

What a wonderful start we’ve had to the new school year! Despite a soggy start on Wednesday morning, it was a joy to see children arriving with huge smiles and such excitement for the year ahead. The weather did nothing to dampen their spirits, and their enthusiasm has already brought so much warmth and energy to our school.

As a Church of England school, our values of love and respect are at the heart of everything we do. It’s been lovely to see these values in action this week, as pupils have settled in and supported each other with kindness.

I wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt **thank you** for the incredibly warm welcome I have received from the entire school community.

It has been a real pleasure getting to know the children, staff, and many of you. Your kindness and support have made my transition into the role very enjoyable. I am truly excited about the journey ahead and am committed to building on the school’s many strengths, ensuring every child continues to thrive, feel valued, and enjoys their learning every day. What a privilege it is to be headteacher of such a lovely school with delightful children in beautiful surroundings.

I have been talking to the children and they have already given me plenty of ideas. Together, I’m excited to work towards providing an enriched and engaging curriculum that inspires a love of learning, creativity, and curiosity in every child.

This year, we will also be looking at ways we can raise our profile within the local community and strengthen the links that help our school flourish as a place where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to thrive. My first homework task is to learn all of the children’s names.

Over the coming weeks, I look forward to meeting more of you and working in partnership to give our children the very best start in life. Please do come and introduce yourself when I am on the playground in the morning or at the end of the day.

Thank you for your warm welcome and continued support. Here’s to a fantastic year ahead!

Kindest regards,

Mrs Helen Griffiths

“I’ve had a lovely warm welcome to school and the children have been so helpful.” Mr Dagnall

“We’ve absolutely loved welcoming the children and new families to Dawpool and getting to know them.” Mrs Heron

“The behaviour of the children is impeccable. What a credit to their families.” Mrs Gossage

“The children have all come back bubbly, smiley and ready to work.” Mr Cushion

“It’s been brilliant and the lessons aren’t too tricky for the start of the new year.” Ben

”I really loved my first week.” Valentina

“It’s been really good” Aubrey

“I like seeing my teacher and friends.” Freddie

At the start of a new school year, photographs are such a special keepsake for families. Please ensure that any photographs shared on social media do not include other children.

***NEXT WEEK***

**Monday 8th September**

**Tuesday 9th September**

**Wednesday 10th September**

Forest School for Year 3

3.30-4.30 pm Chess Club

**Thursday 11th September**

**Friday 12th September**

**Meet the Teacher Meetings**

To start the new school year, we give you the opportunity to meet your child’s new class teacher(s) and to learn about the year ahead. We hope that a parent or carer is able to attend. The dates and times of the meetings are:

**Year 1:** Wednesday 24th September at 5.00-5.30pm

**Year 2**: Tuesday 23rd September at 5:30-6:00pm

**Year 3**: Tuesday 23rd September at 4:30-5:00pm

**Year 4**: Wednesday 24th September at 4:30-5:00pm

**Year 5**: Tuesday 23rd September at 5:00-5.30pm

**Year 6**: Wednesday 24th September at 5:30-6:00pm

Information shared during the meetings will be uploaded to the class webpages afterwards for handy reference during the year.

Parents’ Evenings for **Foundation 1 and Foundation 2** children will take place on **Tuesday 30th September and Wednesday 1st October between 3:30-6:00pm.** Details about how to book an appointment will be sent to parents shortly. Parents’ Evenings for Years 1-6 will take place before half term and more details will follow soon.

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The children will have PE lessons on the following days:

**Foundation 2: Friday**

**Year 1: Friday**

**Year 2: Wednesday**

**Year 3: Thursday**

**Year 4: Thursday**

**Year 5: Tuesday**

**Year 6: Friday**

Children may come to school on their PE day wearing their PE kit.

* Navy shorts or skorts
* White t-shirt (with or without school logo)
* Plain navy tracksuit (in colder weather)
* Trainers

Children should not wear ‘own clothes or football kits on their PE day. It is important that all pupils adhere to the items of PE uniform listed above.

Please note PE days may change each term to allow all our children to experience the specialist coaching from Clare Mount Specialist Sports College.

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At Dawpool, we are privileged to have such beautiful grounds. To utilise this and to develop character strengths of resilience, teamwork, curiosity and leadership, children will be having the opportunity to participate in Forest School on a regular basis. Mrs Ham will be taking a different class each week for a Forest School session which will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. Children should come to school in their PE kit, weather appropriate footwear and coats if they have Forest School.

Forest School: Wednesday 10th - Year 3.

**Schoolmoney Payments**

It is important that all Schoolmoney payments are paid promptly. There are still some payments outstanding from the last academic year. These must be cleared by Monday 8th September but should there be a problem with this, please contact us in confidence.

Thank you for your support with this important matter.

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To support excellent attendance of pupils, all of the Term Dates until **Summer 2027** can be found on the council website [here](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-holidays-and-term-dates).

Please note that in line with statutory guidance, family holidays **will not be authorised in term time**. This includes leaving school early on a Friday to facilitate weekend breaks. Unauthorised holidays will be reported to the local authority and a fixed penalty notice may be issued.

All non-emergency appointments, including routine dental appointments, should be made out of school hours.



The remaining INSET Days for 2025-2026 are as follows:

* **Monday 5th January 2026**
* **Friday 1st May 2026**
* **Monday 20th July 2026**



We will shortly be informing you about this term’s offer of extra-curricular clubs and activities. Please note that Chess Club will resume for KS2 pupils already on the register on **Wednesday 10th September, 3:30-4:30pm.**

**Wraparound Care Payments/Pre-school / Lunchtime payments & School dinners**

We have two new members of staff who will be working in our Wrap Around Care, Mr S. Dagnall and Mrs P. Rainsford. They are both also working as Learning Support Assistants so I’m sure you'll get to know them very soon. Payments for all of the above are paid online via SchoolMoney and you will shortly receive a text and email requesting payment. Wraparound care, pre-school and lunchtime sessions are payable for the month and school dinners for the half term. Payments should be made by the date indicated, which is normally within 3 days of the request for payment.

Any problems please contact Mandy Parr at the School Office on option 4 or by email at [mparr@dawpool.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:mparr@dawpool.wirral.sch.uk).

If any parents wish to pay by the government’s tax-free childcare payments scheme, please contact Mandy Parr about how this works.

**11+ Examination.**

The 11+ examination will take place for registered pupils on **Monday 15th September**. The ‘Test Day Identity Forms’ that have been returned to school will be stamped and signed ready to be collected from the School Office from the end of the school day on **Wednesday 10th September.**

**Best Start for life Courses**

Please find attached the posters for both the PGL (Parent Group Leader) training and Being a Parent courses, both due to start in September/October 2025.

Twilight session – Tuesday 5-7pm in Moreton – 9 weeks

Morning session – Thursday 9:30-11:30am in Woodchurch – 9 weeks

PGL course Tuesday 9:30-4:30pm in Moreton – 10 weeks

**Summer Reading Challenge**

I’m sure many of you have participated in the library’s summer reading challenge. A reminder that the challenge ends on September 6th and that certificates and medals may be collected until the end of September from a local library.

**Maggie’s-Fest 2025**

This Saturday 6th September, a budget friendly family festival is taking place at Brimstage Farm (postcode CH63 6JA) between 12-7pm. The event is to raise awareness and funds for Maggie’s Wirral, a local cancer support centre based at Clatterbridge Hospital.

Tickets available here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/maggies-fest-2025-tickets-1263843864019>

There is a special discount for school families, use promo code “School10” at checkout for 10% off all tickets. Please see attached poster for more details.

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**Welcome Back from the FoDS!**

We hope you and your families had a wonderful summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new school year!

As we dive into another exciting year, FoDS is looking forward to hosting a variety of fun events, building lasting memories for our children, and working together to raise valuable funds that support our school community.

The AGM will be held on the 25th September. More information will follow, so stay tuned for further upcoming dates and opportunities to get involved — we can’t wait to make this year our best one yet!

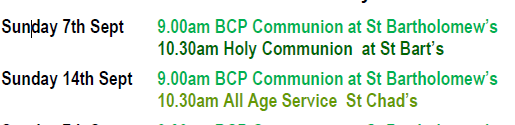
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**The Warm Hub, Irby**

The Warm Hub is a Place of Welcome for anyone in the community. We meet in St. Chad’s Church every Tuesday morning 9.30 a.m. – 12.30p.m. It is free and open to anyone although children under 13 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Each month, we invite a guest speaker or host an event which may be of interest to our guests. Students are always most welcome to come along outside terms if there is a talk which interests them.



For more information about Services and events at St Bartholomew’s Thurstaston and St Chad’s Irby, please visit:

**Website:**

[**https://www.thurstaston.org.uk/**](https://www.thurstaston.org.uk/)

**Email:**

[**office@thurstaston.org.uk**](mailto:office@thurstaston.org.uk)

**Facebook:**

[**https://www.facebook.com/stchadsstbarts/**](https://www.facebook.com/stchadsstbarts/)

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