



Newsletter

Friday 28th November 2025

★ Stars in Our School Day ★

Today is Stars in Our Schools Day, a wonderful opportunity for us to shine a light on the incredible work of our support staff here at Aintree Davenhill. We are truly fortunate to have such a brilliant team.

Our support staff have wide range roles which involve working tirelessly to ensure that we utilise our funds effectively, making the most significant difference for our children. They are dedicated to maintaining a safe environment for everyone and provide care for our children on their way to school and during lunchtimes.

I know that you all appreciate how welcoming our office administrators are and how willing they are to help with any of your enquiries.

! Christmas Lunch !

There will be a Christmas Lunch for the children on Wednesday 10th December. Just a reminder to please let the school office know by Monday if you would like to change your child's meal pattern for that day. A roast dinner will be the option available and our cook is placing the food order next week.

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 ROSE ! Well done!



1. ROSE (3684 points)

2. MILL (3512 points)

3. ABBEY (3506 points)

4. VALLEY (3204 points)



British Cross Challenge

On Saturday, Isla and Halle represented Sefton Schools in the British Cross Challenge in Sefton Park.

They were up against the strongest athletes of their age from all over the UK and both girls performed magnificently!

We have such talented athletes right across our school and it's great to see them making the most of these opportunities.

Well done, girls!



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.



FODS

We want to say thank you to the FODS team for their amazing efforts in organising the recent Christmas raffle and preparing the chocolate hampers. Their dedication and creativity, despite being a small group, have led to innovative fundraising initiatives that have made a significant impact on our school community.

The funds raised through these activities have directly benefited our children, allowing us to purchase essential resources such as new iPads, which enhance the children's digital learning. Additionally, the purchase of new sports kits has helped our teams who are representing the school look really smart, and the new goal posts are an upgrade on our old equipment which had been used well!

Thank you to the team who give up their own free time to help the school. We are so grateful.



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Mrs Bannon and Miss Hickey as their baby boys were born very recently! I am sure they Mrs Bannon, Miss Hickey and their respective families will be very busy looking after their new arrivals but we hope that they will visit school to see us all soon!

Governor Visit

We were delighted to host some of our school governors on Thursday 20 November 2025, who visited to observe our ongoing oracy work. Improving our speaking and listening skills is a key focus this year, and it was lovely to see the warm welcome the governors received from both our children and staff.

The governors were impressed by the progression in oracy skills as our children move through the school. They enjoyed witnessing oracy lessons across various subjects, which highlighted the depth of knowledge and understanding our Year 6 children displayed while discussing women's roles during World War II. It was equally encouraging to see our KS1 children confidently identifying gender stereotypes and articulating why such views are not acceptable.

During their visit, our governors had the opportunity to see the children engaged in both work and play. It was great for them to observe the children enjoying their playtime, supported by our staff.

A huge thank you to our governors for generously giving their time to support our school community. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a fantastic governing body at Aintree Davenhill.

Mathematician of the Month!

A huge well done to Stephen who was our October Mathematician of the Month. His teacher said that he works extremely hard in each maths session to try to challenge himself. He also supports other children when they need it. Well done Stephen!



Christmas at Aintree Davenhill



Christmas Dates for the Diary



With Christmas around the corner we have some dates for your diary to make sure you don't miss out on the festive fun!

05th December 2025: Christmas Jumper Day

Children are able to come to school wearing their own clothes and/or a Christmas jumper. Staff will be donating to Save the Children.

05th December 2025: Reception Nativity Performance

09th December 2025: Santa Dash

10th December 2025: Christmas Lunch

11th December 2025: Year 2 Nativity Performance

12th December 2025: Year 1 Nativity Performance

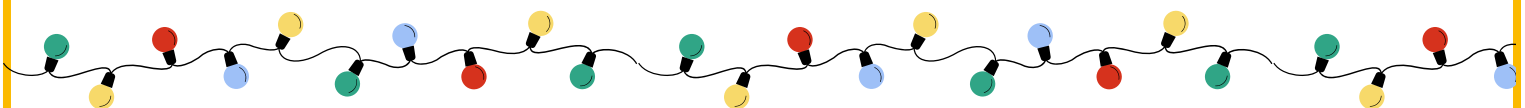
15th December 2025: Year 5 & 6 Christmas Parties

16th December 2025: Year 3 & 4 Christmas Parties

17th December 2025: Nursery Singalong for Parents

17th December 2025: School Discos

19th December 2025: End of Term - School Finishes at 12:30pm



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.