



Newsletter



July 2026

Welcome to the last newsletter for this academic year. As we wrap up the 2025–2026 programme, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our schools for your energy, enthusiasm, and commitment throughout every festival, competition, and event.

Congratulations to St Oswald's Primary School who took part in the re-arranged Cheshire and Warrington County Finals and came 5th in the County in the year 5 and 6 Basketball competition.

Thank you and congratulations to all the schools who have been awarded your School Games Mark Award for this year. We really do appreciate the time you have spent on completing your School Games Mark applications. If you have not yet applied, the deadline is 31st July.

With summer now upon us, we wish all staff and pupils a relaxing, well deserved break. Rest, recharge, and enjoy the sunshine.

Update on the PE and School Sport Transition Funding

To support schools as we move to the new Partnerships Network, the DfE are increasing the PE and sport premium transition funding for 2026/27 academic year from £100 million to £150 million. **Schools will receive approximately £8,000 median average per eligible school as a one-off payment in the Autumn to be spent within the 2026/27 academic year.** This will ensure schools are fully supported as the new Partnerships Network works with them from January to get up and running, delivering support from April 2027.

[Update: Schools to receive more funding for PE and School Sport transition](#)

Chester SSP Primary Schools Membership 2026–2027

Information has been sent to all schools regarding the new membership package for next academic year. We appreciate that the conclusion of the Primary PE and Sport Premium funding has created a period of uncertainty for schools as you plan your provision for physical education, physical activity and school sport. Like you, we are awaiting further details regarding the new PE and School Sport Partnership Network model, which is expected to commence in January 2027. What we do know is that schools will receive a transition payment in the Autumn term details noted above, of approximately £8,000. We recognise that schools need stability and reliable support during this transition. We will continue to provide guidance, professional development, competitions, festivals, leadership opportunities, and programmes that help schools deliver an inclusive and high-quality PE and school sport offer. Please return your school agreements at your earliest convenience.

Primary PE and Sport Funding 2025-2026

Digital expenditure reporting return

The digital reporting tool for the 2025–2026 academic year is now live. Schools are strongly advised to carefully review the accompanying instructions and guidance.

Before you start

Make sure you have :

- an active [DfE Sign-in](#) account that is linked to your organisation - if you have not used DfE sign-in before, you'll need to [create an account](#)
- total grant spending for:
- continuing professional development (CPD)
- upskilling for swimming
- extra-curricular, equipment and resources
- memberships
- School Games Organiser network
- external sport competitions and external coaching staff
- other

Information about funding which has been targeted to any specific group of pupils such as:

- special education needs and disability (SEND)
 - long-term medical conditions
 - girls
 - disadvantaged
 - aspirations for targeted support from the new PE and School Sport Partnerships Network
- swimming attainment, self rescue, spending and impact

- The digital expenditure reporting return opened on Friday 26 June 2026.
- In response to forthcoming funding changes, the return has been streamlined to reduce administrative burden while capturing essential information.
- Completion of the return is a requirement outlined in the Conditions of Grant.
- Full guidance and access details are available on the website on the link at the bottom of the page.

The return must be completed by 5:00pm on 30th September 2026

Publishing a report

A school must publish on its website a report detailing how it has spent its premium by 31 July 2026.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pe-and-sport-premium-for-primary-schools/primary-pe-and-sport-premium-grant-expenditure-instructions-for-completing-the-reporting-and-assurance-form>

School Games Mark 2025/2026

Congratulations to the following schools who have achieved your School Games Mark awards this year:

Guilden Sutton Primary School
Bunbury Aldersey Primary School
Shocklach Oviatt Primary School
Clutton Primary School
Blacon High School
Saughall All Saints Primary School
The Firs School
Cherry Grove Primary School
The Arches Primary School
Upton Westlea Primary School
Grosvenor Park Academy
Boughton Heath Academy
St Oswalds Primary School
St Therasas Catholic Primary School
Abbey Gate College
Hoole Primary School
Chester Blue Coat Primary School
The Catholic High School
JH Godwin Primary School
Saighton Primary School
Eccleston Primary School
Lache Primary School
Maple Grove School
Belgrave Primary School
Delamere Academy
Newton Primary School
Huntington Community Primary School
Highfield Primary School
St Werburgh's and St Columba's Catholic Primary School
Upton High School
Waverton Community Primary School



Schools retaining the Platinum Award from 2024-2025:

Acresfield Academy
Bishop Heber High School
Mickle Trafford Primary School
St Clare's Primary School
St Martins Academy
Tattenhall Park Primary School

(The final list will be in the first newsletter in the autumn term as we have had lots of applications in the last few days and not all of them will have been verified yet).

It is not too late to apply for the School Games Mark, the deadline is 5pm 31st July.

<https://www.yourschoolgames.com/>

Gifted and Talented

On Thursday 23rd April we organised freestyle footballer Jamie Knight to deliver our Year 6 Gifted and Talented session at Hoole LTC.

Jamie is a professional football freestyler, and 2-time Guinness World Record holder.

Based in London, he is a top-10 world-ranked performer, renowned for global brand campaigns (Nike, Red Bull) and high-profile events like the 2017 UEFA Champions League Final.

Using the wow factor of freestyle football, his aim is to develop physical and mental health and the importance of a growth mindset. He delivered an engaging session that teaches skills, promote confidence, and focus on physical health.

Jamie delivered a fantastic demonstration of his tricks and skills, followed by a practical session where the children were able to have a go and practice some of them.

Believe it or not, but Jamie has never played football, and said that sports better suited to learning the skills were gymnastics and dance!

In the afternoon Jamie delivered a session to a group of talented children from Blacon High School.

The children all enjoyed the experience and some have even practised some of the tricks at home.



Girls Cricket



On Tuesday 16th June 8 school teams took part in the girls cricket competition at Boughton Hall Cricket Club. Many of the girls were new to cricket, but by the end of the afternoon they were becoming more confident and competent in the game.

The final was a very close competitive match between St Martins and Christleton, where Christleton were the winners. Both teams represented Chester in the county final in Warrington on 13th July. In the County Finals Christleton lost in the semi final and St Martins finished in a commendable second place. Well done to both teams!

The event was co-ordinated with the help of Tom Birch from Cheshire Cricket who was very impressed with the high standard of cricket played by our Chester teams.

Thank you to Tom for your help on the day, to the coaches from CEPD for umpiring the matches and also to Boughton Hall Cricket Club for allowing us to use the excellent facilities.

Let's Fish Programme

We are excited to be working alongside the Canal and Rivers Trust to help and inspire more children and young people to get involved in their Let's Fish initiative.

Maple Grove School and Eccleston Primary School sent 12 pupils to a coached angling session along the river in Chester.

Not only did they get the chance to try fishing, but they also learned how to mix bait and set up their pole.

A huge well done to the children for representing their school so brilliantly and embracing the experience with enthusiasm and confidence.

Thank you to the teachers and parents from the schools for supporting the initiative. We wish all the anglers all the best on their fishing journey and through to the regional celebration day in the autumn term.

Thank you to the amazing coaches from the Canal and River Trust.



Pickleball and Inclusive Tennis

On Wednesday 21st May Hoole Tennis Club hosted the Pickle Ball and Inclusive Tennis festivals.

Pickleball is a new sport which we have trialled this year. Pickleball is a racket sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. Played on a badminton sized court with a modified tennis net, it uses paddles and a lightweight plastic ball and can be played as singles or doubles. Easy to pick up and low impact, pickleball is a fun and social sport that's growing fast worldwide.

Thirty two children from eight schools took part in the event which was a non scoring festival. By the end of the festival, they all understood the game and really enjoyed themselves.

Fifty five children from seven schools took part in the Inclusive tennis festival. The children all took part in different skills stations which helped to develop hand eye coordination, agility and racket skills. This was a fun and relaxed event which was non competitive and helped to develop tennis related skills. The children all had a lovely time and enjoyed all the different activities.

Thank you to the coaches from CEPD who helped to run the tennis events and to Hoole Tennis Club for the use of the amazing facilities.



Dynamos Cricket

On Wednesday 17th June 9 schools took part in the mixed cricket competition at Boughton Hall Cricket Club. The event was ran with the help of Nathan from Cheshire Cricket.

Winning their pools and playing each other in the final was Tarvin Primary School and Saughall Primary School. This was another close final, with Tarvin giving a strong performance.

Thank you to all the teachers for supporting the event, to the coaches from CEPD for umpiring the matches, to Nathan at Cheshire Cricket and to the club for hosting us at their lovely facilities.

The children all had a lovely day in the sunshine enjoying a day of cricket.



The county final was on Tuesday 14th July in Warrington. Both teams did very well with Tarvin finishing in 2nd place!

Congratulations to Dorin Park and Maple Grove Schools who both took part in the special schools county cricket finals.

We are so very proud of all the schools who go on to represent Chester at all the county events. Well done!

Year 3 and 4 Netball

On Thursday 21st May we had 5 schools and 36 children take part in the Year 3 and 4 netball at Blacon High School. Here the children took part in High 5 netball matches, learning and developing their netball skills.

Thank you to the 4 girls from Blacon High School who umpired the matches. They did an excellent job in umpiring the matches and giving coaching points to the players.

Thank you to all the schools and to Blacon High School for hosting the event.



Quad Kids Athletics



On Thursday 2nd July 6 school teams took part in the year 5 and 6 quad kids athletics event at Upton High School. All children took part in the 75m sprint, 600m run, standing long jump and the vortex howler throw.

There were some fantastic athletes in attendance with some really strong distances and times in each discipline. Winning the event was Saughall All Saints Primary School who put on a superb performance. Congratulations and well done to all the children who took part in the event.

Many thanks to the amazing year 9 leaders from Upton High School who were there to help with the timing and measuring the distances in the field events. Thank you also to the coaches from CEPD!

Flag Football

On Monday 13th July, 27 children from St Martins and Upton Heath Primary Schools took part in our first ever Flag Football Festival. The children spent some time learning the skills of the game before having a mini match.

They all had a thoroughly enjoyable time!

Thank you to the teachers for bringing the children and the coaches from CEPD for help to run the festival.



Super 1s



**ALL DISABILITIES
WELCOME**

AGES 8-18

**FREE INCLUSIVE
CRICKET SESSIONS**

**GET ACTIVE AND
MAKE NEW FRIENDS!**

WHEN:

EVERY TUESDAY

5PM - 6PM

WHERE:

**CHESTER BOUGHTON
HALL CRICKET CLUB**

CHESTER

CH3 5EL

CONTACT:



OWEN WILLIAMSON



07984196148



owen.williamson@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk



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Don't forget you have until 31st July 5pm
to complete your
School Games Mark application!

www.yourschoolgames.com



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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'