



Ghost Hill Newsletter

4th September 2026

A message from Mrs Westall

As we start the new school year we welcome back children and families who have been with us last year, as well as our new children and families. The September buzz is in the air and it is an exciting time. All children have settled so well and it has been lovely to see so many smiles. Over the next few weeks we will share aspects of our curriculum in a section below. There are great things going on with our curriculum and as always, we welcome feedback.

Please can I remind you that we are a NUT FREE school, and we also do not allow smoking, vaping or dogs on site. Children are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school. This is for the safety of all.

On Thursday 10th September we have Master Wayne from SESMA in all day, for SEMA taster session workshops for all children in Year 1 and Year 2. Please can Year 1 and 2 children come to school in their PE kit.

Have a lovely weekend.

Curriculum

Character Education

At Ghost Hill, we believe that education is about much more than academic success. Through our Character Education curriculum, we help children develop the personal qualities and values that will enable them to thrive both in school and beyond.

Throughout the year, pupils explore important character virtues. These qualities are woven into daily school life, helping children build positive relationships, make thoughtful choices, and become active, caring members of our community.

Character Education is most effective when school and home work together. Parents can support this learning by talking with their children about values and virtues, celebrating examples of positive behaviour, and encouraging them to reflect on how their actions affect others.

Together, we can help our young people develop not only the knowledge and skills they need for the future, but also the character and confidence to make a positive difference in the world.

Our 5 focused Character Virtues are



Mrs Summers



Mrs Summers, one of our Year 1 teachers, is expecting a baby. The baby is due after Christmas. We will let you know when we have more details of when Mrs Summers will be starting her maternity leave. It is likely to be after Christmas. We will keep you updated on recruitment for the maternity cover post. This won't be advertised until October.



A Special Mention from Mrs Westall

Try Hard, be Brave, Be You.



Character virtue - Teamwork, Curiosity, Community Awareness, Honesty, Courage

Well done to all of the children for showing courage as they started in their new classes.

Ready, Respectful, Safe



Sports News

Each week we will share with you all of the sporting activities and achievements.
Watch this space!



Sports Star of the week

This will start next week.



Achievements out of school



Please send us in your children's achievements big and small. Please email the school office to do this:
office@ghosthill.set.education



Attendance data will show from next week.

- **Arrival:** Children should arrive at school between 8.30am & 8.40am and go straight to their classroom where they will be welcomed by their class teacher. Children attending Nursery should arrive at 8.45am. Children attending breakfast club can arrive from 7.45am.

The school gates are locked at 8.50am. Any arrivals after this time should come through the school office and will be marked as late.

- **End of day collection:** Is at 3.20pm. Parents and Carers should collect children from their classroom doors.
- **Absence reporting:** Always call the school office if your child is not in school for attendance purposes, 01603 860334 and leave a voicemail on the absence line.

Top Tips To Support Attendance

- ✓ Get into good routines: start the year right and make attendance a priority.
- ✓ Show an interest in school and education by going to parents meetings and other school events.
- ✓ Talk about school at home: ask your child what they're learning, how their friends are and how they're getting on. Encourage them to tell you about the good and the bad!
- ✓ Don't let your child take time off school for minor illnesses: particularly those that would not stop you from going to work.
- ✓ Take family holidays during school holiday time only.

If you think or know that your child is having any difficulties, give the school a call to talk about how they can help you and your child.

Parking near school

We encourage walking to and from school. This reduces traffic and pollution, gives you time to practice road safety training and is a social activity as you can discuss with your child what you can see, smell, and hear on the journey. It might even be quicker!

If you do drive, please park responsibly and be considerate to our neighbours by not obstructing their driveways or parking on corners or close to junctions. We have safe crossing areas outside the school to ensure people park safely and to ensure the safety of our children when they cross the road.

Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Mrs Westall, Mrs Hamill, Mrs Ferguson

All staff are responsible for safeguarding. The Designated Safeguarding Leads ensure staff are supported and well trained. If you are worried about your own child or another child in school, please talk to one of the designated safeguarding leads.

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child out of school hours; the number to ring is: [CADS](#) – Children's Advice and Duty Service 0344 8008020

Please see **September's Online Newsletter** at the bottom of this newsletter.



Information:

Please ensure push notifications for the my child at school app are switched on.

- **All booking and amendments for lunches and wraparound care need to be made 24hrs in advance.**
- **Please check the information we hold for you is up to date and correct. You can view the information on the data collection tab. Parental consents can also be viewed on the app under the 'parental consents' tab**

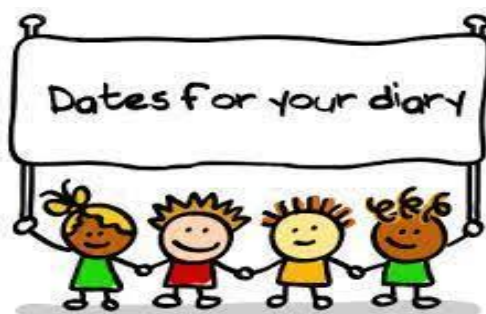
If you do not have MYCAS and would like access, please speak to Mrs Ferguson in the school office.

Please use the school office email address for any future emails. Office@ghosthill.set.education

Breakfast and After school club contact number

Please be aware breakfast and after school club has its own contact number. Should you need to reach them, please call 01603 558807

Breakfast and Afterschool club sessions are available to book on our 'my child at school' app.



Any dates that are added each week will be highlighted for easy reference.

Thursday 10 th September	SESMA Taster day for Year 1 and 2 – children in Year 1 and 2 come to school in PE kits please.
Wednesday 23 rd September 9am	Parent Focus Group – Transition. All welcome.
Friday 25 th September	Rabbits visiting Reception
Monday 28 th September AM	Care Home Visit – School Council
Wednesday 30 th September 9am	The Teaching of Reading presentation to parents. Mrs Belson and Mrs Westall
Thursday 15 th October 4pm and 6pm	September 2027 NEW INTAKE Open Evening

Monday 19th October - Friday 30th October – 2 week Halfterm

Tuesday 3 rd November 2.45pm	Parents can visit their child's classroom and look at their books and displays – ahead of parents evening.
Monday 9 th November AM	Care Home Visit – School Council
Tuesday 10 th November 3.30-5pm	Parents Evening
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th November	Antibullying week
Thursday 19 th November 3.30-7pm	Parents Evening
Thursday 3 rd December 9.45am	Reception Christmas Performance to parents. Note: There is only one show to parents for Reception as it has been clear previous years that this is enough for the children.
Monday 7 th December AM	Care Home Visit – School Council
Tuesday 8 th December 9.45am	Year 1 Christmas Performance to parents. Please only come to one of the shows.
Tuesday 8 th December 2.30pm	Year 2 Christmas Performance to parents. Please only come to one of the shows.
Wednesday 9 th December 2.30pm	Year 1 Christmas Performance to parents Please only come to one of the shows.
Thursday 10 th December 9.45am	Year 2 Christmas Performance to parents Please only come to one of the shows.
Wednesday 16 th December 2.30pm	Nursery Christmas Performance to parents
Friday 18 th December	Last day of term.

September 2026						
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December 2026						
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February 2027						
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March 2027						
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April 2027						
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May 2027						
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June 2027						
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July 2027						
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August 2027						
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Key: White dates - school open to pupils, Yellow dates - pupil holiday, Blue dates - Staff Training (school closed – pupil holiday), Red dates - bank holiday for staff and pupils.

Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2026

Childline under 12s site

Childline have a separate area on their website for under 12s. The pages are written for primary school children. The area includes a section full of games and a Buddy Zone with tips, such as how to speak to a trusted adult and information on where to get extra support from.

You can access this area here:
<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/u12-landing/>

How to manage parental controls for different ages?

Internet Matters asked online experts, Karl Hopwood and Richard Waite to share their advice on how to manage parental controls for different ages. Find out more here:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/question/managing-parental-controls-for-different-ages/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translation tool on our web version:
<https://www.knowsleylcs.org.uk/september-2026-primary/>

New guidance issued due to concern of AI-manipulated images

Photos of children that seem completely innocent can be manipulated using artificial intelligence (AI) to create sexualised or abusive images. There is a growing threat that children's images shared online are being manipulated by criminals into AI generated sexual abuse material. As concerns grow, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and the National Crime Agency (NCA) have issued new guidance to help you understand the risks around AI image manipulation and advice on how to speak to your child about AI and image consent.



The IWF states that child sexual abuse images or videos created or altered using AI may include:

- Everyday images of a child or young person that are manipulated into child sexual abuse imagery, including images taken from social media, websites or messaging apps, that are manipulated into sexualised or abusive imagery. These are sometimes known as 'deepfakes'.
- Images or videos that look like a real child but are completely artificial.
- AI technology that digitally removes clothing from existing images to create nude or semi-nude images, sometimes known as 'nudifying'.

(source: IWF <https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/ai-child-abuse-imagery-parent-guide/> accessed 25.08.26)

What can I do?

The guidance provides practical advice about sharing photographs of your child online. Some useful things to consider are:

- Think before you share photographs online. The IWF suggest creating a 'close friends' group to share images.
- Check and adjust your privacy settings on all social media accounts.
- Understand the steps to take if you or your child has any concerns and the organisations you can contact.

Where can I find the new guidance?

The full guidance can be accessed at the link below. It also includes a video highlighting how everyday photos can be misused using AI tools.

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/ai-child-abuse-imagery-parent-guide/>

You can find the full press release/announcement here:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/new-guidance-for-parents-and-carers-as-ai-manipulated-images-of-children-become-a-growing-concern>

YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc. **YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13**, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:



1. YouTube Kids – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

2. Supervised accounts – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+.
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- **Inappropriate content**
- **Excessive Screen time** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- **Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.09.26. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives

The Children's Commissioner has published this guide to help you support your child and make starting conversations about their online world easier. It's a useful read:

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2025/12/cc-what-i-wish-parent-guide.pdf>

Nex Playground

Nex Playground is a new video game console, which features games to get kids active. The games have no ads, no violence and no chat features, however it does rely on purchasing either a yearly or quarterly game subscription. You can find out more here:

<https://www.nexplayground.com/en-gb>

Online Safety Quiz

The NSPCC have created this quiz to test your child's knowledge on how to stay safe online. It's a great way to start a conversation with your child about their online life. You can access the quiz here:

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

WhatsApp Usernames

WhatsApp is introducing the use of usernames, so people no longer have to share their phone number. Wayne Denner provides an overview of the new features, what you need to consider and steps you can take here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-usernames-what-parents-need-to-know/>