



NEWSLETTER

Thursday 28th August 2025
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Hello everyone,

As we start a new school year, I'm delighted to be writing to you as Head of School. I feel very lucky to be continuing this journey with our wonderful children, families, and staff in this new role.

We've got lots to look forward to this year, and I can't wait to see all the learning, laughter, and achievements ahead. Thank you, as always, for the warmth and support that makes our school community so special.

Here's to a fantastic year together!

Caroline Sutherland
 Head of School

1. School Organisation from September 2025

Here's a reminder of the staffing arrangements for this year.

Nursery Conkers / 2026 school starters: (mornings)	Mrs Kerrie Wood-Doyle	Mrs Rachel Kennington, Mrs Hazel Walmsley, Mrs Gemma Fewtrell
Nursery Catkins / 2027 school starters: (afternoons)	Mrs Kerrie Wood-Doyle	Mrs Rachal Kennington, Mrs Wendy Bruce, Mrs Gemma Fewtrell, Miss Zara Rowbottom
Reception Acorns	Mrs Lyn Malik	Mrs Emma Kidd, Mrs Charlotte Harridance
Year 1 Silver Birch	Miss Toni Bruce	Mrs Steph Clarke
Year 2 Willow	Miss Abi Gordon	Mrs Emily Stanton, Mrs Shelly Winterbottom
Year 3 Holly	Mrs Katie Andrews (Monday to Wednesday) and Miss Emma Brown (Wednesday to Friday)	Mrs Karen Barton plus TA to be appointed
Year 4 Chestnut	Miss Clare Dangerfield	Mrs Kirsty Taylor, Miss Kerry Parkin
Year 5 Elm	Miss Sam Dawson until Mrs Jenny Parker returns from her maternity leave in the spring term	Mrs Tracey Delaney
Year 6 Oak	Miss Ashleigh Martin	Mrs Jemma Dixon, Miss Dawn Stevenson
Orchard	Overseen by Miss Emma Brown	Mrs Cath Smith (Priestley), Mrs Julie Banner-McGrath, Miss Hannah Jackson

2. School Uniform

As a reminder ready for the new school year, here is a list of the uniform for your children to wear to school from Nursery upwards:

- **Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece:**
- **Sky blue long or short sleeved polo shirt**
- **Dark grey long trousers, knee length skirt, knee length shorts or knee length pinafore:** *(Nursery children can wear dark grey, pull-up jogging bottoms if you think these would be easier for them.)*
- **Sky blue and white checked knee length dress.**
- **Flat, waterproof, plain black shoes (including plain black unbranded trainers) which fasten securely to your child's feet. Please choose "Velcro" fastenings until your children can manage buckles or laces independently.** *(If your children wear wellingtons to walk to school in rainy weather, please also send in their bag school shoes or trainer for them to change into. Wellingtons are not designed to be worn for long periods of time and do not support growing feet.)*
- **White, grey or black socks / grey or black tights.**

Please also send your child to school with a waterproof coat with a hood every day. We play out in all weathers including rain, and even if the day starts out sunny and warm it can quickly change.

And finally: please name EVERYTHING! At the end of every playtime we collect numerous abandoned coats and jumpers from the playground and field, and if they are named we can quickly reunite them with their owners.

3. Timings of the school day

The timings for children from Reception to Year 6 will remain the same. The school day begins at 8.45am, with the gate opening at 8.40am. School finishes at 3.15pm. Children will be dropped off and picked up via the main gate, apart from Reception children who will be dropped off at the conservatory door.

The nursery morning sessions will now begin five minutes earlier, at 8.40am, and finish at 11.40am. There will be no change to charges, despite the very slightly longer session for those staying for lunch or the whole day. Afternoon sessions will be 12.20pm to 3.20pm.

Nursery children will be dropped off and collected at the conservatory door via the garden gate at the bottom of the steps onto the main carpark. Reception children will be dropped off at the conservatory door but collected at the end of the day, from the main playground.

4. Forest School for All

This year we are delighted to be introducing Forest School sessions for every year group as part of our enrichment programme within the school day.

Forest School is about much more than being outdoors. It gives children the chance to develop teamwork, problem solving, independence and resilience while exploring and learning in a natural environment.

These experiences help children grow in confidence, nurture curiosity and provide opportunities to take safe risks and learn from them. The skills they gain will support their wellbeing and prepare them for life both in and beyond the classroom.

We are looking forward to seeing the children working together, getting muddy and discovering what they can achieve.

Your child will need to bring in a bag containing some sturdy and waterproof footwear – wellies are ideal! They will need a waterproof coat, and as the weather becomes colder, hat, scarf and gloves. As our Forest School sessions are based around active learning in the outdoors, the children might get damp and muddy!

Forest School dates for Year 1 and up are on the calendar below. Look out for DOJO reminders from your child's teacher! For children in our Early Years department, Mrs Malik and Mrs Wood Doyle will let you know in advance of each session.

Tuesday 16 th September	Year 1 Silver Birch Class
Tuesday 23 rd September	Year 2 Willow Class
Tuesday 30 th September	Year 3 Holly Class
Tuesday 7 th October	Year 4 Chestnut Class
Tuesday 14 th October	Year 5 Elm Class
Tuesday 21 st October	Year 6 Oak Class
Tuesday 4 th November	Year 1 Silver Birch Class
Tuesday 11 th November	Year 2 Willow Class
Tuesday 18 th November	Year 3 Holly Class
Tuesday 25 th November	Year 4 Chestnut Class
Tuesday 2 nd December	Year 5 Elm Class
Tuesday 9 th December	Year 6 Oak Class

5. Attendance Rewards

15 on time = Snack Time!

We are excited to introduce a new way to encourage and celebrate good attendance. Children who come to school on time will be working toward our 15 Day Attendance Award. After 15 days of being present and punctual they will receive a tasty snack as a reward.

Please don't worry if your child has an authorised absence - the award is cumulative. If a child misses a day they do not have to start again. They simply keep working toward their 15 days.

Good attendance helps children learn more, build confidence and make the most of every school day.

96% Attendance = Golden Time!

When a class reaches our target of 96% attendance, they will enjoy golden time on Friday afternoon. This could be an extra playground session or a special enrichment activity to celebrate their hard work and commitment.

6. Wedding news!

We are delighted to share some happy news from our school community.

Over the holiday, Mrs Priestley was married and is now **Mrs Smith**. We send her our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the future.

7. Baby news!

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news that Miss Crossland has welcomed her new baby! Huge congratulations to her and her family. We wish them lots of love, cuddles, and happy memories together.

8. Best wishes to Mrs Clubb

We wish Mrs Clubb a very happy retirement! She will now have more time to enjoy her lovely grandchildren and pursue her love of crafting. We thank her for all her dedication and hard work and send her our warmest wishes for this exciting new chapter in her life.

9. School Trips

In order to help you budget and plan for the year ahead, we will try to give you as much advance notice of school trips as possible. The trips that have already been booked are highlighted below and will go "live" on Arbor as soon as the new school year starts next week (some payments have already been taken for the Year 6 residential trip).

Year 1 2025/26	Conkers	Acorns	Silver Birch	Willow	Holly	Chestnut	Elm	Oak
Trip 1	Manor Park		Manchester Art Gallery		Creative Workshop at Z Arts Theatre Wednesday 15 th October 2025 £23.61		Farm Experience	Residential trip to Whitehall Centre Monday 13 th October 2025 £215 in total
Trip 2	Dinosaur Workshop Teach Rex?		Chatsworth Park		Church	Church	Synagogue	Synagogue
Trip 3	Bridgewater Gardens		Lytham St. Anne's		Chester Zoo Wednesday 8 th July 2026 £31.40 per child		Alton Towers	

Year 2 2026/27	Conkers	Acorns	Silver Birch	Willow	Holly	Chestnut	Elm	Oak
Trip 1	Manor Park		Lyme Park and Crow Wood		Manchester Museum		Outdoor Adventure	Residential
Trip 2	Peak Wildlife Park		Manchester Bus Tour and Z Arts Theatre		Mosque	Young Voices		Mosque
Trip 3	Formby Beach		Portland Basin Museum		Carsington Water		Llandudno	

We have lots of exciting enrichment activities planned for our Orchard Class and we will let parents know about any planned trips in due course, when the children have settled back into school.

Dates for your Diaries

HOLIDAY	
<i>Tuesday 2nd September</i>	<i>Staff training day in Manchester</i>
<i>Wednesday 3rd September</i>	<i>Staff in school: training day</i>
<i>Thursday 4th September</i>	<i>School opens for Autumn Term 1</i>
Tuesday 16 th September	Year 1 Silver Birch Class Forest School
Tuesday 23 rd September	Year 2 Willow Class Forest School
Thursday 25 th September	Conkers Class "Wheelie Morning"
Friday 26 th September	Acorns Class "Wheelie Morning"
Tuesday 30 th September	Year 3 Holly Class Forest school
Tuesday 7 th October	Year 4 Chestnut Class Forest School
Thursday 9 th October	Acorns and Conkers library visit
Monday 13 th October	Year 6 residential trip to Whitehall Centre
Tuesday 14 th October	Year 5 Elm Class Forest School
Wednesday 15 th October	Year 3 Holly and Year 4 Chestnut Classes Trip to Z-Arts Theatre
Wednesday 15 th October	Nursery Conkers "Stay and Play" Family Learning session: 10.45am to 11.45am
Wednesday 15 th October	Reception Acorns "Stay and Play" Family Learning session: 2.00pm to 3.00pm
Thursday 16 th October	Individual children's photographs
Friday 17 th October	Year 6 Oak Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Tuesday 21 st October	Year 6 Oak Class Forest School
Wednesday 22 nd October	Open Evening: 6.00pm to 7.00pm
Thursday 23 rd October	Parties in Catkins, Conkers, Acorns and Orchard Classes
Thursday 23 rd October	Spooky Disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm
Friday 24 th October	Year 5 Elm Class Family Dinner Day
<i>Friday 24th October</i>	<i>School closes for half term holiday</i>
HOLIDAY	
<i>Monday 3rd November</i>	<i>School opens for Autumn Term 2</i>
Monday 3 rd November	Swimming Pool on site for 4 weeks: swimming lessons for Years 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 4 th November	Year 1 Silver Birch Class Forest School
Thursday 6 th November	Acorns and Conkers library visit
Friday 7 th November	Year 4 Chestnut Class Family Dinner Day
Tuesday 11 th November	Year 2 Willow Class Forest School
Friday 14 th November	Year 3 Holly Class Family Dinner Day
Tuesday 18 th November	Year 3 Holly Class Forest School
Friday 21 st November	Year 2 Willow Class Family Dinner Day
Tuesday 25 th November	Year 4 Chestnut Class Forest School
Friday 28 th November	Year 1 Silver Birch Class Family Dinner Day
Tuesday 2 nd December	Year 5 Elm Class Forest School
Thursday 4 th December	Acorns and Conkers library visit
Friday 5 th December	Reception Acorns Class Family Dinner Day
Tuesday 9 th December	Year 6 Oak Class Forest school

Wednesday 10 th December	Nursery Conkers "Stay and Play" Family Learning session: 10.45am to 11.45am
Wednesday 10 th December	Reception Acorns "Stay and Play" Family Learning session: 2.00pm to 3.00pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Year 3 Holly Class sing at "Victorious Voices" concert
Thursday 11 th December	Pantomime "Robin Hood" in school.
Friday 12 th December	Orchard Class Family Dinner Day
Monday 15 th December	Conkers and Acorns Christmas Singalong: 9.15am
Wednesday 17 th December	Silver Birch and Willow Classes nativity play: 2.00pm and 6.00pm
Thursday 18 th December	Parties in Catkins, Conkers, Acorns and Orchard Classes
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm
Friday 19 th December	Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 19th December	School closes for Christmas holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 5th January	School opens for Spring Term 1
Friday 13th February	School closes for half term holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 23rd February	School opens for Spring Term 2
Friday 27th March	School closes for Easter holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 13th April	School opens for Summer Term 1
Monday 4th May	School closed (Bank Holiday)
Monday 11 th May	Year 6 SATS week
Thursday 21st May	School closes for half term holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 1st June	School opens for Summer Term 2
Monday 1 st June	Year 4 Multiplication Checks begin (over next two weeks)
Monday 8 th June	Year 1 Phonics screening this week
Wednesday 8 th July	Year 3 Holly and Year 4 Chestnut Classes Trip to Chester Zoo
Friday 17th July	School closes for Summer Holiday
Monday 20th July	Staff in school: training day
Tuesday 21st July	Staff in school: training day
HOLIDAY	
Wed 2nd September 26	Staff training day in Manchester
Thurs 3rd September 26	Staff in school: training day
Friday 4th September 26	Staff in school: training day