



# Newsletter

June 2023

[www.wavertree.liverpool.sch.uk](http://www.wavertree.liverpool.sch.uk)

Tel: 733 1231

Twitter: @WavertreeCE

'Belong

Believe

Achieve'

## Peak District Residential

The children and staff have enjoyed an exciting week in the Peak District. The children participated in a number of planned activities from weaselling to rocket building!

Thank you to Miss Vaughan, Mrs Hoare and Mrs Makepeace for taking the children away and enabling them to create memories that they will keep for many years to come.



There are lots of pictures on Twitter if you want to see more of the activities that the children and staff have experienced.



## What's happening?

### June

30<sup>th</sup> School Fair

### July

3<sup>rd</sup> Drama Workshops

5<sup>th</sup> NEU Strike Day

6<sup>th</sup> Y6 Transition Day

7<sup>th</sup> NEU Strike Day

13<sup>th</sup> Y4 Violin Concert

13<sup>th</sup> Sports Day

14<sup>th</sup> Reserve Sports Day

14<sup>th</sup> PTA Meeting 2.15pm

18<sup>th</sup> Leavers' Service

19<sup>th</sup> School closes for all pupils 1.30pm

### September

1<sup>st</sup> INSET DAY

4<sup>th</sup> Y1 - Y6 return to school

6<sup>th</sup> EYFS Group 1 begin

11<sup>th</sup> EYFS Group 2 begin

## Leavers' Service 2023

We will be celebrating another year at Wavertree on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at Holy Trinity Parish Church. All parents are very welcome to join us as we reflect on the year and say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils.

All classes will be performing and many achievements will be celebrated. I would like to thank Holy Trinity Parish Church for allowing us to use their beautiful building for this service.

Parents will be able to take their children home from the church after the service.

Y6 Transition Day is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 due to strike action taking place next week.

**If you require a large print Newsletter, please enquire at the Welcome desk.**

## Staffing News

Firstly, I would like to let you know that Miss Burns has had a beautiful baby girl at the beginning of the month. Hattie is a delightful addition to the family. We wish Miss Burns and her partner much joy as they adjust to a new life with their little one.

We are saying goodbye to a few members of staff this term. Mr Bewley has left school after 12 years of looking after our School site. We wish him well for his future.



Mrs Ford is retiring next month after 15 years of working in our busy school office. We would like to thank her for her commitment to the school and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Mr Durie is also leaving Wavertree this year following ten years of teaching. We would like to thank him for his contribution to our school and wish him all the best as he moves on to the next chapter of his life.

We are welcoming a number of new staff to Wavertree in the coming months. Mr Keating is our new caretaker and has started in his new role this week.

We have two part time staff joining the school office team. Mrs Bowen will be working in the mornings as our Administration Assistant and Ms McCabe will be working in the afternoons in a Finance Assistant role. Please be patient as they learn how our systems work!

Ms Jenison is our new Pastoral and Inclusion Officer and will be supporting families from the Autumn Term. She will be available to assist with any concerns that you may have and will have a key role in improving school pupils with school attendance and punctuality.

We are still in the process of securing a new teacher for the Autumn Term.

We look forward to a new chapter in the life of Wavertree CE School and welcome our new staff with great anticipation.

## Staffing for September 2023

The children will be meeting their new teachers on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July whilst our Year 6 pupils are attending their transition Day. Children will spend some time in the morning with their new teacher in their new classroom.

| Class   | Class Teacher  | Support Staff am       | Support Staff pm             |
|---------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| EYFS    | Mrs Hodgkinson | Mrs Caine<br>Ms Murray | Ms Murray                    |
| Class 1 | Mrs Humes      | Miss Powell            | Miss Powell<br>Mrs Makepeace |
| Class 2 | Mrs Midgley    |                        |                              |
| Class 3 | Mrs Hoare      | Miss Williams          |                              |
| Class 4 | Mr Holland     |                        |                              |
| Class 5 | Mr Woods       | Mrs Testrow            |                              |
| Class 6 | Miss Vaughan   | Mrs Makepeace          |                              |

We appreciate that this could be an anxious time for some children. Please let us know if we can help to prepare your child for this transition.

## Attendance and Punctuality

May 2023

| Class          | Attendance | Punctuality |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| EYFS           | 91.7       | 95.8        |
| Class 1        | 90.8       | 91.3        |
| Class 2        | 93.7       | 94.1        |
| Class 3        | 94.5       | 91          |
| Class 4        | 93.9       | 91.9        |
| Class 5        | 91.9       | 91.3        |
| Class 6        | 94.9       | 90.9        |
| School Average | 93         | 92.3        |

Our current attendance is 93%. Congratulations to the following children for achieving 100% attendance this term:

Ireooluwa Adeyinka, Oluwaferanmi Akinlotan, Jeremiah Anim, Idahosa Ansong-Addo, Daisy-Mae Bennett, Olivia Binns, Benjamin Burgess, Harley Bushell, Mason Cain, Woody Chan, Jessie Chan, Jasmith Chandragantha, Kevin Chandragantha, Lucas Dodd, Fiyinfoluwa Eniola-Filani, Aldana Fetsum, Daisey Foster, Zachary Gornell, Ethan Grimes, George Howard, Nastarsia Johnston, Mela Kim Jonas Preston, Aaliyah Keating, Rajneet Kaur, Semargeet Kaur, Zunaira Khan, Esmee-Rose Kwantreng, Bonnie Lai, Nathan Lawler, Kiara Lobban, Jake Major-Gayter, Zoe Margeti, Layla Marshall, Eliana McCreddie, Theo McMaster, Esmee Moug, Olivia Murphy, Freddie Oakey, Josephine Owusu, Shekhar Rana, Bobby Rimmer, Mikey Rimmer, Mason Schofield Cox, Sienna Smith, Joash Thevanesan, Niharshan Thipaharan, Emelia Thompson, Joel Thompson, Anwen Rose Williams, John-Paul Williams, Mellaher Yowhanes, Marta Yowhanes, Jade Yusuff.

These children have just missed 100% for this term:  
Harry Rushton and Reggie Rushton.

Thank you to those parents who are following our absence procedures. The Education Welfare Officer will be contacting families where attendance has been a concern this year with a view to securing improvement in the Autumn Term.



### Lost Property

There is a growing amount of lost property collecting in school. Please check that you have all of your child/ren's clothing. If any items are missing, please claim them before the end of term and all uniform left at the end of term will be removed from site. Thank you.

### Summer Bingo

The families that attended our Bingo session earlier this month. Thank you to everyone who attended and joined in the fun. Thank you also to those who donated prizes for the event.



### School Nurse

If you have any health queries and wish me to complete a referral to our new school nurse, Lindsey Hoey, please do not hesitate to contact me.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the ‘AI friend’ or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this ‘virtual friend’ functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other, successful platforms soon.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there’s a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

### REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

### LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn’t always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it’s being told or replying insensitively to a young user who’s already struggling could potentially impact a child’s emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

### UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they’ve been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

### COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child’s own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they’re aware of and how they’re using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they’re suitable. Once you’re totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

### CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you’ll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

### FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it’s appropriate. It’s important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

### TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we’d strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

### RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It’s unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it’s probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn’t a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn’t entirely impartial or accurate.

### Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



## SIAMS Inspection Report

We were thrilled to receive our SIAMS report at the beginning of the month where we received the judgement of EXCELLENT. There are so many wonderful comments in it that reflect how our school upholds its Christian vision and values and the impact that this has on our community. Below is just a small section of the very positive report:

*The vision to belong results in an exceptionally inclusive community. Within this diverse context, leaders take care to build vitalising and enriching relationships with faith communities within school. This enables pupils from a range of faiths and worldviews to thrive within a loving, Christian context. A tireless commitment to overcoming barriers to flourishing results in a host of actions to support families. Consequently, relationships between home and school are open, warm and life-giving.*

I would like to thank all members of the community who contributed to the rigorous inspection. The inspector was very impressed with all aspects of school life. We will, of course, work hard on our development points to improve further.



**SUMMER FAIR**

AT WAVERTREE CE SCHOOL

Friday 30th June  
3pm to 5pm

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN & HELP US  
RAISE MONEY FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES!

- Bouncy Slide·
- BBQ (Vegetarian & Halal) ·
- Facepainting & Henna ·
- Bottle Flip ·
- Name the Elephant ·
- Bottle Tombola ·
- Splat the Teacher!·
- Raffle Prizes·
- Delicious Cakes ·
- and much more!

Would you like to get involved and help on the day?  
Please ask at reception.

### Catering

Following a turbulent term in the kitchen, we have made the decision to move away from Dolce for our Catering company at the end of this term.

We are working hard to ensure that an improved provision will be in place for September 2023. We will bring you more information about this before the end of term.

Thank you for your patience.

### Birthday Celebrations

Parents often enquire as to how they can share their child's birthday celebrations with their school friends.

We are happy to give out prepared party bags/invitations, but please send cakes into school for the class to eat.

Please also be mindful of nut and other food allergies and that many of our children cannot eat sweets that contain gelatine.

