



Forefield Matters

24th October 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We finish today for the half-term break, following a busy final week! Thank you to everyone who attended Parents' Evening to look at their child's work and speak to teachers about their progress. Staff will make follow up calls to families that did not attend. Thank you also to the Y3 parents who completed the survey and gave such positive feedback. We will be looking more closely at the surveys and acting on the 'Even Better Ifs' next half-term.

As we finish for half-term, our attendance data shows quite a dip and the impact of families taking term-time holidays is growing. Although half of our pupils have been in school every day since September, this is down from 63% last year. Our overall attendance is 96% compared to 97% this time last year and on the last day of the half-term there are 35 children absent from school. Last week's attendance was **amazing**: 98% overall and 5 classes with 100% attendance – quite a contrast to this week! I'm not sure how we compete with the lure of a holiday abroad, especially as families tell us that they can save thousands of pounds by flying just before half-term or returning just after. Holiday prices are beyond our control, but we face tough questions from the local authority, Ofsted and the MAT central team around attendance. Therefore, we have to make attendance a high priority and do everything we can to remain above the national average. Thank you for your support with this.

Yesterday, our Y6 footballers competed in the Peter Dowd tournament and, as always, were excellent ambassadors for FJS. They played well in their three matches but didn't make it through to the final. I'm sure there will be many more opportunities in the coming months.

Visitors to our school website may have noticed the arrival of our 'Curriculum Characters' that represent the different subject areas taught in school. They are designed to help pupils make links across subjects and inspire a 'passion' for learning. Also, on our website's calendar page, you will find the dates for the 25-26 academic year. Next half-term, 5H, 4H and 3KS will be performing their class assemblies (on the 12th, 26th Nov and 3rd Dec).

Have a lovely half-term, see you in November!

PROUD:

PASSION,
RESPECT,
OPPORTUNITY,
UNIQUE,
DETERMINED

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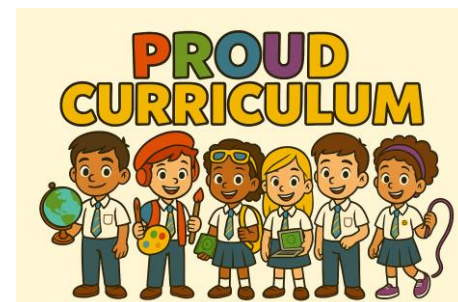
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Term Time Absence:

Please note that term time absence can only be authorised in **exceptional circumstances** and that in-line with government guidelines, Sefton LA may issue penalty notices to families taking holidays during term time.



Diary for week beginning 3rd November 2025

Monday:
9.45 – 11.15
10.15 – 11.45
12.15 – 12.40
3.30 – 4.30
3.30 – 4.30

4MP Swimming
5H Swimming
Y5/Y6 Girls' Football (Miss Cain)
Y3/Y4 Drama Club (Mrs Barton, Mrs Harding, Miss Mawdsley)
Y3-Y6 Tennis (Active Sport)

Tuesday:
12.15 – 12.45
3.30 – 4.30

SMOOTHIE TUESDAY
Board Games Club (Mrs Russell)
Y6 Football (Miss Cain)

Wednesday:
12.45 – 1.15
3.30 – 4.30

Y3-Y6 First Aid training (I Can Save a Life)
Y3/Y4 Drama Club (Mrs Barton, Mrs Harding, Miss Mawdsley)
Y3-Y6 Dodgeball (Active Sport)

Thursday:
8.00 – 8.45
3.30 – 4.15
3.30 – 4.30

Y3-Y6 First Aid training (I Can Save a Life)
Y5/Y6 Sword Fencing (WL Fencing)
Y5/Y6 Drama (Limelight Speech and Drama Academy)
Y3-Y6 Football (Marine FC) - **CANCELLED**

Friday:
12.15 – 12.45
3.30 – 4.30

Y5 Football (Community Multisports Coaching)
Y4 Handball (Community Multisports Coaching)

MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Oven Baked Sausage Mashed potatoes, Peas & Onion Gravy	Chicken Curry Basmati Rice & Naan Bread	Roast Gammon or Quorn Fillet Cauliflower & Broccoli Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Stew & Warm Crusty Bread & Beetroot	Fishy Friday Chipped Potatoes Garden Peas
(V) Quorn Bolognese & Homemade Garlic Bread	(V) Cheese & Potato Pie Baked Beans	(V) Baked Cherry Tomato Frittata Potato Wedges & Side Salad	(V) Quorn Nuggets Mixed Vegetable Rice Sweet & Sour or Curry Sauce	(V) Pasta Bake Crispy Green Salad
Oat Cookies	Choc Chip Muffin	Fruit Jelly	Iced Fairy Cake	Shortbread Finger



Half-Term Update from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear parents and carers,

I hope that you are all well and that you have enjoyed the first half term of this academic year as much as I have. It has been an extremely busy but very positive and energising half term across Mersey View Learning Trust. As we approach the half-term break, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and partnership, and to share with you some of the work that has taken place across the trust.

Since the beginning of September, I have been spending my time visiting the schools in the trust and in doing so, I have had the privilege of talking to many of your children. It is a pleasure to hear how happy they are at school and how much they value the support of the staff, leaders and headteachers. Across the trust, we have seen pupils settling well into their new routines and approaching their learning with enthusiasm. The thirst for learning in classrooms is palpable!

It has been a pleasure visiting our schools. In particular, it has been invaluable getting to see the high-quality education and nurturing environment that the children in our trust experience at each and every school. Some of my highlights of the half term include the following:

- attending the family fun day at Chesterfield High School and seeing how well Year 7 pupils were transitioning to their new school
- being in awe at the sheer number of excited Year 5 and 6 pupils and their families who attended Chesterfield High School's open evening
- putting on my trainers and chatting to Year 6 pupils at Waterloo Primary School while having a tour of the grounds and having a go on the outdoor equipment
- being warmly greeted by the Reception children at the Rowan Tree and invited to join in their learning

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- spending two full days with staff and pupils at Rowan Park celebrating inclusion and pupils' progress
 - hearing the whole school sing in assembly at Valewood Primary School and listening to pupils talking excitedly about their reading
 - learning about the new curriculum characters at Forefield Junior School and hearing how proud pupils are of their school
 - seeing how excited the young children at Forefield Infant School are about their Forest School space.

This half term has also marked some important steps forward in our journey as a trust. Since August, together with Mel Wright, our Chief Operations Officer and Sofia Palios, our Chief Financial Officer, I have been working closely with school leaders to set clear strategic priorities for the trust over the next couple of years. We remain committed to strengthening our leadership, financial sustainability and inclusion across all of our schools.

As you know from my previous letter to you, I am deeply committed to ensuring that every child in the trust benefits from a first-class, inclusive education. To support me in realising this vision, I am delighted that Helen Tantouri, Paul Lindley and Karen Lynskey have joined me in the trust's central team. Their expertise is already having a positive impact on our school improvement plans and has created new opportunities for emerging leaders within our schools. This also allows our leaders to share their best practice more efficiently across our schools.

I am working closely with everyone in the trust to shape a clear vision for the future, rooted in ambition, inclusion and community. I am excited that I will be able to share more with you in the coming months as we rebrand, redesign our website and logo, and continue to build a trust that champions excellence and equity for all children.

I would also like to extend my thanks to our members, trustees, chairs of governors, headteachers and all staff for the warm and professional welcome I have received since taking up post in August 2025. Your ongoing support and leadership are valued greatly, and I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the best for all children in the trust.

As we head towards the half term break, I hope that you and your children have lots of rest, fun and quality time together. Thank you for all that you do to support your child's learning and well-being and for your ongoing support of Mersey View Learning Trust.

I wish you all a peaceful half-term break.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Goodwin
Chief Executive Officer



