



Newsletter



November 2025

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year. We can not believe how quickly this term has gone by, it will be Christmas next!

Congratulations to all the schools who achieved a School Games Mark Award in 2024-2025, you should all have received your badges to go on your pennants from last year. Please do contact us if yours has not arrived yet.

If you have any new PE subject leads in your school, or you have changed roles, please do let us know so that we can update our distribution lists. If you are new to the role or need some help, we are more than happy to come to your school and help explain what we do and about the School Games, please do contact us.

It has been a busy first half term, and we want to say thank you to all the schools who have taken part in our events so far, it has been lovely seeing all the children having lots of fun!

PE Sport & Premium

The Department for Education has now released the PE and sport premium guidance for this academic year – [read it here](#). There are no major changes to the funding conditions this year, although the payment schedule has been updated. **Schools will now receive 50% of their funding in two instalments**, rather than 7/12 in October and 5/12 in April, as in previous years. Please check the guidance and [conditions of grant](#) to ensure you are clear on the timings for your school.

To support you, the YST have updated the [PE and sport premium webpage](#) with resources and guidance to help you from planning through to completing the digital expenditure reporting return in July. On the webpage you'll find:

PE and sport premium [monitoring and tracking form](#) - a working document that takes you step by step through the process of reflecting on last year, linking to whole-school priorities, setting objectives and evidencing intent, implementation and impact. It provides a clear record throughout the year and can also be uploaded to your website to demonstrate how funding has been allocated and the difference it has made.

PE and sport premium [spending tracker](#) – an Excel document that allows you to record expenditure in real time from the start of term. As you add your spend, the tracker calculates totals automatically, helping you stay on top of your budget and making end-of-year reporting much easier.

We strongly encourage you to [read the guidance in full](#). Everything you need to know about funding conditions, timelines, reporting requirements and where to go for support is included.

School Games Mark

The School Games Mark is a government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community.

Participating in this process allows schools to evaluate their PE provision and assists them in developing an action plan for future progress.



Congratulations to the following Schools, on your School Games Mark award for 2024-2025:

Blacon High School

Guilden Sutton Primary School

Saighton Primary School

Mickle Trafford Village School

The Arches Primary School

St Theresa's Catholic Primary School

Boughton Heath Academy

Bunbury Aldersey Primary School

Dorin Park School

Dodleston Primary School

Tattenall Park Primary School

Bishop Heber High School

St Martins Academy

Upton Heath Academy

St Clare's Catholic Primary School

Upton Westlea Primary School

Mill View Primary School

Lache Primary School

Huntington Primary School

Acresfield Academy

JH Godwin Primary School

Eaton Primary School

St Oswalds Primary School

Chester Blue Coat Primary School

St Werburghs & St Columbas Primary School

Newton Primary School

The Queens School

Maple Grove School

The Grosvenor Park Academy

Platinum schools from 2023-2024

Saughall All Saints Primary School

The Firs

Delamere Academy

Waverton Primary School

Highfield Primary School

Belgrave Primary School

Hoole Primary School

Tarvin Primary School

School Games Mark

The School Games Mark criteria for 2025-2026 has now been released and is available on the School Games website. (www.yourschoolgames.com) [Your School Games - Your School Games](#)

We understand that not every school has the time or desire to undertake an extensive School Games Mark application, nor are all schools keen to progress through the award levels year on year. For schools with limited capacity, the Bronze award is considered the entry level. It demonstrates that the school provides and engages its young people in high quality School Games opportunities. The Silver and Gold awards are available to schools that want to challenge themselves and prove their progress over time against a national benchmark.

It is helpful to start now to compile a file of any evidence you have for your School Games Mark application. It will make it much easier at the end of the year, when you come to complete it.

If you need any help with the School Games Mark, please do contact us.

Inclusive Health Check

Completing the Inclusive Health Check in advance remains a core component of the School Games Mark application. Please ensure that you complete this in good time, ideally in the autumn term to give time to reflect and implement any actions.

School Games Values

The Spirit of the Games values of eco friendly, determination, honesty, passion, respect, self-belief, and teamwork were developed by young people to identify what the experience of school sport should be built around and they focus on personal excellence through competition.

These values have been successfully applied by schools to develop a range of behaviours, qualities and inter-personal skills with their students based on sporting experiences, scenarios, and attitudes.

We have some Spirit of the Games certificates on our website should you wish to print them and use them in celebratory assemblies with your pupils following any of our events. www.chesterssp.co.uk

There are also some Spirit of the Games posters available on the School Games website resource section which are very good for sports notice boards too!



Year 5&6 Quick Sticks Hockey

On Wednesday 24th September Upton High School hosted our year 5 and 6 Quick Sticks Hockey competition. In total eleven schools took part in the competition in some very good competitive matches. The top four teams placing first and second in their groups and progressing to the semi finals were Tarvin, Saughall, Cherry Grove and Hoole.

The standard of hockey in play was excellent, with Hoole and Saughall winning their matches and playing in the final. The final score was Hoole 1, Saughall 0.

Both teams will progress to the county finals in March and we wish them both the very best of luck.

Thank you to the schools for attending the event and to Upton High School for allowing us to use their fantastic pitches.

Thank you also to the coaches from CEPD and to the excellent sports leaders from Upton High School for refereeing the matches.



SEN Multi Sport Festival

On Monday 6th October, six school teams took part in the SEN Multi Sport Festival at Ellesmere Port Sport Village. The children rotated around four sports: New Age Kurling, Boccia, Archery and Table Cricket.

The event is a fun, relaxed festival where children can enjoy learning new skills. It was lovely to see all the smiling faces from the children.

Thank you to the coaches from CEPD for helping to run the activity areas, and to Owen Williamson from Cheshire Cricket who ran the table cricket activity.



Year 3&4 and 5&6 Rugby Festival

On Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th October, Chester Rugby Club hosted the touch rugby festivals. Eight schools took part in the year 3 and 4 festival, and 17 schools in the year 5 and 6 festival. A total of 193 pupils took part over the two days.

This was a non scoring friendly festival for children who are not regular players of the sport, where the aim was to learn new skills. Many of the children were new to rugby, and by the end of both mornings, they had all improved immensely. The weather was on our side, and the children had great fun.

Thank you to Chester Rugby Club for hosting the event and to the coaches from CEPD for refereeing the matches.



Smile 4 A Mile

Working alongside Cheshire West & Chester Council, Vale Royal School Sport Partnership & Ellesmere Port School Sport Partnership, we are aiming to reinvigorate the concept (previously known as the Golden Mile programme) by supporting schools to offer regular physical activity which benefits children and staff alike.

The principle of Smile 4 a Mile is simple, every child will travel an agreed route in the school grounds (e.g. run, scoot, wheel, walk) for 15 minutes during the school day, every day.

The distance children will travel will vary from year group to year group, and from child to child. But importantly, all children can participate.

Smile for a Mile provides a consistent focus to achieve an extra 15 minutes of daily physical activity.

All children should be encouraged to achieve new goals, and will benefit from improved health and well being.

It is also a tool that teachers can use to weave the curriculum in and out of as appropriate across the school year, as they know best.

Please contact us if you would like digital copies of the 'Smile for a Mile' booklet, poster or certificate.



Year 1 and 2 Multi Skills Festivals

On 22nd and 23rd October we had the year 1 and 2 Multi Skills Festivals at Ellesmere Port Sports Village. In total 440 children took part in the event where they took part in throwing, jumping, catching, balancing and running activities.



The children had lots of fun and it was lovely to watch some of them attend their very first sports event enjoying themselves.

A huge thank you to all the staff from schools who helped the children take part in the event. Thank you also to the coaches from CEPD for your support.

Well done to all the children and we look forward to seeing you more as you progress through primary school.

Year 5&6 Basketball

On Tuesday 4th November 12 schools and 87 children took part in the Year 5 and 6 basketball competition.

The winners of their pools were St Oswald's and Saughall Primary Schools. Credit should also go to Chester Blue Coat Primary School who came a very close second place in their pool, with the same number of points as St Oswald's. The winner between the schools was decided on the most number of baskets scored. St Oswald's just beat Chester Blue Coat by two baskets.

The overall winning school of the competition was St Oswald's who will progress to the county final in March.

The schools should be immensely proud of all the children who took part. The games were very close with a lot of talent in the room, well done!

Thank you to the coaches from CEPD for refereeing the matches and good luck to St Oswald's in the county final!.



Ten Pin Bowling

On Thursday 6th November 14 school teams took part in the SEN Ten Pin bowling event in Ellesmere Port.

Running the event was Great Britain wheelchair athlete Nathan Maguire who has recently returned home from New Delhi with a bronze medal in the 1500m.

He is such a great role model for the children and was happy to talk to all the children.

The children had lots of fun, many of them have never been bowling before.



We had some wonderful feedback from the schools, with one child saying it's the best day of his life. Another child who had never represented his school before was so very excited to be going home with a medal.

Many thanks to the charity Panathlon for their support for the event, to Nathan for running the event, and to all the teachers and staff who attend the event. It was fantastic!

Congratulations to Chester Blue Coat Primary School who won the event and will progress to the county final in May. We wish them the best of luck!

Barclays Girls Football Partnership

Secondary CPD online training and FREE resources with equipment:

GO Referee is a programme for **KS4 girls**, using refereeing to build confidence, develop decision-making skills, and grow leadership in a real-world setting.

Whether or not they play the game, girls take on the role of referee — learning how to manage situations calmly, communicate clearly, and stay focused under pressure. It's a chance for pupils to discover a new kind of leadership — one built on fairness, self-control, and respect. It's football, but it's so much more!

www.girlsfootballinschools.org

GO Coach — Using coaching to help girls build confidence, develop leadership, and gain real-life skills.

GO Coach is a fantastic programme for **KS4 girls** that uses football coaching as a practical way to develop communication, teamwork, organisation, and self-belief. The programme helps girls grow as leaders and role models - making a real difference in their schools and communities.



Barclays Girls Football Partnership

www.girlsfootballinschools.org

Barclays Game On – GO Play is a week by week resource pack that supports schools to deliver football for **girls in KS3**. Included is 9 ready-made, easy to follow session plans, game cards and top tips to help you meet the needs of all your girls.

This resource minimises planning and preparation time, allows teachers with less footballing knowledge to deliver quality sessions and can also be easily used by your girls' football activators themselves. Sessions focus on having fun, bringing girls together, developing a love of football and building confidence.

If you are interested in any of the secondary programmes log on to www.girlsfootballinschools.org to find out more and sign up to the online CPD.

Primary CPD online training and FREE resources with equipment:

PlayHers

PlayHers is a new football programme, powered by England Football and the Premier League, designed to help **7-11 year-olds** grow in confidence, build essential life skills and enjoy the game, no matter their experience or ability. PlayHers uses the power of football to support girls to develop self-belief, resilience, teamwork and social skills, and take pride in what they are able to achieve both on and off the pitch.

Disney inspired Shooting Stars by England Football has been designed to support girls **aged 5-11** develop their speaking and listening skills through creative play and storytelling, as well as support the development of their physical literacy and introduce them to football.

Primary Curriculum Resources

England Football have created a variety of resources to support and enhance the delivery of high-quality PE in the curriculum. These on-demand resources are available to view and use straight away in your schools.

Primary Teacher CPD

England Football are providing a range of funded continued professional development (CPD) opportunities and courses, suitable for teachers, trainee teachers and those involved in delivering physical education as part of a curriculum.

If you are interested in any of the primary programmes log on to www.girlsfootballinschools.org to find out more and sign up to the online CPD to access the **FREE** resources and training.



England Athletics—free app for Teaching Primary Schools Athletics

[FREE Teaching Primary Schools Athletics - App Resource](#)

England Athletics believe that the desire to take part in sport is very much impacted by a young person's experience in school. Whether that be taking part in a Sportshall Athletics competition, the prestigious English Schools Champs or learning from a great teacher or PE specialist, the spark of interest and excitement starts in school.

England Athletics is committed to supporting the delivery of High-Quality athletics PE in schools, and to support Primary Schools and teaching staff, they are delighted to offer their **Teaching Primary Schools Athletics** (App-based) resource for **FREE**. *Normal Price £29.99*

To gain access to this resource all you need to do is complete the basic information required below to register your login details for the resource.

Once you have completed this form your details will be uploaded within 5 days and access to the **Teaching Primary Schools Athletics** resource will be FREE, via login.

A confirmation email will be sent to confirm when these details have been uploaded and your login details are live.

In the meantime please download the Schools Athletics App from either:

Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/schools-athletics/id1134881728> or

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=air.com.yudu.ReaderAIR6735234>

Please note the app is for smart phones and tablets only.

Youth Sport Trust: Well Check

The Youth Sport Trust's Well Schools: Well Check is a free, quick, online tool to help your school reflect on your approach to wellbeing and identify areas for support.

Designed for schools by schools, it offers tailored suggestions and resources to help you feel more confident, connected and resilient.

Take some time to check in on your staff and pupils and discover practical ways to boost whole-school wellbeing.

The Well Check is now also available for groups of schools and Multi-Academy Trusts.

Click the link below for more information.

[Well Schools - Youth Sport Trust](#)

Super 1s



**ALL DISABILITIES
WELCOME**

AGES 8-18

**FREE INCLUSIVE
CRICKET SESSIONS**

**GET ACTIVE AND
MAKE NEW FRIENDS!**

WHEN:

EVERY TUESDAY

5PM - 6PM

**STARTING 30th
SEPTEMBER 2025**

WHERE:

**CHESTER CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL**

CHESTER

CH4 7HS

CONTACT:



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Teach Active, Learning on the Move, FREE CPD.

Teach Active are offering FREE, high-quality CPD workshops that show how integrating movement into Maths and English lessons is creating happier, healthier, and better attaining children.

The high-impact CPD gives staff the tools and confidence to embed active learning into Maths and English—boosting engagement, attainment, and wellbeing without adding to workload.

Workshop formats include:

- 2-hour sessions
- Twilight CPD
- Conference keynotes
- Online webinars

Why get involved?

- Meet government guidelines
- Upskill teachers in active learning
- Inspire the next generation
- Create a more child-led active curricu-

‘Learning on the Move’ delivers immediate classroom impact - equipping teachers with effective teaching methods that enhance both academic results and whole-school wellbeing.

For more information please contact sophie@teachactive.org



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Don't forget to follow us on X for all the latest pictures and updates.

@ChesterSSP

Website: www.chesterssp.co.uk

If you no longer wish to receive the Chester School Sport Partnership newsletter, please can you notify us on enewstead@blaconhigh.cheshire.sch.uk or claire.smedley@blaconhigh.cheshire.sch.uk and we shall remove you from our mailing list.

‘Providing opportunities for every young person to shine’