



# Churchtown Chatter

Imagine ... Believe ... Achieve...

Newsletter 15

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023



Don't forget to follow us on:

<https://twitter.com/churchtownsch> &

<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchtownPrimarySchool>

We have had a busy end to the school term, that has been full of festive fun and joy!

The end of term performances for Nursery, Reception, Year 2 and Year 5 have allowed children to perform to parents/carers. Thank you for the positive feedback we have received!

750 Christmas dinners were served last week; the food was delicious! Children ate, and sang along to Christmas songs whilst looking very festive in their Christmas jumpers. Thank you to our kitchen staff and midday supervisors for working hard to provide a tasty lunch and fun lunchtime experience.

Buddy assemblies took place at St Cuthbert's Church on Tuesday, where Reverend Rebecca supported us by reading a Christmas story. It was atmospheric and the children's behaviour was exemplary. It is important that the children understand about their local community and St Cuthbert's is a part of this, who we have worked with for many years.

A BIG thank you must go to the PTA. Their efforts this term, all voluntary, has been very much appreciated. This week alone they made a grotto in the School Lodge, dressed up as elves, whilst we had a special visit from Father Christmas. He read stories to most year groups. Presents were provided for all children - thank you for supporting this through parent pay (if you haven't already there is still time to do this). They have lots of plans for the New Year, please look out for information in the newsletter and on Facebook.

We have and will be delivering food and present parcels to some of our local community, with the support of Southport Foodbank and Kind charity organisations.

Finally, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas! The children will be coming home tired, but excited for the time ahead. We are fully aware that the Christmas period can be hard for families for many reasons. Attached to this newsletter are support networks that may help if required.....



We look forward to seeing you in the New Year, Monday 8th January 2024, for the start of term! Mrs Payne

# Merry Christmas



## BUDDY ASSEMBLY GROUPS

Each week in the 'Friday Praise Assembly' we have been checking the totals of the Buddy assembly groups. Classes and children gain points for super behaviour.

1 <sup>st</sup>	248	Red Team
2 <sup>nd</sup>	238	Yellow Team
3 <sup>rd</sup>	226	Blue Team
4 <sup>th</sup>	219	Green Team

## ATTENDANCE CHAMPIONS

**Congratulations to all of our Reception classes (Bluebells, Tulips & Sunflowers) – you are the year group with the best attendance for the 2023 Autumn term!**

Reception children will be rewarded with a film/craft afternoon during the first week back after the Christmas holidays – well done!



# Learning Champions

Imagine ... Believe... Achieve



## CONGRATULATIONS!

to all of our award winners this week!  
Children will bring home their postcard to share with you at home. These awards will also be celebrated in Praise Assemblies on Fridays.

# APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE

Is your child born on or between  
01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020?

If so, your child is due to start  
school in September 2024!



You **MUST** apply for a school place  
online before 15 January 2024

For more information or to make an  
application, go to  
[www.sefton.gov.uk/startingschool](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/startingschool)

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



Please click [here](#) to access further information in relation to this on our school letters page on our website 'Arrangements for Admission to Reception: September 2024'.

**CAMP VENUES**  
 THE HUB @ BANKS (BANKS LEISURE CENTRE)  
 ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**ONLY £20 per day**

**NEW YEAR ENDEAVOUR HOLIDAY CAMP**  
**JANUARY 2024**  
**WEDNESDAY 3RD**  
**THURSDAY 4TH**  
**FRIDAY 5TH**

**Arts & Crafts, Athletics, Basketball, Dance, Dodgeball, Football, Invasion and Target Games, and much more!**

**Open to 5 - 12 year olds**

**8.30AM until 4.30PM**

**COMPETITIONS PRIZES CERTIFICATES**

**WEST LANC'S HAF**  
 HOLIDAY - ACTIVITY - FUN

**ENDEAVOUR COMMUNITY**  
 Delivered by  
**WEST LANCASHIRE SPORT PARTNERSHIP**

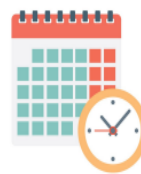
To book your child's place please visit <https://ec.schoolactivity.co.uk> and if you have any queries please email [holidaycamps@endeavourlearning.org](mailto:holidaycamps@endeavourlearning.org)



**Alder Hey Children's**  
NHS Foundation Trust

## ASD SERVICE-Parent / Carer drop-In

Available every  
**Tuesday Morning**  
**9am-12.30pm**



Appointment time will be given to you by our admin team to join via the online platform Attend Anywhere.

(joining instructions will be given)

Have Questions about your child's assessment journey?

**If your child / young person is currently on our waiting list for the ASD Assessment service. We are delighted to offer you our drop-in service:**

- Need support to understand the assessment process?
- Want to ask questions about what will happen at your child's appointment?
- Have questions about current difficulties your child is experiencing?
- Need support or advice on how to access services for your child's needs?
- Your opportunity to ask any questions and seek support—we're here to offer advice



Make an appointment via email to [asdqueries@alderhey.nhs.uk](mailto:asdqueries@alderhey.nhs.uk) or call 0151 282 4930. All appointments are virtual, however if you would prefer a telephone call please let us know when you book.

# School Health Screening



For those children who have started school in reception, their health and well-being will now be supported by the Sefton School Health Team in partnership with you and school. During their time in reception, the Sefton School Health Team will visit school to screen your child's distance vision, hearing, height and weight.

If you do not wish your child to be included in any aspect of the screening programme, please ensure you inform the School Health Team by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 on 0151 247 6354 or by email to [mcn-tr.seftonschoolhealth@nhs.net](mailto:mcn-tr.seftonschoolhealth@nhs.net)

Please click [here](#) to access copy letter on our website titled 'Reception Screening Letter 2024' for more information.

# Dogs on School Premises



We would like to remind all parents and extended family members that dogs are not allowed on school premises.


Whilst many children and adults love dogs, some find them intimidating or suffer allergies. Can we please therefore ask that dogs are not brought onto school premises (including in arms or inside jackets!) unless they are guide dogs or assistance dogs.

Please ensure that you make other relatives/friends who collect children aware.

Thank you for your understanding.



## Winter Challenge 2023

<p><b>Activity 1</b> Winter Reading Challenge Go to the website below to create your profile. Read 3 or more books and complete the challenges set. Send a picture of your certificate and you will receive 3 credits. <a href="http://wintermini.org.uk">wintermini.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Activity 2</b> Active Challenge Take part in one of the Sport England challenges, you could try the socks in a box challenge, the wall ball challenge or any others you like the look of. Don't forget to send a picture. <a href="https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/competition/socks-in-the-box-60-second-challenge">https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/competition/socks-in-the-box-60-second-challenge</a></p>	<p><b>Activity 3</b> Create some characters. Save some used cardboard toilet rolls and create some characters with them. You could decorate them as a snowman or penguin or create your own characters. Here's some ideas: <a href="https://whatmomslove.com/kids/christmas-toilet-paper-roll-crafts-for-kids/">https://whatmomslove.com/kids/christmas-toilet-paper-roll-crafts-for-kids/</a></p>	<p><b>Activity 4</b> Tasty treats! Have a go at making a winter tasty treat...you could make marshmallow penguins or snowmen biscuits... <a href="https://www.eatsamazing.co.uk/category/fun-food-for-kids/creative-food-tutorials/winter-themed-recipes">https://www.eatsamazing.co.uk/category/fun-food-for-kids/creative-food-tutorials/winter-themed-recipes</a></p>
<p><b>Activity 5</b> Scavenger hunt! Why not get outside for a walk and take pictures of as many of the following things that you come across: Shadows, a tree stump, a puddle, a squirrel, a worm, fallen leaves, a spiders web, a log, some ice, a feather, a road sign, some birds. I look forward to seeing what you've seen.</p>	<p><b>Activity 6</b> Write a winter themed story Use your imagination to write a winter themed story. Think of an idea, create your main character then decide where the story is set. Have a beginning, middle and end! <a href="https://readingeggs.co.uk/articles/2015-06-19-story-writing-for-kids/">https://readingeggs.co.uk/articles/2015-06-19-story-writing-for-kids/</a> I can't wait to read them all!</p>	<p><b>Activity 7</b> Create a snow globe Have a go at making a snow globe by recycling a used jam jar or similar, find a small figure that could go in it and follow the instructions on this website <a href="https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-make-snow-globe">https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-make-snow-globe</a> Don't forget to send a picture.</p>	

Collect extra Children's University credits during the Christmas holiday by completing this challenge. Each activity is worth 1 credit. Send evidence of your activity to [SeftonCU@elevate-ebp.co.uk](mailto:SeftonCU@elevate-ebp.co.uk) This could be a photograph, video, a work sheet, or writing about what you did. Remember to include your name and the school you attend!

## Year 6 Online Health Questionnaire



In line with Government policy, the Sefton School Health Team will be involving children and their families in deciding how they can best use their resources to keep children healthy.

This term, they are asking children in school year 6 to complete a simple online questionnaire in school about their health, wellbeing and lifestyle. The information they gather, will also help them to identify how they can support your child with any issues that may be impacting on their health and well-being.

Please click [here](#) to access copy letter on our website titled 'Universal Healthy Child Programme – Year 6' for more information

## GOOD BYE and GOOD LUCK

As the Autumn term draws to a close, we would like to wish Mrs McLeod good luck as she moves on to pastures new: -



Mrs McLeod started at Churchtown in 2006 and has taught for the majority of her career in KS2, as well as having responsibility for leading Computing Curriculum and Year

Group and Phase leader responsibility. Mrs McLeod is very professional, is hard working and goes above and beyond for the children. Mrs McLeod has also brought her creativity to many a year group performance, in particular the Year 6 performance at The Atkinson. We wish her well for her new role as a teacher at the Pinefield Centre in Formby for Sefton Complimentary Education Service.

## Values Champions

Imagine ... Believe... Achieve

Once again, we have had lots of nominations for our Values Champions for '**Love of Learning**'. Well done to all the children who were nominated. The overall winners are listed opposite and they will receive a book from Mrs Payne!

## The Winners Are

**Layla B – Reception**  
**Isaac M – Year 1**  
**Connor G – Year 2**  
**Chloe H – Year 3**  
**Kellan W – Year 4**  
**Hollie M – Year 5**  
**Holly M – Year 6**



### LOVE OF LEARNING



At Churchtown creativity drives our love of learning. We believe that when learning is fun, purposeful, and when the voice and imagination of everyone is valued, we flourish.



Well done!

Well done!

Well done!

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance is essential for children's academic achievement, wellbeing and wider development. As a school, we strive for 100% attendance and at the beginning of September, we introduced two new incentives for our children:



1) Our attendance bear (Sergeant Snuggles – named by the children!) is awarded to one class each week. This has been for reasons such as 'best class attendance' or 'most improved attendance'. It has been lovely to see the children's reactions to the bear and it has made them more aware about the importance of attending school. The winning class are also given the title 'Attendance Champions' and they have an attendance star on their classroom door to acknowledge their efforts.



2) A point system was set up to see which year groups have the highest attendance each week. Two of our year groups receive points for having the highest attendance. 1<sup>st</sup> prize (2 points) and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (1 point). The points are then calculated at the end of each full term and the winning year group receives a prize.

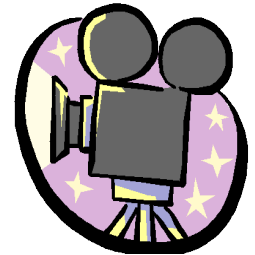
The year group with the best attendance for **Autumn term 2023** is.....

**RECEPTION – well done!**

**Our reception children will be rewarded with a film and craft afternoon at the start of January.**



Let's create some healthy competition and see if another year group can win the reward at the end of the spring term!



*\*We would like to stress that we do not expect children to come to school if they are poorly and acknowledge that some absences are unavoidable.*

*Thank you for your continued support.*

## Support available over the Christmas Holidays

Sefton Women's And Children's Aid - 0151 922 8606 or [help@swaca.com](mailto:help@swaca.com)

24hr National Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0808 2000 247

Childline - 0800 1111

NSPCC - [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

Go to a chemist and ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately)

ANI is a codeword scheme that enables victims of domestic abuse to discreetly ask for immediate help in participating pharmacies.

### Online Safety

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



#### Talk with your child about responsible use of their phone

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use their phone for. Talk about time limits and expectations of where the device can and cannot be used, this could include things like the phone being charged outside their bedroom overnight.



#### Discuss what to do if something upsetting or worrying happens

Give them the strategies they need in case something concerning happens whilst they are using their device. This could be to lock the screen and tell an adult, to make a report to the platform they are using, or to block the user.



#### Explore parental controls

Take a look at the controls available both on the phone itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

# Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

## IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

## ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

## PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At [my.account.sony.com](http://my.account.sony.com), create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

## IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

## XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

## NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

## WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

## CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

## MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

## SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Inc and Computerworld. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 4 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

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@national\_online\_safety



Date	Event
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Break up for Christmas – 1.30pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	INSET Day
Date	Event
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Back to School – Rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine!
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	P.T.A. Meeting in The Lodge at 7pm – all welcome to attend
Date	Event
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Y5 Educational visit to Young Voices at the AO Arena, Manchester
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Break up for half-term (normal times)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Back to School – Rise and shine, school starts at ten to nine!
Date	Event
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Early Years & KS1 Theatre Trip to The Atkinson - 1.30pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Year 1 Educational Trip to Imagine That! Liverpool
Date	Event
May 2024	Nursery & Reception Educational Trip to Martin Mere
Date	Event
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 4 Educational Trip to The Beatles Story, Liverpool
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 2 Educational Trip to Blackpool Zoo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text in red is a new addition to the calendar</li> </ul>	