



Woodlands
Primary School

NEWSLETTER

News Updates from Woodlands Primary School
READY — RESPECTFUL — SAFE

13th Sept 2024

LUNCH MENU: 3

MENUS:

https://www.woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/29149396

TERM DATES:

Term Dates:

https://www.woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/29214637

Vehicle Access Restrictions - Eddisbury Road

Please note that the below access restrictions are still in place and access to Eddisbury Road is only allowed for permit holders, blue badge holders and emergency vehicles between the hours of 8.30am to 9.00am and 2.45pm to 3.30pm.

The Parking Enforcement Team will continue to monitor the road and fines will be issued to those breaching the rules.

Cheshire West & Chester Council

School Streets

We are delivering School Streets in Cheshire West and Chester as part of our plans to improve road safety, encourage walking, cycling and scooting to and from school and improve the air quality and environment, outside schools.

The stretch of road outside school will have a timed traffic restriction during school drop off and pick up times, Monday to Friday only.

Only pedestrians, cyclists or motorists with an exemption will be able to access the School Street during these times. The operational hours of the School Street will be indicated on road signs.

Exemptions will be given to emergency vehicles and Blue Badge holders. Permits will be given to residents and business, living or working within the zone.

Aims of the School Street scheme:

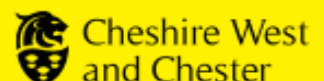
The aim of a School Street is to make it easier and safer for children and their parents or carers to walk, cycle or scoot to school.

Reducing the use of private car journeys to and from school should lead to:

- Less road danger from traffic
- Less anti-social behaviour from inconsiderate parking and dangerous driving
- Encourage a healthier lifestyle by helping children to be more physically active
- Reduced congestion and local pollution from idling vehicles



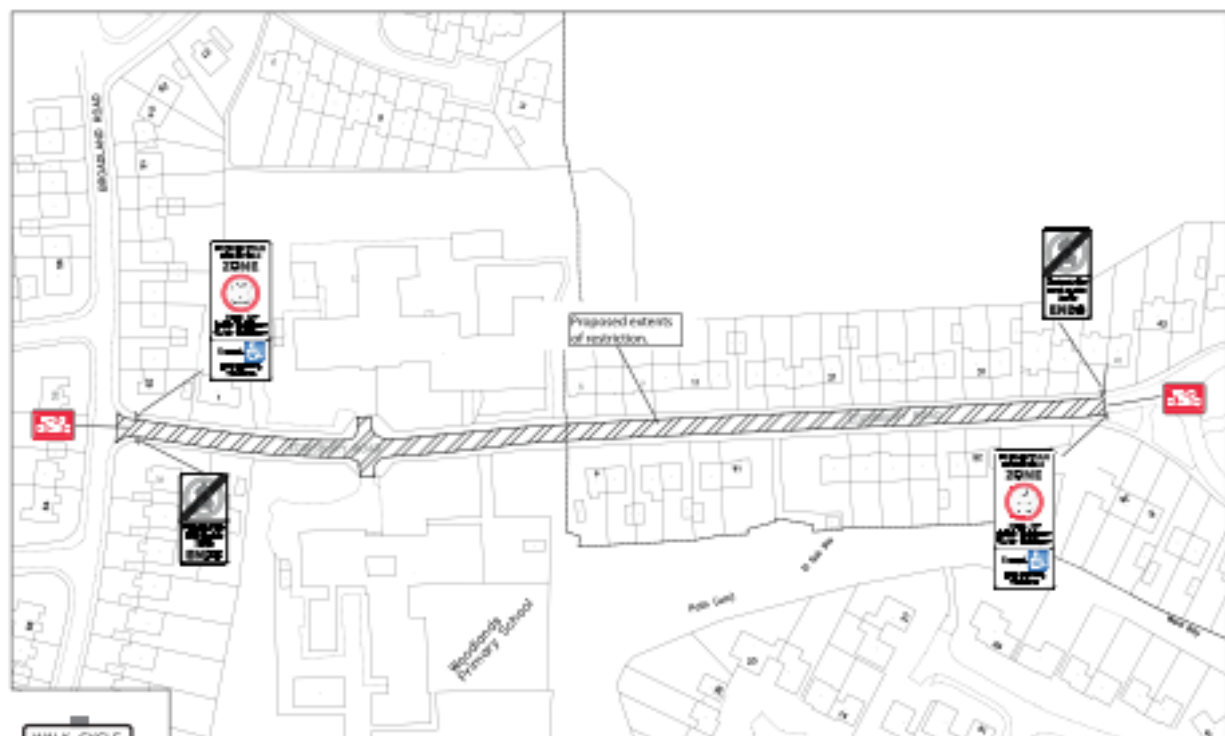
For more information please visit:
cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/schoolstreets



Woodlands Primary School

School Streets

The map below shows which section of the road will be closed so children can walk, cycle or scoot to school



INTERNET SAFETY

Knowsley.org.uk have produced some videos on setting up parental controls on phones and social media. There is a small selection at the moment but more will be added. Follow this link to access them:

<https://www.knowsleycls.org.uk/online-safety-videos/>

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include in-app purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can even add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover Wi-Fi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alpha. New Zealand, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNN, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.08.2024



Woodlands Primary School



Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2024

Need app ideas?

Internet Matters have curated a list of age-appropriate apps depending on what your aim is when your child is spending time online:

Skill Building apps:

If you would like to help your child develop a new skill, then you might find some useful ideas here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/skill-building-apps-guide-for-kids/>

Apps to keep your child entertained:

These apps are organised into age groups so you can find an app that is suitable for your child:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/13-great-apps-to-keep-your-kids-amused-in-the-school-holidays/>

Apps to help get your child active:

Again, these apps are organised by age group:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/>

Wellbeing apps:

These apps are organised by topic such as sleep aids or managing anxiety and will help your child develop an understanding of how to look after their own wellbeing:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/wellbeing-apps-guide-for-kids/>

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predicts what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you, to then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

The Family Online Safety Institute discuss algorithms in more detail as well as tips for you to help your child, such as how to reset their algorithm:

<https://www.fosi.org/good-digital-parenting/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-social-media-algorithms>

WhatsApp: chat lock/secret code

You must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. Did you know that you can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting? If a user locks a chat, then the chat will appear at the top under locked chats but cannot be viewed without your device password or biometric (face id/fingerprint). Furthermore though, a user can apply an additional setting to hide the locked chat (so it does not appear in their chat list and can only be accessed via the search bar). Whilst this feature adds privacy, it can make it difficult to monitor what your child is doing on WhatsApp, which is why it is important to have regular chats with your child.

Snapchat

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

What should I be concerned about?

Risks of using Snapchat include your child viewing content that is not appropriate for them, location sharing and contact from strangers.

NEW safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17-year-olds. The features include seeing a warning message if they receive a chat from someone who has been blocked/reported by others. Also, if a teen blocks a user, it will also now block any future friend requests sent from accounts created on the same device (to reduce the potential of bullying). These two features are available to users aged 13-17-year-olds, this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth, so they can benefit from such features. You can find out more as well as about the other new features here: <https://values.snap.com/news/new-features-to-help-protect-our-community?lang=en-GB>

Family Centre

Family Centre is a set of parental controls designed to help you see what your child is doing when using Snapchat. You must have your own Snapchat account to set it up. Family Centre allows you to see who your child is friends with, who they are communicating with (not the contents of conversations though) and who your child has sent messages, photos or videos to in the last week. You will also be able to report any accounts that you are concerned about as well as restrict sensitive content. Snapchat have published a safety checklist to help support conversations about how to use Snapchat safely: <https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls>

Safety tips

Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

Parent Zone have published a short 5-minute guide here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>



Check in on an iPhone

On iOS 17, you can use check in to let others know when you have arrived at a destination. When using check in, it monitors your journey and notifies the other person when you arrive at your destination or if you are not progressing as you should.

You can also use it to specify a period of time so if you are meeting somebody new then you can set a timer and if you don't end the Check In before this time then the other person is notified.

You can find out how to use this feature here: <https://support.apple.com/en-in/guide/iphone/iphc143bb7e9/ios>

Discussing distressing news

Following on from the recent awful events in Southport, INEQUE Safeguarding Group have published an article to help you when discussing distressing news with your child. The article also includes a downloadable resource that children can read when news becomes overwhelming for them.

Find out more here: <https://ineqe.com/2024/08/02/discussing-distressing-news-events-with-children>

Family Quiz for Online Wellbeing Tips

The NSPCC have created a quiz that can be completed as a family to help you have discussions together and find out about the NSPCC's top tips for positive online wellbeing.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/quiz/>



This Week's Year Group News

EYFS

Squirrels - The children in Squirrels are continuing to settle in and get to know the staff. Its lovely to see so many smiles coming into class each day! The children are having super fun exploring the inside and outside areas and we have introduced some play dough this week, which has gone down a treat.

Could you please bring in a family photo for our wall display and story baskets, as this is a great conversation starter for your child and helps them to feel special.

If your child is likely to have a sleep with us, can you please provide a sleep blanket and any comforters they may have to aid sleep. This can be left on their pegs. Thank you.

Foxes - We are really proud of all the Foxes and how well they are settling into their new setting. The children are enjoying exploring all the new resources and equipment and they are beginning to make some new friends which is lovely to see! Well done Foxes! Staff are really enjoying getting to know the children.

Could we ask you to send in a family photo for us to put on our display board in class. The children love seeing photos of themselves and it really helps to start them talking about who is special to them. You can email them direct to us on foxes@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk

A polite reminder to ask you to please put a change of clothes in your child's bag in case they have a little accident or get wet during play!

Please come and talk to a member of staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your support.

Badgers & Owls - We had another brilliant week. The children have continued to settle really well and have been busy exploring the different areas. It has been lovely getting to know everybody better! This week we have been busy completing our baseline assessments and drawing self-portraits.

Next week we are going to be talking all about our families and people who are important to us. Please email or send in a family picture. We will be using these to make a display. They will also help aid our conversations about our families.

Snack - Please ensure that if you are sending snack into school that it is healthy. No crisps or chocolate bars please! The children have access to fruit daily.

Acorns - The Acorns class have had a fantastic start to the year. We have settled in so well and are really becoming familiar with our staff and pupils. In the classroom, we have enjoyed singing and exploring all the toys and resources - we love bucket therapy each day! Outside we have enjoyed playing on our log climbing frame and digging in the sandpit. We are looking forward to getting to know each other even better as the weeks progress.

Many thanks for your support.

The EYFS Team

KS1

Year 1 - 1AA & 1LW - What a busy week! In English, we have started our class text 'Troll Swap'. The children made predictions about what they thought the story would be about and have been writing simple sentences to describe 'Timothy Limpit' (the troll). He is not like any other trolls - ask your child to tell you why! In Maths, we have been working hard to count and represent numbers in different ways using numbers 1-10. We have talked about different types of houses in Geography and labelled body parts during Science. Homework books will be sent home tonight. Please sit with your child to complete their homework. Books need to be returned to school by Wednesday next week. In **1KS** this week, we have been singing and learning about different body parts and we have started to think about "where we belong". We have talked about different shapes and really enjoyed using different materials to draw, including using our fingers on the TV screen, whiteboards and pens, chalks and colouring pencils. And in PE we have been to the hall where we loved chasing and throwing lots of small balls, including into buckets!

Year 2 - The children have had a very busy week and seem to be enjoying life in Year 2. We are delighted with the way they have settled and look forward to an exciting term ahead. In English, we have continued using the wonderful 'Troll Swap' by Leigh Hodgkinson to inspire our work. We have been concentrating on accurately using capital letters and full stops. The children have also continued to learn how to use 'and' to join two sentences together. In Maths, the children have been learning to read and write numbers to 100 and how to partition numbers in different ways. We have started to learn about maps and how to use symbols as part of the work we are doing in Geography this term.

Thank you for your support
The KS1 Team

Continued overleaf.....



This Week's Year Group News

KS2

Year 3 & 4 - What another busy week we have had in Lower Key Stage Two. Year 3 have begun their Judo sessions and Violin sessions, whilst Year 4 children have started tag Rugby or Swimming. We have also celebrated Roald Dahl's birthday today with a special assembly. In English this week, we have begun reading our narrative, 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne. We have focused on an image from the story where the key characters are sat at the breakfast table with little conversation. We brought the image to life through drama techniques and then wrote a setting description using expanded noun phrases. In Maths, Y3 have been partitioning numbers to 1000 and Y4 have been representing and partitioning numbers to 10,000. Please encourage any Y4 children to practise the recall of their 3 and 6 times tables. They may use to use <https://www.timestables.co.uk> or TTRockstars to do so.

For our Y3 Judo sessions on Mondays, please can we ask that all earrings are removed or covered over with tape/plasters, no other jewellery is worn and hair is tied back.

Many thanks
The LKS2 Team

Year 5 & 6 - What a busy first full week of the school year! In English this week, Y5 and Y6 have focused on creating high-quality expanded noun phrases to describe 'Jub and the Witch'. They have read on in the story and they have created a toolkit for creating mystery and suspense. Following this, they completed some slow writing, ensuring they used a variety of sentence openers as well as figurative language to create a tense atmosphere. In Maths, Y5 have investigated the place value of numbers up to 1,000,000 and have partitioned them in different ways. They have also placed numbers up to 1,000,000 on a number line. Y6 have also continued with the place value learning. They have compared and ordered numbers up to 10,000,000, investigated powers of 10 and they have begun their work on rounding. This week, Y5 and Y6 also completed their first Geography lesson of the half term, around our topic of mountains. They have revisited their prior knowledge of the 7 continents and 5 oceans and they have used atlases to locate mountain ranges around the world. In Science, Y5 and Y6 have been investigating forces and worked on identifying different forces acting on objects.

Our children are expected to read at least 3 times per week and this should be recorded by an adult in their reading log. Please remind your child that reading logs should be returned to school each Friday so they can be rewarded for their efforts. We encourage children to read widely as well as books this can include age appropriate newspapers, magazines, menus, recipes or song lyrics.

Year 5 began their weekly visits to the library this Friday afternoon (either 2:00-2:30pm, or 2:30pm - 3:00pm). If you have not already done so, please ensure you have signed your child up for a library card with Hope Farm Library if you wish for them to be able to borrow a book in the coming weeks.

Thank you
The UKS2 Team

Have A Wonderful Weekend!

Whole School Attendance 96.62%

Reporting Children's Absence

School must be informed of children's absence on the first day by ringing 0151 329 3164 and pressing 1 to leave a message. This must be done before 9am. Please ensure you provide the child's name, class and reason for absence.

If your child is absent due to sickness or diarrhoea, they will be unable to return to school for 48hrs after their last episode. This is in line with the Public Health Agency guidance to reduce the risk of the illness spreading. Any absence not explained is registered as unauthorised.

Appointments

Parents and carers should make every effort to book routine dental and GP appointments outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, children should only be absent for the time needed for the appointment and travel to and from.

For any prebooked medical appointments copies of appointment letters can be emailed to n.brown@woodlands.cheshire.sch.uk in advance so that a note can be added to the register. The school will work with all families on an individual basis if medical absences exceed the maximum threshold.

Holidays During Term Time

Can we politely request that parents inform school of any upcoming holidays via the Leave of Absence forms which can be collected from the school offices. These forms should be completed and handed to school 4 working weeks in advance of the first day of absence. We aim to reply to you within 10 working days of your application.

Dates – Week Beginning 16 September 2024

Lunches Week 3

Mon 16 Sep	Y3 Judo PE Sessions
Mon 16 Sep	After school club – Y3-Y5 Young Voices 3.20pm to 4.20pm. Meeting in 3LB, pick up from Junior Playground
Tue 17 Sep	After school club Y3 & Y4 Basketball Club with Vara Sports 3.20-4.20pm pick up Junior Playground (Book on via ParentPay)
Wed 18 Sep	After-school club – KS2 Create Music Guitar Lessons 3.20-4.20pm, pick-up Junior playground (book direct at admin@wecreatemusic.co.uk)
Wed 18 Sep	After school club Y3 & Y4 Dodgeball Club with Vara Sports 3.20-4.20pm pick up Junior Playground (Book on via ParentPay)
Thu 19 Sep	Y3 Violin Lessons - individual and small group (book direct with hello@edsential.co.uk)
Thu 19 Sep	After school club Y5 & Y6 Basketball Club with Vara Sports 3.20-4.20pm pick up Junior Playground (Book on via ParentPay)
Fri 20 Sep	Y3 Group Violin lessons with Edsential
Fri 20 Sep	Y4 Swimming - Group A
Fri 20 Sep	Y5 - Library Visits

Vaping & Smoking

Can we please remind all adults that vaping & smoking is STRICTLY prohibited on school grounds.



No smoking
or vaping



No smoking
or vaping



No smoking
or vaping

Uniform Standards Reminder

Please discuss the following with your child regarding appropriate standards in school:

Uniform consists of a green sweatshirt or cardigan, white polo shirt, shirt or blouse, grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress. During the warmer months, children may wear green gingham dresses or grey shorts. Uniform is not compulsory for our Nursery children. Please send children to school in sensible black school shoes. No trainers, boots, slip-on or heeled shoes please, as these are not suitable for outdoor play. Make-up, jewellery (with the exception of small stud earrings) and fake nails are not permitted. Sunglasses should be removed in school and not worn on the head.

Please be reminded that your child's PE kit to be worn to school on PE days. This should consist of a plain white T-shirt, black shorts/leggings/jogging bottoms and black tracksuit/sweatshirt top (no football kits or bright colours) and sensible trainers or indoor pumps. Please can we remind you that expensive, branded items are not encouraged as they can easily be lost or damaged and places unnecessary pressures on other parents. For Nursery, leisurewear and suitable shoes are acceptable.

Please label all items as it can be upsetting for children when items are lost.

Thank you!



JOIN US

Woodlands Primary School Parent/Teacher Association

Who are we?

We are a group of volunteer parents and teachers at Woodlands Primary School. We are a registered charity whose purpose is to work alongside the school, improving the lives and education of the children who attend.

How do we raise money?

We work with the school and wider community to fundraise. We run various events and activities throughout the school year including movie nights, discos, bingo nights, personalised Christmas cards and our very popular summer and Christmas fairs. In 2023, we also held our first firework night which was a roaring success.

Where have we spent money?

Over the past few years, we've provided funds for year 6 leavers huddles and celebrations, new computer equipment, additional block equipment for EYFS, school chicks, a lower KS2 visit from Zoo2U, school gazebos, sound system upgrades in the school halls and much, much more.

We continue to strive to step up our fundraising efforts so we have more money to spend on our wonderful children.

Can anyone join the PTA?

YES!!!

We welcome any offer of help, no matter how big or small, with warm, open arms. We are always looking for additional people to plan and man our events. We are all busy parents just trying our best - many hands always makes light work.

OUR ANNUAL AGM IS TAKING PLACE ON THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024
EVERYONE WELCOME (venue TBC)

If you have any queries about what we do or would like to join our lovely team, please contact woodlandspta@hotmail.co.uk

Alternatively, complete the slip below and return to the school office



I would like some further information about Woodlands Primary School PTA and how I can get involved.

Name -----

Telephone Number -----

Email -----



THE KING'S SCHOOL
CHESTER

OPEN DAY

Saturday 28 September from 9am



Register now: www.kingschester.co.uk/visit-us


THE SUNDAY TIMES

**SCHOOLS GUIDE
2024**

**INDEPENDENT SECONDARY
SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
NORTH WEST**

Families with children in Years 5 and 6 are invited to join us for this year's Senior School Open Day.

- Tour our fantastic facilities
- Meet our pupils and teachers
- Enjoy hands-on classroom activities
- Get involved in some of our fabulous co-curricular clubs - there's something for everyone!
- Find out more about our superb pastoral care

Telephone: 01244 689553 Email: admissions@kingschester.co.uk

EVERY OPPORTUNITY. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.



West Cheshire Athletic Club Schools Cross Country Race Series 2024/25

**At Ellesmere Port Sports Village, Stanney Lane,
Ellesmere Port,**

**Registration from 9.30am for school years 3 & 4
And from 10am for school years 5-8.
First Race Starts at 10am.**

**Dates of Fixtures:
Saturday, October 5
Saturday, November 9
Saturday, December 7
Saturday, January 18**

Race Order for the following Girls and Boys year groups:
Year Three, Year Four, Year Five, Year Six, Year Seven, Year Eight.

Medals will be presented to the first three finishers in each race.

The first three finishers from each school in each race will count as a team towards a team score based on their positions, and the team event will be held over four rounds.

Awards will also be presented to the top three finishers overall in each age group after four rounds.

Each pupil from each school will be provided with a race number which should be attached to the front of their T-shirt/vest.

Each participating school should provide a representative/parent/team manager at each round.
Further details from Dennis Wall at West Cheshire AC.
Tel: 07968 643038. Email: dennis.wall1@ntlworld.com

