

Our Ref: MMc / JMc

2nd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Pupils have coped really well with a very warm week. Plenty of access to cool water, sun hats, shorts, open windows and using our sail shades on the field have all helped to keep people cool. I have ordered ice pops for everyone - hopefully they will arrive in time before the weather breaks. Always the optimist- we will have the ice pops on site when the next band of warm weather comes!

This week we have had a number of pupils completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition. The group of 10 pupils completed walking routes in Delamere, Llangollen and part of the Whitegate Way. The group are expected to walk at least 7 hours a day (which roughly works out at 16km). They were supported by Anthea (DofE lead), Adam and Pat. They have been in touch with me daily and despite the heat pupils have been outstanding. Lots of water and ice cream breaks have been the order of the day. I look forward to welcoming them back later today. Congratulations to everyone for a first-class effort and to the support staff who have given up time with their families this week to support the group.

School has been contacted by the family of one of our KS3 pupils to let us know of a charity choir concert they are organising next Friday. Details:

Condate Singers, 'Spring into Song', The Stronghold, Forster Avenue, Weaverham, 7:30pm.

Refreshments and a raffle will be available on the night.

All funds raised will be donated to school - a very kind and generous thought. Tickets can be bought from the front office (£5 each).

*Please find below a message from **Karen Kauffman – Strategic Commissioning Programme Manager (Children, Families and Public Health)**:*

Help Us Shape the Starting Well Service

The Starting Well service delivers support to children, young people, their families and carers across Cheshire West and Chester. The service is based mainly in Children's Centres but also delivers support in families and carers' homes, and in schools.

The Starting Well team includes Health Visitors, nursery workers, early years workers and School Nurses.

We would like to gather some ideas from people who use or have used the Starting Well 0-19 service (up to 25 years old for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)), and those who don't, to understand what works well, what has been challenging and what opportunities you think there are to do things better.



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Please click on the link to our Participate Now page for families/carers and children and young people to complete. The engagement ends on 9 May 2025

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/startingwell

Kind Regards,

Karen Kauffman

Requests for holidays during Term Time

I regularly write to inform families of the new penalties in place for taking children out of school during term time for the purposes of a holiday. Unfortunately, I continue to receive holiday requests. The enforcement of fines has become more rigorous since September 2024. A fine is issued if a pupil has 5 or more days away from school during term time. The fine is £160, reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days. **Please note the fine is issued to each parent.**

There have been instances of families taking their child out of school for the purposes of a holiday without informing school. That means, without any information to explain a child's absence, school has to manage an unknown absence as a safeguarding concern and we may contact social care or the Police to report a missing child and to determine that the child is safe.

Date reminders:

Thursday 8th May- VE Day.

Pupils will have the opportunity to experience a VE lunch, with period music to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe. On the day pupils will be issued with a ration card that they can use to get their lunch meal. It is a non-uniform day and pupils, together with staff, will have the opportunity to dress in the style of 1945 if they wish.

Wednesday 21st May- Parents Evening

This will run from 3:00pm- 7:00pm.

Wednesday 4th June- 6:00-8:00pm Sixth Form Open Evening

School closes for the Bank Holiday weekend on **Friday 2nd May** and re-opens for pupils on **Wednesday 7th May**. **Tuesday 6th May** is a staff training day with a focus on the SCERTS model, a research-based educational approach and multidisciplinary framework that directly addresses the core challenges faced by autistic children. If you wish to find out more about the model, please use the link below.

<https://scerts.com/>

I wish you a wonderful and enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M McCann
Headteacher



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