

Dear Families,

Over the last two weeks, school staff have been working closely with our colleagues from Mersey View Learning Trust (MVLТ) to look at school improvement. Identifying strengths and celebrating our achievements is always such a positive experience. We ask the children to be reflective learners in the classroom and as leaders both in and out of the classroom we model this too. This week I decided to ask the children in Year 5 and 6 what they thought the strengths and areas for improvement were for our school to see if they matched with the adults' perceptions.

Here's just a few of their ideas...

Strengths	Areas for Improvement
Children's rights	More Art, PE and DT
Outside space	Better toilets
Teachers and other staff	More buddy time/Y5/6
Making school fun	mentoring the younger children
Everyone values our personal strengths	Better storage
Everyone is nice	More fundraising
We respect each other	More cooking
School is fun	More experiments in science
Teachers are encouraging and don't overload us	School lunches
Collaboration	Different clubs eg. yoga/gardening
Extra opportunities – performances, trips, Forest School, Arts week, music, sports	Swimming in Year 6
	Better

A lot of food for thought – thank you Year 5 and Year 6.

Awards

Valuing Personal Strengths underpins our Valewood values and celebrates the strengths that individuals have and this is an important part of the ethos of our school. Last week we celebrated the achievements of both our Infants and Juniors.

Congratulations to all our award winners:

Take Notice: Otis, Sophia, Cece, Millie, Delilah, Henry, Aiden

Connect: Sophie, Mabel, George, Max, Felix, Eliza, Ethan

Keep Learning: Callum, Sidney, Lenny, Guy, Felix, Teddy, Joshua

Stay Active: Finley, Oliver, Owen, Ted, Jude, Connie, Diana

Give: Bethany, Mabel, Sarenika, Iris, Kayden, Louis, Sophia

RRS: Hattie, Liberty, Faye, Molly, Seb, Henry, Hugo

Yellow Star: Everly, Ethan, Lucy, Kit, Lily, Nellie, Earl

Best wishes,
Danielle Parr

Safeguarding

UNCRC Article 17: Every child has the right to reliable information.

This week's focus for families from the National College is smartphone safety tips. As I am sure you are all aware, children's use of mobile phones and social media has been in the news recently and discussions about this theme are taking place throughout the country. Our Votes for School topics this week were,

5-7: Should children stop using social media?

7-11: Should there be a social media ban for under-16s?

Keeping children safe online is an important part of our work and teaching the children about how to stay safe online is the foundation of our computing curriculum. As Duty Bearers we all have a responsibility to keep our children free from harm.



You can find this parent advice leaflet, all about smartphones, attached with this newsletter.

Attendance Data: Whole School Target 97%

Last Week- School:

	Attendance	No. of late marks
Reception	96%	4
Team 1	93.9%	2
Team 2	93.7%	4
Team 3	96.7%	0
Team 4	98%	6
Team 5	99%	0
Team 6	97%	2

Attendance Cup Goes to...

Spring Term 1, Week 1: Team 2
Spring Term 1, Week 2: Team R
Spring Term 1, Week 3: Team 1
Spring Term 1, Week 4: Team 5
Spring Term 1, Week 5: Team ?
Spring Term 1, Week 6: Team ?

Attendance & Punctuality – WE CANNOT TEACH AN EMPTY SEAT!

There may be times when your child cannot attend school as they are too unwell but there may also be times when they are a little under the weather and you maybe unsure. In 2024, DFE launched a nation-wide campaign called, “Moments Matter ...Attendance Counts.” So, if you are unsure if your child is, “Too ill for school” check out the NHS advice at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

N.B. School gates open at 8.35am; children are expected in class at 8.40am and gates are locked at 8.45am. Please follow the one-way system.

Please be aware that school staff can conduct a home visit if school is not able to contact parents/carers on a day when your child is absent from school/school has had no notification as to a child’s absence so please ensure your contact details are up to date on Arbor.

Holidays in Term Time

Holidays in term time will not be authorised. If you are planning to take your child out of school during term time a ‘Request for leave of absence’ form must be completed (the orange form) and returned to school so attendance processes can be followed. N.B. If staff suspect a holiday in term time is the reason for absence (and especially, when an international ring tone is heard, when calling) the Headteacher has the authority to change the reason of absence to ‘unauthorised’.

Walk in White

Next Wednesday 4th February we will be undertaking our “Walk in White” challenge in order to raise funds for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. Please see Class Dojo for more details.

Year 6 Come Dine with Me

Due to staff absence in the kitchen we will have to postpone the Year 6 Come Dine with Me. This will now take place on Friday 17th April. Apologies for the late notice.

TERM DATES for 2025-2026 are on our website and below...

Please be advised that holidays in term time will not be authorised.

OUR SCHOOL DAY IS FROM 8.40am to 3.15pm

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025 – 2026

	AUTUMN TERM 2025	SPRING TERM 2026	SUMMER TERM 2026
<u>Term commences</u>	Wednesday 3 September	Monday 5 January	Monday 13 April
Mid-Term Holiday	Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October	Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February	Monday 25 May to Tuesday 2 June
<u>Term Ends</u>	Friday 19 December	Friday 27 March	Thursday 16 July

INSET Days: Monday 1st September 2025
 Tuesday 2nd September 2025
 Monday 1st June 2026
 Tuesday 2nd June 2026
 Friday 17th July 2026
 Monday 20th July 2026

Important Dates (*subject to change)

4th February Walk in White for World Cancer Day

9th February Infant Awards Assembly 9am

12th February Junior awards Assembly 9am

13th February Valentine's Book & Brew (session 1) 9am – 9.40am

13th February Valentine's Book & Brew (session 2) 9.50am – 10.30am

13th February Finish for Half Term 3.15pm

23rd February Return for Spring 2

25th February Y6 residential trip to Robinwood

26th February Y6 residential trip to Robinwood

27th February Y6 residential trip to Robinwood

27th February Year 4 Come Dine with Me

5th March World Book Day

6th March Year 3 Come Dine with Me

13 th March	Year 2 Come Dine with Me
16 th March	Big Walk & Wheel – 2 weeks
20 th March	Year 1 Come Dine with Me
26 th March	Last After School Club session
27 th March	Finish for Easter Holidays 1.30pm
27 th March	After School Club is closed
13 th April	Return for Summer 1
17 th April	Year 6 Come Dine with Me
24 th April	Year 5 Come Dine with Me
1 st May	Reception Come Dine with Me
4 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
13 th May	Y4 residential trip to CHET
18 th May	Y3 Trip to Deva Roman Experience, Chester
21 st May	Spanish Day
22 nd May	Finish for Half Term 3.15pm
1 st June	Inset Day
2 nd June	Inset Day
3 rd June	Return for Summer 2
12 th June	Forest School Book & Brew 9 - 10am
15 th July	Last After School Club session
16 th July	Finish for Summer Holidays 1.30pm
16 th July	After School Club is closed
17 th July	INSET Day – Staff only to attend
20 th July	INSET Day – Staff only to attend