



April 2025 Newsletter

Headteacher's update

Although this half term has been a short one, it has certainly been a busy and eventful few weeks!

We started the term with a call from Ofsted, followed by a very successful two-day inspection. Thank you to everyone who played a part in showcasing all the fantastic work we do.

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Lucy welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Sonny, this half term. Huge congratulations to her and her family! As one chapter begins, another prepares to start—Emma from Willow class will begin her maternity leave at the end of the week, and we wish her all the best as she gets ready for her new arrival.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our annual enterprise event. The pupils are now excitedly planning how to spend their profits, whether on new class resources or memorable trips out.

Looking ahead to the summer term, we begin preparations for both our leavers and the new pupils who will be joining us. We are also pleased to confirm that our annual Leavers and Awards Night will take place on Friday 4th July at The Gild Hall in Formby. More details will follow, and we hope you can join us for this special evening.

Wishing you all a restful break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back next term!

Swimming pool development

Some of our amazing parents and staff are on a mission to transform our school pool into a more engaging and sensory-rich environment for our pupils. Sophie Dunbavin, mum of Teddy, was inspired by how much he—and all our pupils—benefit from their time in the water. Determined to make a difference, she has been actively applying for grants and charity donations to help bring this vision to life.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a school swimming pool, as it plays a vital role in our children's education and therapy. Swimming lessons provide essential life skills while also offering a profound sensory experience that supports learning, physical development, and social interaction. However, our pool area is currently quite plain.

Unlike many specialist schools, we lack interactive features such as music, dynamic lighting, and sensory decorations. Enhancing this space with these elements would create a more stimulating and supportive environment, especially for children with autism and complex needs, helping them engage more fully in water-based learning. Research shows that sensory stimulation in water significantly benefits autistic children, improving communication, coordination, and confidence.

To support this cause, Sophie and a group of brave volunteers have even signed up for a Skydive! If you would like to contribute or support Sophie in her fundraising efforts, please get in touch, and we will connect you with her.

Thank you for your support to make this vision a reality!



First place for Oak class Basketball team!



We are so excited to share some amazing news—our basketball team has won first place in a competition against other schools across Liverpool! The players worked really hard, played as a team, and never gave up. We are so proud of them! Way to go, team!



Upcoming dates:

- 2nd April - Easter Bonnet parade through Ainsdale
- 4th April - School finishes at 2pm
- 22nd April - School opens for pupils
- 23rd April - Mini-Marathon
- 5th May - School closed for Bank Holiday
- 23rd May - School closes at 3pm for half term
- 2nd June - School re-opens for pupils
- 9th June - M&M Theatre, Oliver Twist
- 16-22nd June - National School Sports Week
- 21st June - Summer fair
- 9th July - Sports day
- 4th July - Merefield summer celebration evening
- 18th July - School closes at 2pm for the summer



On 23rd April, all pupils will be able to take part in the mini marathon at school. We will complete a walk or run around the local area in partnership with other local schools. Our whole school event will begin at 10am.

A smaller group of pupils will also join a school to school relay race that starts in Bootle and ends in Southport. Our group will join Range High School pupils on their leg of the relay to Birkdale High School at approximately 11.45am.

If you would like to sponsor your child or the event, donations will be welcome, although they are voluntary. Together we will be raising money for the 'Mini Medics' campaign to provide basic first aid training to some pupils in schools that have taken part.

This event continues on from the #kNOwKnifeCrime fundraising in 2024, when enough money was raised to provide all schools with a bleed control kit and cabinet.

We ask pupils to wear suitable clothing for a walk or run on this day.



Community Easter extravaganza

On Wednesday, 2nd April, our pupils and staff proudly took part in an Easter Bonnet Parade around the local community. Dressed in bright clothing and wearing their beautifully handcrafted bonnets, they brought plenty of colour and joy to the streets! As part of the event, we collected Easter eggs to donate to the Sefton Community Pantry, supporting families across the borough. A huge thank you to everyone in school and the local community for your generosity and support. The pupils had a fantastic time showcasing their creations and spreading Easter cheer! We were even lucky enough to be joined by the Easter bunny. All pupils received an Easter egg to take home, these have been very kindly donated by The Southport Freemasons.



This year, we celebrated World Book Day with the theme "Journeys", exploring the incredible adventures books take us on. Stories have the power to transport us to far-off lands, magical realms, and even deep within ourselves. Whether it was a physical journey across mountains and seas, a voyage through time, or a personal journey of growth and discovery, we embraced the many paths that literature offers. As we look back on our celebrations, we are reminded that every book is a passport to adventure. Thank you to everyone who took part and shared in the magic of storytelling!



Summer FAIR



FOMS are looking for new volunteers to help with their charity. If you are interested in helping in any way or becoming a trustee for the charity, please let us know and we will put you in touch with Karen Roberts.

This year's Summer Fair will be on Saturday 21st June at 12pm. There will be 3 mufti days to help collect any donations for stalls.

Mufti days:

- Friday 6th June - donations of bottles
- Friday 13th June - donations of any unwanted gift
- Friday 20th June - donations of cakes and sweets



Attendance

Our current whole school attendance is 90.8%.

Our attendance has just dropped below our target, so we need to work together to improve this. Please continue to inform the school when and why your child is absent. If we do not hear from you and are unable to make contact, a Sefton Welfare Officer may visit to check that everything is okay.

All schools are legally required to follow the Department for Education's statutory guidance on attendance. Regarding time off during term time, the guidance states: "A leave of absence must not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances and must be requested in advance."

We understand that every child's situation is unique, and there may be challenges affecting attendance. Our priority is to support all children in attending school. If you need any assistance, please contact Katy Calder for support.

National School Sports Week



During this week we are planning a range of activities and competitions between classes and also some other schools locally.

We will provide you with more information about this closer to the time.

