and for helping our children think about the needs of others in our community.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

BOOKS ALIVE!

ONCE UPON A TOWN

24-31
OCTOBER

FREE
FAMILY
FESTIVAL

STEP INTO A WORLD OF IMAGINATION
AND ADVENTURE IN SOUTHPORT

Southport town centre visitsouthport.com/BooksAlive

2026
SOUTHPORT
Elegantly eccentric

Sefton Council

LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION
CORPORATE PARTNER

METRO MAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

home **bargains**
TOP BRANDS - BOTTOM PRICES

LIVERPOOL
CITY
REGION
DESTINATION
PARTNERSHIP

Merseyrail

**GO
ALL
IN.**
National
Year of Reading
2026

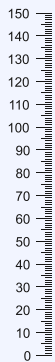


Secondary School Applications for September 2027

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>



Height & weight checks for Reception & Year 6



Every year in England, school children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight checked at school. This is called the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Height and weight measurements are used to calculate weight status. We collect this information to build an understanding of how children are growing and to help plan better health and leisure services for families. Your child's class will take part in this year's programme.

The checks are carried out by registered School Nurses or trained Health Care Providers. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. You can watch the [NCMP process animation](#), which explains the process of the NCMP and why it is important. It will guide you through what it involves, how your child's data is collected and processed and what it will be used for.

Maintaining the well-being of children in the NCMP

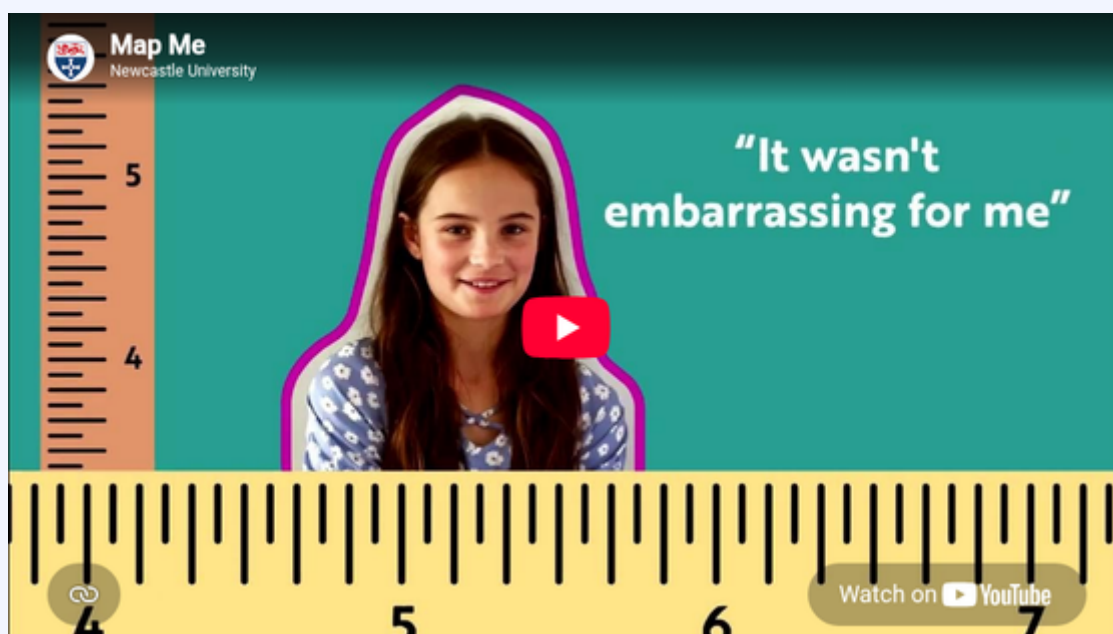
The wellbeing of children and families is very important and as such measurements are conducted in a sensitive way. **Individual results are not shared with your child or their school.** If your child is measuring outside of their expected weight range for their age, sex and height, the results will be shared with you via a feedback letter, or in some instances a follow up phone call. These results will be shared only with you; it is your choice if you share the information with your child. This also provides an opportunity to offer you support if required.

If you are concerned about your child's growth, weight, body image or eating patterns, please seek further support from your School Nurse or GP.

Withdrawing your child from the National Child Measurement Programme

If you are happy for your child to be measured, **you do not need to do anything.** If you do not want your child's height and weight to be measured, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight, please let us know by contacting the **School Health Team** on **0151 247 6354** or mcn-tr.seftonschoolhealth@nhs.net

Please Note: Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.



Continued below

What information is collected and why

Your child's height, weight, age, sex, and date of birth are collected to calculate their weight category (also known as child body mass index).

Your child's ethnicity and address are collected to monitor differences in child growth and weight between ethnic groups, where children live and their backgrounds.

Your child's name, date of birth and NHS number are collected to link their measurements from reception and year 6 to other information from health and education records held by NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education, where it is legal to do so.

Information about how personal information and data is collected and stored

You can read more about how the Department of Health and Social Care collects, stores and uses your child's information and data in the [National Child Measurement Programme: privacy notice - GOV.UK](#)

You can read more about how NHS England collects, stores and uses your child's information and data at [National Child Measurement Programme \(NCMP\) - NHS England Digital](#)

At the NHS England National Child Measurement Programme webpage [National Child Measurement Programme - NHS England Digital](#) you can read more about:

- taking part in the programme
- how your data is collected
- how your data is used
- You can read more about how Sefton Council and Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust collects, stores and uses your child's information at

Links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-child-measurement-programme-privacy-notice>

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/keeping-data-safe-and-benefitting-the-public/gdpr/gdpr-register/national-child-measurement-programme-ncmp-gdpr-information>

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-child-measurement-programme>
<https://phar.sefton.gov.uk/privacy-policy/>

<https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/about-us/privacy/privacy-statement>

EARLY YEARS SEND TEAM

Parent/Carer Coffee Morning



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



Primary School Immunisations – Important Information for Parents and Carers



As children start and progress through primary school, vaccinations play an important role in protecting them from serious illnesses such as measles, whooping cough, meningitis and polio. Vaccines are safe, effective and help protect both individual children and the wider community.

Parents and carers are encouraged to check that their child is up to date with all routine childhood vaccinations. If any vaccinations have been missed, it is never too late to catch up by contacting your GP practice.

Each year, all primary school children are also offered a free flu vaccination through school. For most children, this is given as a quick nasal spray, although an injection is available if the nasal spray is not suitable. Parents will receive a consent form each September via email or text message.

If your child was vaccinated outside the UK or in another area, please ensure your GP has an up-to-date record of their vaccinations.

For full information about the childhood immunisation programme, vaccine schedules, flu vaccinations and support available from local immunisation teams, please visit:

Primary School Immunisation Guide for Parents and Carers (Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust)

[Read the full guide here](#)

School-Aged Flu Vaccination Programme

Please scan the QR code below to access the online consent form for this year's school-aged flu vaccination programme.

The consent form must be completed by 30 September 2026.

FLU CONSENT QR CODE



Please scan the code to consent for your child to be administered the flu vaccine on the 30th of September in School

Secondary School Upcoming Open Evenings

Christ the King High School	22 nd September 2026
Meols Cop High School	23 rd September 2026
Birkdale High School	24 th September 2026
Tarleton Academy	30 th September 2026
Stanley High School	1 st October 2026
Presfield School	8 th October 2026



Dates for your Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Tuesday 22nd September 2026	Photographer in School
Wednesday 23 rd - Friday 25 th September 2026	Year 6 Robinwood Residential
Friday 25 th September 2026	Y5/Y6 Girls Football @ Greenbank
Monday 28 th September 2026	Churchtown Open Morning (9:30-11:30)
Tuesday 29 th September	*Date change* PTA Meeting AGM- 7-7:30pm PTA Meeting- 7:30-8:30 All welcome (The Lodge)
Wednesday 30 th September 2026	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 30 th September 2026	Y5/Y6 Christ the King Assembly
Thursday 8 th October 2026	Year 6 Healthy Lifestyle Sessions
Wednesday 21 st October- Wednesday 4 th November 2026	Scholastic Book Fair (after school, in the Old Hall)
Thursday 22 nd October 2026	Year 5 Visit to Stanley High School to watch Frankenstein Play (1:15pm)
Friday 23 rd October 2026	INSET Day
Monday 26 th October-Friday 31 st October 2026	Half Term

New additions to the diary in red

Dates for your Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday 2 nd 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!

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



YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

10 Years

OF BUSINESS AND OUR
GRAND OPENING
OF OUR **NEWLY** REFURBISHED SALON!



Join us for a special evening of
drinks, exclusive beauty demos
and a **free gift bag**

EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ON THE NIGHT:

CACI
NON-SURGICAL SOLUTIONS
CACI FACIALS
4:00 PM



**CRYSTAL CLEAR
SKINSTORM[®]**
ADVANCED SKIN HEALTH
5:45 PM



DATE:
25TH SEPTEMBER



TIME:
3PM – 7PM



LOCATION:
THE COTTAGE RETREAT
54 BOTANIC ROAD



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- Monday 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 2027	INSET Day