



Newsletter

Friday 12th September 2025

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a brand-new school year here at Aintree Davenhill! It is absolutely lovely to have the children back in school and we are excited about the opportunities that this new school year will bring.

It has been great to hear about the children's wonderful experiences over the holidays. We're pleased to see that the children have settled in well and are already showing enthusiasm for learning.

This year, we'll be focusing on oracy, which is crucial for helping our children express their thoughts and ideas clearly. Good communication skills are vital for their future success both in and out of school.

We will also be working hard on behaviour, ensuring that the children's behaviour is excellent both in class and around school. We have made a great start on this since we returned to school. Our emphasis on spelling and writing will remain strong, as we want to see the children make further progress in these areas.

Lastly, we're committed to continually personalising our support for all children, particularly those with additional needs.

Last week, we also welcomed some new staff. Miss Box, our new Nursery teacher, Miss Ward who is teaching 3H, Miss Webb, our new office administrator, and Miss Boileau and Miss Evans, our new teaching assistants. We know that they will be fantastic additions to our staff team and we are sure that you will all make them feel very welcome.

Meet the Teacher Sessions

We wanted to share some important updates about our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions. This year, we're doing things a little differently instead of the traditional formal meetings. We will be sending out the information pack to each family, which includes useful details about the upcoming year.

Following this, we will host drop-in sessions at the end of the school day, giving you the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher. We encourage all parents to take full advantage of this time to introduce yourselves and ask any questions you may have. It's a wonderful chance to get to know the teacher who will be supporting your child's learning, this year.

Teachers are looking forward to seeing you all.

Dates for the diary...

September...

15th September 12:00pm - Deadline for Parent Governor Nominations

Meet the teacher sessions:

16th September - Year 2

17th September - Year 4

18th September - Year 5 & Nursery

23rd September Year 3

24th September - Year 1 & Reception

25th September - Year 6

25th September - Year 6 Height and Weight Checks



Attendance Matters

Our attendance last school year was well below our school attendance target of 96.5% and was at the national average for 2024-25. Whilst we know that illnesses impacted attendance last year, we were really concerned by the number of holiday requests we received and the number of absences that were referred to the Sefton Attendance Support Service for fining.

We are expected to follow Sefton's procedures for issuing penalty notices for holidays. As a school, we do not benefit in any way from holiday fines; the impact on school is the extra work it creates for members of staff processing referrals to the Attendance Support Service.

Please be aware that Sefton expect parents to make an absence request from the headteacher, at least 20 days prior to the holiday being taken.

If your child is absent from school, it is important that you keep in touch with us on a daily basis via a phone call to the school office. A reason for absence should always be provided when your child does not attend school.

Being ill should not be a reason given when your child is absent for a holiday. It puts the children under pressure when they return to school after having been away and it's unfair to other parents who inform school about a holiday and receive a fine.

We make regular contact with the parents of children who are absent, and if we are unable to make contact with a parent then we may make a home visit or ask our Team Around the School worker or our Attendance Officer to visit on our behalf. If we believe that children are absent due to a holiday, we will refer it to the Sefton Attendance Support Service. It is up to parents to provide the evidence that a holiday wasn't taken at this time.

Please do not book holidays during term time – we really need your support with this.

If you are unsure whether your child should attend school when they may be ill in some way, the information found from the link below may be of help to you.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Punctuality is also extremely important. Did you know that Reception and KS1 children have their phonics lessons at 9:15am every day? These sessions are crucial in developing early reading. Our KS2 children can be involved in small group support at this time too.

There is a clear link between attendance and a child's achievement - the more time a child is present in school, the more likely the child will fulfil their potential.

A school has to take a register of all children first thing in the morning and at the start of the afternoon. The register will remain open for around 30 minutes.

If a child arrives late to school but whilst the register is still open they are marked as late (L on the attendance register). If a child arrives at school after the register is closed, this is classed as an unauthorised absence (U on the attendance register) unless there is a valid reason such as attending a medical appointment.

Being punctual for school means making sure your child is at school and ready to learn at the start of the school day. There are many ways to ensure your child is on time for school, from making sure their school bags are packed the night before to making sure they get up with plenty of time to eat and get ready. Lost minutes mean lost learning. Did you know that being late 15 minutes every day is the same as missing around 2 whole weeks of school over a full academic year? A few minutes here and there does matter - all that lost time adds up.

Being late doesn't only affect your child, it disrupts other children in the class as well as the teachers trying to teach a lesson. It also means that office staff have to take a lot of children to class who have arrived late for school. However, if you do think you are going to be late, please do not keep your child off school for the rest of the day. Being late and in school is better than being absent.



Important Reminders

Children should have a pair of trainers to wear when playing games outdoors and a pair of pumps for indoor use. A pair of pumps and a pair of shorts should be left in school for children to wear for their gymnastics lessons. Children are able to come into school in their P.E kit of trainers and tracksuit bottoms but they are not able to wear these items when using the gym equipment so need shorts and pumps in school. Pumps cannot be worn outside as this damages the grip needed for gymnastics.

P.E Kit:

Black shorts

Black plain tracksuit

Plain white t-shirt

Plain black slip on pumps (for indoor use)

Trainers (for outdoor use)

It is important that if the children are wearing their tracksuit or shorts for P.E lessons they should be plain black. There should not be any images, logos or stripes. Leggings are not part of our P.E uniform, children should wear a tracksuit.

Long Hair

Long hair should be tied back for school. For safety reasons in P.E lessons, it is essential that long hair is tied back.

Make-up and Nail Varnish

Children should not wear any make-up for school and will be given a facial wipe to remove it if they do. Nail varnish shouldn't be worn for school and children are not allowed to come to school wearing acrylic or artificial nails.

Earrings

Children should wear small stud earrings. Again for safety reasons, we ask that earrings are not worn on days that the children have P.E lessons (this includes swimming sessions). If children forget, they will be asked to remove the earrings. If they are unable to remove the earrings independently, then unfortunately they will not be able to take part in the P.E lesson.

School Shoes

School shoes should be black sensible shoes or black trainers.

House Team Competition

This week, the winning team was **ABBY** ! Well done!



1. **ABBY** (3395 points)

2. **MILL** (3323 points)

3. **ROSE** (3184 points)

4. **VALLEY** (3193 points)





Nursery and Reception Settling In

It has been wonderful to see how well our Nursery and Reception children have already settled into school life here at Aintree Davenhill. The children began last week with visits to their indoor and outdoor classrooms with an adult from home and quickly built up to staying in school without their adult by the end of the week. Many of the children said goodbye without looking back and those that found it a little harder to say goodbye were soon happily getting busy alongside their new friends. The adults in Nursery and Reception are looking forward to getting to know the children even better over the coming weeks and discovering even more about them all. Thank you to all of our parents (new and returning!) for your support in transitioning the children into school. The Nursery and Reception staff are looking forward to building strong relationships with everyone!





The Nursery children have had a fantastic time exploring their new environment and starting to make new friends...





Our New Year 3

Year 3 have had an amazing start to their time in Key Stage 2 and the new school year. The children have really impressed with their fantastic knowledge of vocabulary with high-level words being used in their wonderful writing.

The children have also shown how lovely, polite and caring they are - always looking after their friends. They are especially enjoying the playground and all the new responsibilities of being in the juniors.

Well done Year 3!



Home-School Partnership

We know how important it is to work closely with you as parents as we know how much of a difference it can make to the children's educational outcomes.

We value you sharing any information about your child that will help us to support them in school - we want them to feel happy and safe. We are also happy to discuss any concerns that you have about any of our procedures or our approach.

We would ask that you do come and speak to us in these instances as a face to face conversation or a phone call provides the opportunity for us to ask questions in order to find out further information that might be needed. ClassDojo messages are great for sending quick messages but not for matters that need far more information.

We understand that you will be concerned if your child comes home from school upset - this is something we would not want to happen, and we will make every effort to investigate your concerns and try to resolve them as quickly as possible.

We ask that you speak respectfully to the member of staff at school who is trying to help you without shouting at them.

MADCOS (Maghull and District Cluster of Primary and High Schools) Code of Conduct

MADCOS has created a Code of Conduct that we are asking all parents of children attending MADCOS schools to support and adhere to. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with it.

Let's work together for the good of our children!



Harvest Assemblies

Our Harvest assemblies will take place on Friday 17 October 2025. On the day of the assemblies, it would be great if the children could bring in some items of food that we will send to the South Sefton Food Bank. We are aware that they are short of tinned rice pudding, tinned potatoes and bottles of diet cordials.



Hello Yellow Day



To raise awareness for World Mental Health Day on Friday 10th October 2025, we will be taking part in #HelloYellow Day. We would like to invite the children to come to school wearing something yellow. (If they don't have something yellow then own clothes.) We aim to make the day as big and bright as possible so that we can show everyone in our school community that they are not alone with their mental health.

Mr Agar is leading the event and children will be doing activities at different times throughout the day to encourage them to think about and look after their mental health.

Flu Immunisations

We have received some initial information about the NHS Nursery and Primary School Based Flu Immunisations this year (Nursery-Year 6).

The immunisations will take place on Thursday 13 November 2025.

You will be sent more detailed information and an e-consent form. If you are unable to access this e-consent form, please ask the school office for a paper copy.

Parents are advised to complete the online consent forms even if they don't wish for their child to be vaccinated.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT PARENTS MUST CONTACT THE IMMUNISATION TEAM REGARDING ANY QUERIES. All communication must be to the team and not to school as they hold all the relevant information. The Helpline number is 0151 247 6130.

If you change your mind about your child having the flu immunisation having submitted the consent form, you must contact the team directly before Thursday 13 November 2025.

Home Reading

We would ask for your help with your child's reading. It is so important that all of our children continue to practise to read regularly. Whilst adults in school make every effort to hear the children read, we are not able to do this as often as we would like and so we would ask that you hear your child read at home at least three times a week.

Team Around the School

Janie Cowley, an Early Help Worker, and Bryony McIntyre, a social worker, will be in school every Wednesday. If any parents would like to drop in and ask for any help or support, they would be more than happy to speak to you. If you would like to call them instead, their work numbers are below:

Janie Cowley - 07815645471

Bryony McIntyre - 07967334387

Year 6 Secondary Admissions Applications

For all children in Year 6, it is now time for parents and carers to apply for their child's place at secondary school for Year 7 2026 entry. Parents and carers who live in the Sefton area must make the application online using the Citizen Portal (Sefton's online application facility).



The national closing date for secondary school applications is 31 October 2025.



Parents and carers living outside of Sefton will need to apply for a secondary school place for your child via the local authority in which you live.

Snack and Packed Lunch Reminders

As part of our ongoing commitment to being a 'healthy school', we would just like to remind you that at break times, the following snacks are permitted:

- Fruit
- Veg
- Cereal bars
- Crackers, rice cakes etc.
- Yoghurt (e.g. frubes etc.)

We ask that you avoid giving your child crisps, pastries, chocolate covered items, etc. during break times.

Packed lunches should also not contain any sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks. Such snacks can have a detrimental effect on children's focus throughout the day. We suggest a biscuit/small cake as a treat in packed lunches. We are a 'nut aware' school and so would ask that children do not bring to school any food that contains nuts as children within our school can have a severe allergic reaction even to indirect contact with nuts.

As part of our weekly PSHE lessons, we work hard on teaching the children about good nutrition and a healthy, balanced diet. We ensure the children are aware that such treats are fine on occasion, however, staff have become increasingly concerned by the amount of less healthy snacks that are being consumed on a daily basis on the playground and in the lunchroom.

We appreciate your ongoing support. If you have any queries or concerns, please speak directly with your class teacher.

Sefton Social Care Advice Line for SEND

In recognition that families of children and young people with complex needs and special educational needs often need a bit more support, Sefton has launched a Social Care Advice Line for SEND.

This advice line is staffed by two experienced social workers with a good knowledge of the Local Offer in Sefton. Parents are invited to use this phone number to find out more about what a Social Care assessment for a child entails to help families make an informed decision before approaching Social Care, and to talk about what other help might be available. Voicemails will be responded to within 7 days at which point the social worker will return the call for a discussion.

The telephone number for our Social Care Advice Line for SEND is 0151 934 2196.

The social workers will not create a referral or record any family details when families ring for advice using this phone number.

All referrals for social care assessment or concerns about a child should continue to be referred through our Integrated Front Door. Please note, this number is not the contact number for the duty social worker in our Children with Complex Needs service and should not be used for this purpose.

St Giles' Car Park

Over the past year, St Giles has spent £35,000 on car-park, boundary wall, and grounds. The work has been done by local people and companies in Aintree. That £35,000 was raised by donations, fundraising and time from community minded folk; like all of church finances. So we are asking people who use the church car-park for help. We receive no government or national church funding and if we cannot maintain it, we will sadly have to close it for public use. If you can help us, then please see all the ways on the back of this note. Help us to keep serving and using our buildings, land, time, money, and faith for our parish – whenever and whoever needs it! Thanks for reading this brief message and thank you for your generous support.

Our continued prayers for you all, Rev Nathan Thorpe & St Giles' PCC.

One-Off Donation

Pop into church and donate on our card reader; or drop a donation in a marked envelope through the Vicarage door (132 Aintree Lane, L10 8LE).

Just Giving

Give safely and securely via our just giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stgileschurchaintree>

BACS Transfer

You can set up a one-off, or weekly, monthly, or annual donation; which will help us immensely! PCC PARISH CHURCH OF ST GILES, AINTREE Account number: 07171072; sort code: 53-70-21.

Parish Giving Scheme

By setting up a regular donation, by a form available from church, you can choose to add Gift Aid (if a UK taxpayer) so we can claim 25p for every £1 you donate from the UK Government. This lump sum annually has previously helped cover shortfalls in our outgoings! More information can be found at www.parishgiving.org.uk.

Legacy

A gift in your will could be a huge help! Recently, these have paid for a new sound system & hearing loop; organ repairs; pew cushions for comfort; and our youth work, toddler groups, and Easter family fun days. Contact the Vicar or Treasurer for more information.