

Week 1



Wistaston Weekly

Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a privilege to write to you as the new Headteacher of our wonderful school. I have received such a warm welcome from the entire community, and I am delighted to be leading our school into this exciting new chapter.

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to our site team and teaching staff, who worked tirelessly throughout the summer holidays. From preparing the building and grounds to planning an engaging, vibrant curriculum, their dedication has ensured our school was completely ready to give the children the best possible start to the year.

I want to share how impressed I have been with your children during these first few days. They have made an exceptional start to the academic year. Whether leading assemblies or spending time with them in classrooms, I have been continually struck by their wonderful manners, respectful behaviour, and keen enthusiasm for learning. From holding open doors to greeting staff with bright smiles and playing so kindly together. Parents and carers should be immensely proud - they are a true credit to you.

It has been such a vibrant, positive start to the term, and the learning across the school is already in full swing!

Highlights From Around the Classrooms

Nursery: Our newest and youngest pupils have settled in wonderfully, exploring their new environment, making friends, and embracing their new routines. They have also been showing off their amazing listening skills!

Reception: Our Reception children have been so calm and settled, and we have been blown away with how they have come into school each day! They have been busy making delicious biscuits, exploring indoor and outdoor areas, and enjoying getting to know their grown-ups and classmates.

Year 1: The children have been learning all about Athens, Barcelona, and Elmer and they have been wonderfully polite, making a real point of giving me a warm hello whenever I pass them around school!

Year 2: The pupils have been enjoying a story about a snake eating the headteacher although I am very much hoping that part doesn't happen to me!

Year 3: Children have been unleashing their creativity in art, exploring new techniques and producing fantastic pieces.

Year 4: The pupils have written me beautiful letters and have been brilliantly demonstrating their 'Ready to Write' routines when I've visited their lessons.

Year 5: I wasn't expecting to be turned into a frog during a very creative maths lesson! In assembly, the Year 5 children stood out for all of the right reasons and earned my first two yellow tags!

Year 6: Our oldest children have stepped back in time and immersed themselves in history by getting into role as WWII evacuees. What a great way to start the year! I've been really impressed by their maturity, behaviour and attitudes. Keep it up!

Supporting Our Children Together

To ensure every child gets the very best out of their time with us, working together in partnership is key:

Attendance & Punctuality: Regular, punctual attendance makes a world of difference to a child's learning, confidence, and friendships. As a reminder, our school gates open at 8:40am and close at 8:50am in the morning, and the school day finishes at 3.15pm (Infants) and 3:20pm (Juniors). Thank you in advance for your support in helping your children arrive on time and ready for each exciting day.

Safeguarding: The safety, well-being, and happiness of our pupils are always our highest priorities. We are committed to maintaining a safe, nurturing environment where every child feels secure, supported, and listened to.

Community Conduct: We hold high standards for our entire school community: pupils, staff, parents, carers, and visitors alike. We expect all interactions on school grounds to be polite, respectful, and positive, serving as fantastic role models for our children. Working together with mutual courtesy ensures our school remains a welcoming, safe space for everyone.

Community Partnerships: I have seen firsthand the wonderful benefits of working closely with our local community. Building strong links with local groups and organizations allows us to enrich our curriculum, broaden our pupils' horizons, and provide the very best opportunities for our children.

I strongly believe that a child's education is a true partnership between home and school. Over the coming weeks, I look forward to getting to know you all better, so please do say hello if you see me at the school gates in the mornings.

As I settle into the role, I am learning all the unique routines and traditions that make our school community so special. Everything is still very new to me, but I want to assure you that I am putting my heart into it and doing my absolute best for our pupils, staff and families. I truly appreciate your patience, warmth, and understanding during this transition.

Thank you for sending your children to school so well-prepared, smart, and ready to learn. It promises to be a fantastic year ahead, and I am honoured to be part of your children's educational journey.

Warm regards,

Mrs Lees

Headteacher

Useful Dates for Diary

Further details are shared nearer to the time.

Any new dates added to this will be highlighted in green.

Important dates can also be found on the School Calendar at:

<https://www.wclacademy.co.uk/calendar>

Week commencing 7 th September	Monday 7 th	Year 6 Evacuee Day
	Tuesday 8 th	Crewe Alex Assembly (TBC)
	Tuesday 8 th	Smart Uniform Click & Collect 3-3:30pm
	Tuesday 8 th	Year 6 London Residential Parents Meeting (3:30pm)
Week commencing 14 th September	Wednesday 16 th	Year 5 Swimming lessons
Week commencing 21 st September	Wednesday 23 rd	The Oaks Academy Open Evening (5pm)
	Wednesday 23 rd	Year 5 Swimming Lessons
	Thurs 24 th -Fri 25 th	Book Fair (Details TBC)
Week commencing 28 th September	Wednesday 30 th	Year 5 Swimming lessons
	Wed 30 th – Fri 2 nd	Year 6 London Residential
Week commencing 5 th October	Wednesday 7 th	Year 5 Swimming lessons
	Thursday 8 th	FLUENZ (tbc)

Week Commencing 7th September will be WEEK 2 of our menu for lunches

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN DISH	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Sweet and sour chicken with 50/50 rice	Roast Chicken & stuffing with Roast potatoes	Pork Meatballs and Pasta	Chicken strips & chunky chips
VEGETARIAN MAIN DISH	Chickpea and Vegetable Curry	Mediterranean vegetable casserole	Quorn Fillet & stuffing served with roast potatoes	Vegetable Frittata	Quorn Dippers and chunky chips
ACCOMPANIMENTS 5	Sweetcorn & salad bar	Peas, cauliflower & salad bar	Broccoli, carrots & Salad bar	Garlic Bread, sweetcorn & salad bar	Baked beans, peas & salad bar
DESSERTS	Ice Cream and fruit	Carrot Cake	Chocolate & orange muffins	Shortbread	Chocolate brownie
FRESH FRUIT OR YOGHURT	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
JACKET POTATO	Jacket potato & today's choice of filling	Cheese Sandwich	Jacket potato & today's choice of filling	Ham Sandwich	Jacket potato & today's choice of filling



KEY 5 - 1 OF YOUR 5 A DAY PLANT TEST - MEAT-FREE MONDAY - CHEF'S CHOICE PLANT-BASED (VEGAN)

Allergens and intolerances All of our food is lovingly hand crafted and prepared on site daily. We have an allergen procedure in place, so please ensure you make our catering team aware of your allergens/ your child's allergens prior to using the restaurant. Our kitchens are used for multi-purpose production so we cannot guarantee the above dishes are completely free from allergenic ingredients or traces of these.

What's New!

Weekly Digital Safety Spotlight

Weekly Digital Safety Spotlight
This week: What Parents Need to Know About Worry & Anxiety

Swan Stars Payments

Due to the summer holiday period, there has been a delay in processing payments made via bank transfer and childcare vouchers. Please be assured that all outstanding payments will be allocated to Kids Club HQ Swan Stars accounts by the end of next week.

We apologise for the delay and appreciate your patience and understanding.

Year 6 Evacuee Day – Monday 7th September

Year 6 Evacuee Day will take place on Monday 7th September, with children coming to school dressed as evacuees. The costumes do not need to be bought; anything you have at home can work just as well. Throughout the day, the children will complete fun activities relating to the topic of evacuation.

We would like them to make their gas mask boxes, as they are an important piece of equipment for the day. All they need is a small box, some brown paper, a label (so we know whose is whose) and some string to carry it with. It can be taped, stapled or glued together – whatever is at hand at home. Remember – make do and mend!

Year 6 London Residential Parents Meeting Tuesday 8th September

There will be a meeting for parents of Year 6 pupils going on the London residential on Tuesday 8th September at 3:30pm in the Year 6 classroom.

Year 5 Swimming Lessons

Year 5 swimming lessons will take place at Nantwich Swimming Baths on Wednesday afternoons from 14th September until 9th December (inclusive).

Swimming is part of the Physical Education National Curriculum and an important life skill for the children to learn. This is one of the two PE lessons that children must be taught every week. It doesn't matter if a child is a complete beginner or already attends lessons out of school; all the children will be taught to the best of their ability. Children will also be taught important lifesaving skills.

The children need to bring a NAMED bag containing their swimming costume (not a bikini) or swimming trunks and a towel. Children are able to wear goggles if needed. Long hair must be tied up and ALL jewellery must be removed. Children are not allowed to bring any electrical items, such as a hairdryer. Children must wear a swimming cap for all lessons (these will be provided by the swimming baths)

Consent/payment for lessons should be made via *Trips* on Arbor by **Monday 14th September**. The charge is for transport only as the swimming itself will be funded by school. By consenting to the trip, you are also giving permission for goggles to be worn for the duration of the lesson if you chose to supply them.

If your child is unable to attend their swimming lesson on occasion, then please inform the class teacher as soon as possible. Arrangements will be made for them to spend the afternoon in another year group.

Attendance & Fines for Unauthorised Absence

We are working closely with our Education Welfare Office to improve our attendance and prevent children's attendance from falling below 95%. Children with attendance below 90% are classed as persistent absentees. We are contacting parents by letter if we are worried that a child's attendance is becoming close to 90%. Please be assured that this is just a process and that we are here to support families as much as we can to improve attendance.

If you wish to find out more, you may refer to the following:

- Pupil Attendance and Registration Policy: <https://www.wclacademy.co.uk/policies>
- Cheshire East School Attendance: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-attendance/attendance-and-children-out-of-education.aspx
- Department for Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/overview>

If your child is going to be absent due to a medical appointment, please inform the school office (By telephone, email or via the school website) and show confirmation of the appointment (This can be by letter, text, appointment card or email).

If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please inform the school office (By telephone, email or via the school website) each day and give as much detail as possible regarding their symptoms/diagnosis for their attendance records.

If your child is going to be absent for any other reason (e.g. holiday, wedding, non-medical appointment), please complete a Leave of Absence Request Form at your earliest possible opportunity and attach any relevant supporting information that you wish to be taken into consideration. You should be aware that if your child is taken out of school and the reasons are not classed as exceptional, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. **Any appeal should be made prior to the end of the period of absence before an FPN is issued.**

The law requires all children between the ages of 5 and 16 to be in full time education. Under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 it is the duty of the parent/carer of a child of compulsory school age to ensure that they attend school regularly.

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices came into force on 19th August 2024. As a result of these changes, absences will be tracked over a rolling 3 year period and penalty notices will be issued for the following:

- Term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days
- 10 sessions of unauthorised leave in a rolling 10 week period

Please note that penalty notices may also be issued before the threshold is met where it appears parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays of less than 5 days.

Penalty notices will continue to be issued per parent per child as follows:

- First Offence – For term time leave or irregular school attendance; Charged at £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days, reducing to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- Second Offence – Where a second notice is issued within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either term time leave or irregular attendance, this will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days.
- Third Offence – If a third offence occurs within 3 years of the first penalty notice, a penalty notice will not be issued but the case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school', the Magistrate can impose a fine up to £1000 or legal proceedings under Section 444 (1a) can include a fine of up to £2500.

Please be aware that these changes are national changes and all penalty notices will be issued by Cheshire East Council. The school does not benefit financially in any way from any fines issued.

[Primary and Secondary School Admission Applications Open](#)

Applications are now open for children starting primary school and transitioning to secondary school. Parents are strongly advised to apply for three preferences. Applications must be submitted to the child's home local authority by:

- 31 October 2026 for pupils moving up to High School in September 2027.
- 15 January 2027 for pupils starting primary in September 2027.

Parents still need to apply even if pupils have a brother or sister already at the school or the child is attending a nursery/preschool attached to the school. Some faith schools may also require parents and carers to submit a supplementary information form/confirmation of baptism. Further information about this will be available on the school's website.

Parents should consider how their child will travel to school when making preferences. Parents can find out about school transport at [School transport](#).

To apply online and for further information please go to [Apply for September 2027 school place](#) or call 0300 123 5012.

[Oaks Academy Open Evening](#)

Please see below details of an open evening at the Oaks Academy. Bookings can be made at:

<https://bit.ly/TheOaksOpenEve26>



[Shavington Academy Open Evening](#)

Shavington will be holding their open evening on Thursday 1st October. They will also be offering school tours throughout October following the Open Evening, and all families are very welcome to attend. Details of the tour dates will be shared closer to the time.

[Best Start in Life Toilet Training Campaign](#)

Best Start in Life has launched a toilet training campaign to support parents of children aged 3 to 4. The [Best Start in Life Potty Training webpage](#), provides practical advice to help children develop the skills they need for school, from recognising when they need the toilet to managing clothing, wiping, flushing and washing their hands.

if you need more support with toilet training, please see the link below to the health visiting hub which can offer more targeted support.

[0 - 19+ Health Visiting Service Cheshire East | CheshireEast MarketPlace](#)

[Vaccination Programme Guidance for Parents](#)

Cheshire East have asked school to share the Information for parents and carers leaflet below which provides practical information for parents and carers and supports vaccination for school age children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This leaflet is designed to help parents and carers understand the importance and benefits of vaccinations for children and young people with SEND. It seeks to address many of the queries and concerns raised by parents and carers of children with SEND and provides practical advice and information on how to prepare for an immunisation appointment, what to expect, and where to find accurate and reliable trusted sources of information on vaccinations.

[Information for SEND in mainstream schools](#)

[Infection Control](#)

For NHS-recommended advice on common childhood illnesses and guidance on when your child should stay off school, visit [Patient.info](#).

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minftec>.

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Diarrhoea and vomiting in children

There's no specific cure for stomach bugs such as **Norovirus**. See tips to reduce the spread and treat symptoms

Keep kids home from school for

48
HOURS

after symptoms have passed. This is enough time to let the virus run its course

If your child already has a serious illness, or symptoms last longer than a few days, contact your GP to seek advice
Visit nhs.uk/norovirus

choices Good Partnership Agency



Washing hands frequently and thoroughly helps limit the spread of the virus

25

different strains of Norovirus are known to affect humans.

They're the most common cause of stomach bugs in the UK

Home Treatment



Paracetamol is useful for fever or aches and pains



Give kids plenty of water to stay hydrated and replace lost fluids



If your child feels like eating, give them bland foods

Water Safety

Please see below a poster from Cheshire East to help families recognise potential risks around water and understanding how to stay safe.

WATER SAFETY – STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER

Cold water can kill – even on warm days

- ☐ Cold water shock can happen suddenly causing panic and loss of breathing control
- ☐ Even strong swimmers can get into difficulty very quickly

Stay safe near water

- X** Never jump straight into open water
- X** Avoid swimming alone – stay with others
- X** Do not mix alcohol with water activities
- X** Always supervise children closely
- X** Follow safety signs and local advice

Know the risks

- ☐ Water is colder than it looks
- ☐ Hidden currents or deep water may be present
- ☐ Edges can be uneven or slippery

FLOAT TO LIVE

- ☐ Stay calm, control your breathing.
- ☐ Lean back, tilt your head back, ears submerged and float on your back
- ☐ Move your hands and legs to stay afloat
- ☐ Your legs may sink that's OK
- ☐ Keep your airway clear
- ☐ When calm, call for help

In an emergency – CALL 999 OR 112

- ☐ Call the emergency services
- ☐ Do not enter the water
- ☐ Use a lifebuoy or rope if available



SEND Advise Sessions

Please see below for details of upcoming SEND advice sessions:





SEND 0-19 Advice sessions

SEND 0-19+ health practitioners (On behalf of health visitor/school nursing services Cheshire East) bookable appointments for parents for support, signposting and guidance with all SEND related issues and helping to understand why your child may be struggling and ideas that may help. Think your child may have SEND and not sure where to go or what to do? Need support around toileting, sleep, behaviour or development – feel free to book an appointment for some advice. You will be seen on a 1-1 basis and there is no need to bring your child.

September 2026

Tues 1st September 9.15-12.15am Nantwich Children's Centre
 Thurs 10th September 9.15-12.15am Monks Coppenhall SEND Hub
 Mon 14th September 9-11am Ash Grove Family Hub
 Fri 18th September 9-11am Congleton Family Hub
 Thurs 24th September 1.30-4.30pm Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager
 Tues 29th September 9.30am-11.30am Oakencloough Family Hub

October 2026

Thurs 1st October 9.15-12.15 Monks Coppenhall SEND Hub
 Tues 6th October 9.15-12.15am Nantwich Children's Centre
 Friday 9th October 9-11am Knutsford Children's Centre
 Monday 12th October 9-11am Ash Grove Family Hub
 Friday 16th October 9am-11am Congleton Family Hub
 Tuesday 27th October 9.30am-11.30am Oakencloough Family Hub
 Thurs 29th October 1.30-4.30pm Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager

November 2026

Tuesday 3rd November 9.15-12.15am Nantwich Children's Centre
 Monday 9th November 9-11am Ash Grove Family Hub

Thurs 12th November 1.30-4.30pm Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager
 Friday 13th November 9-11am Congleton Family Hub
 Thurs 26th November 9.15-12.15am Monks Coppenhall SEND Hub
 Tuesday 27th November 9.30am-11.30am Oakencloough Family Hub

December 2026

Tuesday 1st December 9.15-12.15am Nantwich Children's Centre
 Thurs 3rd December 9.15-12.15am Monks Coppenhall SEND Hub
 Friday 4th December 9am-11am Knutsford Children's Centre
 Monday 7th December 9am-11am Ash Grove, Macclesfield Family Hub
 Thurs 10th December 1.30-4.30pm Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager
 Friday 11th December 9am – 11am Congleton Family Hub
 Friday 15th December 9.30am-11.30am Oakencloough Family Hub

To book an appointment:

At Congleton, Knutsford, Ash Grove or **Oakencloough**:
 Email stanforlifeforth@cheshireeast.gov.uk
 At Monks Coppenhall, Nantwich and Alsager call 01270 371240 or
 Email stanforlifeforth@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Venues and contact numbers

Wesley Place Methodist Church, 30 Lawton Rd, Alsager, ST7 2BU
 Ash Grove Family Hub, Macclesfield, SK11 7TD Tel: 01625 374484
 Congleton Family Hub, Congleton, CW12 3AH Tel: 01260 371061
 Knutsford Children's Centre, Manor Park North, Knutsford, WA16 8DB
 Monks Coppenhall SEND Centre of Excellence, Crewe, CW1 4UY Tel: 01270 371240
 Nantwich Children's Centre, Nantwich, CW5 5GX Tel: 01270 371240
 Oakencloough Family Hub, Willmow, SK9 2PZ Tel: 01625 374180

For further advice please visit -
[Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) page](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/education/special-educational-needs-and-disability/SEND) on services & Cheshire East - [0-19 Health and Social Care](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/0-19)

Visyon Parent/Carer Webinars & Peer Support Group

Visyon now offer free online parent / carer webinars covering a range of topics. Please see the website for further information and to book.

[Parent webinars](#) | [visyon](#)

Arbor Information & Consents

To ensure school has up-to-date contact information in case of an emergency, please check your child's Arbor account and inform school immediately by email of any changes or errors. Please also ensure that all consents (e.g. Local Area Visits, photographs, walking home, mobile phones, etc) are up to date and contact the school office if you have any issues. Thank you.

Easyfundraising

A huge thank you to everyone who is supporting us for free on #easyfundraising.

If you've not signed up yet, please sign up to easyfundraising and when you shop online with your favourite retailers, they'll donate to us.

It's free and your shopping won't cost you any extra - the retailers you shop with will donate, not you!

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/wistastonchurchlaneacademy/c9kbjl/c2s/AEWwwwVJ/CE076/facebook/>

School Lottery

If you're not yet involved in our school lottery, and want the chance to win £25k every week, why not join today?

Head over to www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for Wistaston Church Lane Academy. Please find further details below:

SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY TODAY

£1 per week

Weekly cash prizes

£25,000 jackpot

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

£1 TICKET

Splitting the £1.00

How it works...

It's simple – just choose 6 numbers between 0-9, and if they match the weekly lottery draw, you win great prizes. One of our players will win a cash prize every week, maybe even the £25k jackpot! Tickets cost just £1 per week and the proceeds are donated to **Wistaston Church Lane Academy**

Every Saturday at 8pm the numbers are drawn and posted online. Winners are notified by email and winnings paid into the account of your choice.

The easiest way to join our lottery is online by direct debit or debit card.

It's so easy to join and will make a real difference to Wistaston Church Lane Academy

40p to our school
25p guaranteed prize
35p other prizes & running costs

The maths...

100 weekly tickets means:
 A £25 guaranteed weekly prize
 £2,080 a year for your school

To start supporting, visit:
yourschoollottery.co.uk
 and search for: **Wistaston**

GambleAware 18+

Crewe Lyceum Production of Nativity

We are pleased to announce that a number of WCLA pupils will be taking part in this year's Crewe Lyceum's production of Nativity. Please see below for more details:



Payment Due Dates

KS2 Snack – Autumn 1 – Payment OVERDUE

Year 5 Swimming – Payment due by 14/09/26

Year 4 Whitemoor Lakes – Final Balance due by 16/10/26