

Newsletter



FAITH

Friday 5th September 2025

Whole School
Attendance

94%

Welcome to St Winefride's Catholic Primary School where we 'Learn,
Laugh, Listen, Live and Love' in the presence of Jesus.'

'Let Your Light Shine.' Matthew 5:16



A message from Mrs Davies to all our families.... Welcome to the New School Year!

It has been a real pleasure to welcome everyone back to school this week, and a particularly warm welcome goes out to our new starters and their families—both in Reception and across the school. We hope you feel at home at St Winefride's. It is a joy to welcome you to our school family. It's been lovely to see so many smiling faces, hear about the children's summer adventures, and watch them settle so confidently into their new classes and routines. They all look incredibly smart in their uniforms, and there's already a wonderful buzz of energy for learning around the school, it really is good to have our children back and I know many of you were excited for their return too!

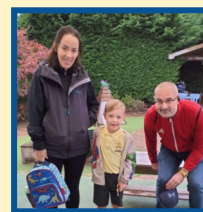
I hope that you all had a wonderful summer break and that you were able to spend time together as a family and had chance to connect with wider family and friends.

On Wednesday, we began the new school year together, with a whole-school assembly, where I shared the story 'Maybe' with the children—a gentle and beautiful story all about potential, possibility within us all and the journey ahead. This introduced beautifully our theme for the new academic year: **Anything is possible**. The children may have spoken with you about it, at home, already. We're excited to explore this idea further with the children throughout the year as they grow, learn, and take on new challenges in the knowledge that anything is possible if we really truly believe it and take careful steps to get there.

Before the children returned on Wednesday, our staff spent the first part of the week engaged in development days preparing for the year ahead. We spent time together reflecting and building upon the good practices in place, here at St Winefride's. Some areas included reviewing and refining our approach to teaching and learning. We revisited Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction which informs our teaching and learning, explored the new Writing Framework, and had some in-depth training on how we can further support our pupils through scaffolding—just a few of the many ways we continue to strengthen the learning experience at our school.

Finally, I would like to welcome Father Tom Cunnah to St Winefride's parish. Father Tom will celebrate his first Mass, this Sunday. I am looking forward to welcoming Father Tom, to school, next week. This will be a good opportunity for Father to meet our children and staff. We keep Father Tom in our prayers as he settles at St Winefride's and Father Francis who continues his ministry in Whitchurch.

There's so much to look forward to in the year ahead, and we can't wait to share the journey with you. I do hope you have a very peaceful weekend. Rest is needed ready for our first full week at St Winefride's. **Mrs Davies**



Forest School session—Thursdays

I am excited to share that Forest School sessions will commence next week and each week, a class will have a session, in our Forest School, linked to their curriculum. The children will be working outdoors, therefore, we ask that when it is their Forest School Session, they wear suitable clothing and bring their school uniform with them to change into in the afternoon. We ask that children wear old comfortable clothing with long sleeves and legs and old trainers or wellies. **The Forest School session next week (Thursday 11th September) will be for children in Year 6 and the session will be linked to their learning in Science—Living Things and Classification.**

Each week, Forest school sessions will be communicated, in my newsletter, and you will find information about dates in my important dates communication also.

If any changes are made to dates/ sessions, you will be notified by the school office and your child's class teacher.

Meet the Teacher Sessions

At the beginning of the school year, we always organise a meeting where you have the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher and see where your child learns. Please see the date and times of these sessions which we encourage you to attend. These dates are included in the important dates also. Further information will be provided by your child's class teacher.

Monday 15th September 2025

3.45pm—Parents of children in **Reception**

4.15pm—Parents of children in **Year 1**

4.45pm—Parents of children in **Year 5**

Monday 22nd September 2025

3.45pm—Parents of children in **Year 3**

3.45pm—Parents of children in **Year 6**

4.15pm—Parents of children in **Year 4**

4.45pm—Parents of children in **Year 2.**

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ATTENDANCE INFORMATION—IMPORTANT— PLEASE READ

Attendance matters and influences a child's development. We all want positive outcomes for our children and positive school attendance contributes to this.

You will remember that, last summer, changes were made in relation to attendance.

Attendance is extremely important and children need to be in school to learn. We understand that children become poorly and cannot come into school but where they are able to do so, we encourage that they are here. Please see the table, showing the changes to fixed term penalty notices which became effective from 19th August 2024. Please note that this now includes 10 unauthorised sessions within a 10 week period. This includes children arriving late to school (after registration closes). We also encourage parents to book medical appointments outside of school hours. If this cannot be avoided, the office staff will require a copy of the medical appointment for our records.

Headteachers are not permitted to grant leave of absence for holidays or recreational activities. Our school target for attendance is 96%. Unfortunately, in the first week of the academic year, it is 94%.

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

1

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

2

SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered

The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after 19th August 2024.

3

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Please follow the link for the Publication that will start from 19th August 2024.
www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance

School Lunches and Snack

Our catering provider is EDSSENTIAL and they provide the delicious food for our children. This week, the children have enjoyed delicious meals from our week one menu. I have joined the children at lunchtime and enjoyed sampling the school lunches and I am very impressed with the meals. From speaking with the children, they have enjoyed their meals this week. It has been lovely to see the children connecting with one another during mealtimes. Just a reminder that lunch can be pre ordered or ordered on the day. As shared in my correspondence about school meals, we encourage parents of children in Reception and KS1 to order with your child at home and parents in KS2 may do the same or you may allow your child to choose on the day. As communicated by the school office, school meals are £3.25. I ask that you ensure that your child's account is in credit when ordering school meals or for children, in KS2, when ordering snack. Children, in KS2, will only be able to order snack if their account is in credit. If your child would like to bring a snack from home, we ask that they bring a healthy snack. For example—a piece of fruit.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals and we encourage you to order this for your child.

School Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart. Unfortunately, due to the typical 'return to school' weather we had on Wednesday, we were unable to have our whole school photograph so this has been rearranged. Once we have this, I will share it with you.

Just a few reminders about school uniform expectations:

This is a gentle reminder that hair, below shoulder length, should be tied back. Please ensure hair is tied back neatly. Nail varnish and jewellery (with the exception of small, stud earrings) are not part of our school uniform. Children are also expected to wear full school uniform and the correct school uniform for PE. Thank you for your support.