



Saltford
CofE Primary School

Launch Letter Term 1 • 5th September 2024



WELCOME BACK to the new school year. I extend a warm welcome also to all the new families who have joined our community for the first time this week and we hope everyone is feeling settled and ready to learn.

This autumn term is always packed with variety as we head towards the festivities of December via Harvest and Remembrance. We will still be making the most of our lovely outdoor spaces too, enjoying swimming and Forest School on the premises. We are very pleased with all the works that have been carried out on the school site over the holidays, including the playground, redecoration of the Early Years rooms and the installation of an exciting new kitchen area for the children to use. I strongly encourage you to attend the remaining welcome meetings to meet your children's teachers, hear about this year's subjects & topics and ask any questions you might have. These are all at 5pm in the school hall:

Year 5 Thursday 5th September

Year 2 Monday 9th September

Year 1 Tuesday 10th September

Year 4 Wednesday 11th September

Year 6 Tuesday 17th September (new date to replace earlier postponement).

The usual weekly newsletters will be coming out from next Thursday by email. In the meantime, this launch summary aims to give you a quick reminder of the dates and practicalities you need to know for the first week or so of school. We love to celebrate the children's achievements outside of school also, so please do encourage them to bring their medals, trophies and certificates (named) into school to share with their classmates.

The [class pages on our website](#) are up to date with your latest class letter and the relevant curriculum web that your child will be following this term.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS about changes to the issue of Penalty Notices to address School Attendance from 19th of August 2024: THE EDUCATION (PENALTY NOTICES) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2024 No. 210.

From 19th August 2024 new legislation came into force regarding the criteria for and the issue of penalty notices to address school attendance. A national framework for parental fines is being introduced for any pupil who misses 10 or more half-days within any 10-week period. Please note that if you have requested a Leave of Absence that commences from September 2024 onwards, any Penalty Notice/s issued will be at the new rates and trigger the start of the three year threshold period. Please follow this link to our website to see how this is worked out, with examples.

MOBILE PHONES AT SCHOOL

We have sent out revised guidance to parents of children in Years 5 & 6 but please also take a look if your children are in younger years, to see our school approach to mobile phone and smart watch usage in school. We have noticed a significant increase in the number of children bringing mobile phones and smart watches in the upper juniors and, while we recognise that they can be a reassurance for those who travel to school unaccompanied, we also know from experience that they can cause a lot of upset and prolong disagreements.

- [Letter to parents of Y5 and Y6 outlining and explaining our approach](#)
- [Mobile phone pupil agreement](#)

- [Mobile phone parent agreement](#)

KS2 children are discouraged from travelling independently but if parents wish their child to be allowed to leave school alone it must be put in writing using the permission form that is at the end of our 'Arrivals and departures guidelines', listed [on our policies page here](#).

SWIMMING FOR YEARS 1 – 6

Swimming starts on Monday 9th September with Willow, Elm and Apple classes. [See the weekly timetable here](#). Reception children will swim in terms 5 & 6. All families will have received our letter regarding lesson times and costs. We very much hope that you feel you can make a financial contribution towards these lessons because the pool needs to be financially viable so that we can continue to offer lessons with minimal disruption to the school day (as travel and time offsite is not necessary). The facility of the pool for private lessons outside of school time in Saltford would also not be viable without the school contribution. It has been great to hear the children enjoying the facility already in after-school sessions.

We also need voluntary helpers to be able to run the lessons at such low cost. If you could help at any of the sessions, [please see more information and the sign-up links on our website here](#). Any help, no matter how irregular, is very much appreciated.

FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School starts again on Wednesday 11th September, with the first session for Year 5. All the [other dates and information can be found in this letter from Mrs Morgan](#) and at the end of our newsletters in the "Dates for your diary" section. Please make sure your child comes equipped with suitable clothing for their day, probably including waterproof clothing and footwear in this weather.

PTA MEETING ON MONDAY

The next PTA meeting will be on Monday 9th September at 7:30pm in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting and we have lovely events planned so if you are able to come along your support would be very much appreciated. You will have seen in the news the budgetary challenges that school are facing; the support and work of the PTA is so important to our school and your personal support will make a huge difference to what we can provide for every one of our children. They deserve the very best.

To those parents who are new to the school we say please do come along. It is a great way to be involved in school life.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL PHOTOS

The photographer will be in school on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th September this year to take individual photos of the children and sibling groups who are at the school. Please look out for a reminder message that will be sent from school that week so that children come looking their best and prepared for the day.

CLUBS AT SCHOOL

Most clubs will be starting back up next week, from Monday 9th September. Some, however, will start a little later. [Please check the clubs timetable on our website here](#) for accurate information about each club.

KS2 INFO FOR CROSS COUNTRY NEXT THURSDAY

Next Thursday 12th September is our annual KS2 intra-school cross country race. All children from Y3-Y6 will have the opportunity to race on a course around the school site. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school ready for this and that they have the appropriate footwear to be running on grass.

YEAR 6 NETBALL PRACTICE

Netball practice for year 6 girls will start on Tuesday 10th September and continue weekly every Tuesday. If your daughter would like to attend please attend the first session or speak to Mrs Hathaway (year 6 TA).

REMINDERS

Snacks and allergies: your class letters for this term contain detailed information about our policy for healthy snacks and our requirements that, to protect those children with nut and seed allergies, nobody should send anything to school that contains nuts, lentils or sesame seeds. This includes things like houmous and Nutella.

The information is also on the school website in full, [in the school notices section](#), under 'Healthy snacks' and 'Nut and seed life-threatening allergy awareness'. I would like to thank you for taking responsibility for your part in keeping all of our children healthy and safe at school.

School dinners: the menu is up to date on MCAS and [on the school website here](#). Please [see our website here](#) for details of who is entitled to free school meals and how to book your child's dinners.

Punctuality: please support us by making sure your child arrives at school at the correct time – all children should be in the classroom at 8:50am – arrival at 8:40am is recommended.

Uniform: please note that children should not be wearing a PE hoodie as part of their main uniform. If you are in doubt, please see our full uniform requirements [on our website here](#).

Change of footwear: we request that all children have a separate pair of outdoor shoes in school that can be used at playtime and lunchtime when children go onto the field areas. We have proper storage for the extra footwear and finds that it makes it easier and cheaper to keep the indoor classroom areas clean and well maintained.

[Our website](#) is up to date and you can find our [term dates calendar](#) for this and next school year in [the Office section](#). Please [see our summary guide to communications here](#) for a reminder of the many ways we can communicate with each other. We have an open door policy and would always encourage parents and carers to contact the school directly with any concerns or suggestions.

Have a good weekend,
Mrs Sage.

Congratulations to:

Lara S, Maple class, who completed an art course with the Czech and Slovak School and had her own first exhibition in Bristol last July which received much praise for her work. Well done, Lara.

Anna S, Butterflies, who won two gold and one silver medal at three mountain bike races at the Malvern's Classic Festival in August. This made her the overall winner in her age category. Well done, Anna.

How you can get involved

PTA: to keep in touch and get involved [join the PTA Facebook group here](#). The next PTA meeting will be held at 7.30pm on **Monday 9th September** in the staffroom. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Volunteering: we love having volunteers in school. There are many roles a volunteer can take and help is welcomed on a regular or a one-off basis.

- Volunteer to help on a regular basis in class.
- Talk to our KS2 children about your career in an assembly.
- Share your gardening skills and help look after the Secret Garden. Please call (01225 872185) or [e-mail the school office](#) if you can spare time to help the children benefit from this great resource.
- Become a Library volunteer and support our team.

See more about [what it's like to be a volunteer here](#), including [this lovely account](#) from the point of view of one parent volunteer who wrote to us about her experience.

Futura Learning Partnership



We are a Futura Learning Partnership school. You can catch up on the Futura

news by reading their monthly newsletters for parents [on our website here](#) or learn more by visiting [the Futura website here](#).

Community news

Here are some useful links where you can keep informed about what is happening in our community:

- Salford Community Association:** www.salfordhall.co.uk/
Salford Parish Council: www.salfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/
Salford Environment Group: salfordenvironmentgroup.org.uk
Salford Sports Club:
<https://www.facebook.com/salt.fordsportsclub/>
St Mary's Church: www.stmaryssalford.org.uk/
B&NES Council: beta.bathnes.gov.uk/
Keynsham Town Council: <http://www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk/>

Staff news

Mrs Willetts: we said goodbye to Mrs Willetts at the end of last term. She has been with us for almost five years, during which time she has been a brilliant TA, using her specialist speech and language skills to help and support all the children she has worked with. She has moved on to specialise in this area in a school in Bristol and we wish her very well in the next phase of her career.

Miss Hansford: Miss Hansford begins her maternity leave next week. She goes with our best wishes to her and her family as they look forward to their new arrival.

Miss Vile: many congratulations to Miss Vile who married her long term partner during the holidays. Here's a photo of the lovely bride and her family. She is now known as Mrs Godfrey.



Dates for your diary

Thursday 5th September 5pm: Year 5 welcome meeting in hall

From Monday 9th September: swimming resumes. [See timetable here.](#)

Monday 9th September 7.30pm: PTA meeting in staffroom. ALL WELCOME.

Monday 9th September 5pm: Year 2 Welcome meeting in hall

Tuesday 10th September 5pm: Year 1 Welcome meeting in hall

Wednesday 11th September: [Year 5 Forest School](#)

Wednesday 11th September 5pm: Year 4 Welcome meeting in hall

Friday 13th September: deadline for school writing competition entries.

Monday 16th September 5pm: EYFS literacy meeting for parents in school hall

Tuesday 17th September 5pm: Year 6 Welcome meeting in hall (new date)

Wednesday 18th September: [Year 3 Forest School](#)

Thursday 19th & Friday 20th September: individual school photos

Friday 20th September: Y1 cake sale plus uniform sale & book swap.

Wednesday 25th September: [Year 1 Forest School](#)

Wednesday 2nd October: [Year 4 Forest School](#)

Thursday 3rd October: talk for parents from [PAPAYA](#) (Parents Against Phone Addiction in Young Adolescents). Letter to come.

Wednesday 9th October: [Year 2 Forest School](#)

Mon 14th October 5pm: EYFS maths workshop for parents in school hall

Wednesday 16th October: [Year 6 Forest School](#)

Wednesday 23rd October: [EYFS Forest School](#)

Thursday 24th October: last day of term 1.

Friday 25th October: INSET/staff training day.

Monday 4th November: first day of term 2.

For term dates for this and next academic years please see: www.saltfordschool.org.uk/the-office/#term-dates. All dates are on [the calendar for parents here.](#)