



EASTCROFT NEWS

Friday 11th September 2026 www.eastcroftpark.co.uk



What went well this week

Nursery: Super settling in
Reception: A super first week in reception
Year 1: Great start to computing
Year 2: Magic maths games
Year 3: Super skeletons in science
Year 4: Perfect place value in maths
Year 5: Marvellous military school
Year 6: Perfect place value

[Knowsley school admissions now open](#)

Applications for primary and secondary school places for September 2027 intake are open from 12 September 2026. [School admissions | Knowsley Council](#)

Residency: You must apply through Knowsley Council if you live in Knowsley, even if your preferred schools are in other local authority areas.

Preferences: You can name up to three school preferences. You should use all three preferences to avoid disadvantaging your child

On Friday 18th September we will be supporting Jeans for Genes by wearing Jeans/denim to school and donating £1 for this very important children's charity. Please can all children still come to school wearing shirts/polo and school jumpers/cardigans

The school photographer will be in school on Thursday 15th October 2026 to take the children's individual and family photographs if you **do not** want your child's photograph taken, please let the class teacher know. If you have a baby and would like a family photograph, could you please come to school at 9.00am and your child's photograph will be taken first.

Mrs Pybis is our new Learning Mentor at school if you wish to speak to her or have any questions you would like to ask, just call into the main office, no appointments are necessary

Eastcroft Park School are offering the 30 hours free childcare for 3- and 4-year-old children. please visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>

This week's attendance

winners are :

KS1 : Reception

KS2: Year 6

Well done to you all !

Happy Birthday to Sean Savage, MarkJ Draper, Ella-May Gray-Murphy and Nellie-Jo Bradley who have all celebrated their birthdays this week

Money

Please can I remind parents/carers that snack money for your child/ren is 50p per week. Reception snack money is £1 a week as they have two snacks daily. Snack money helps towards the costs for events the children have at school – please can you pay the snack money by parent pay or into the office !

Dates for your diary

18th September 2026:

Jeans for Genes day

15th October 2026- School photographers

Half Term : 26th October

2026 to 30th October

2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

FACE School Annual Membership

Eastcroft Park School have continued to buy an annual membership for the academic year 2026/2027 with FACE.

Face delivers online support via zoom for Parents and Carers

Every month we will send you the Newsletter and Timetable. I have attached the August/September 2026 timetables for your information

FACE offers parents practical advice, information and support, across a wide range of topics, including supporting neurodiverse children, understanding emotions and managing behaviour.

The Eastcroft Park Primary School Code is EP300625

This code grants all Eastcroft Park parents/carers access to all FACE Parent Talks (usually £24 each) for the next 12 months.

The talks are on a four-weekly rotation and alternate between morning sessions (10:00-11:30) and evening sessions (19:00-20:30).

Links to recordings of the talks are available for 48 hours after the live session. If you cannot make a live session, book on and then email to request the recording link.

How to Use the Code:

Visit the **PARENTS** page of the FACE website (facefamilyadvice.co.uk) to view the 16 regular talks for parents.



Choose a topic and click through the booking calendar to find a date and time that suits you.

At the payment stage of booking, enter the code **EP300625** where it says **ADD PROMO CODE**. This will reduce the price from £24 to £0.

Important:

You do not need to book the FREE sessions for parents , as these are for parents from schools that have not purchased the discount code. They are shortened versions of the regular talks which you now have free access to.

The code **EP300625** can only be used for the regular £24 each Parent Talks from Eastcroft Park School and cannot be shared with parents from different schools. Improper use of the code can result in immediate code cancellation for the whole school.

For further information please refer to Eastcroft park School website <https://www.eastcroftpark.co.uk> or contact the school office on 01514778210 email eastcroft@knowsley.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Julie Withey
Head teacher





September Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Facing Defiance	1 Sep 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	1 Sep 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	7 Sep 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	7 Sep 7pm
Introduction to OCD	8 Sep 10am
Decreasing Depression	8 Sep 7pm
What is ACT?	14 Sep 10am
Improving Family Communication	14 Sep 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	15 Sep 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	15 Sep 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 Sep 10am
Understanding Anger	21 Sep 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	22 Sep 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	22 Sep 7pm
FREE - Masking Awareness	24 Sep 7-8pm
Anxiety Explained	28 Sep 10am
School Anxiety	28 Sep 7pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have provided below, general information for the forthcoming academic year 2026/2027

Free universal breakfast club

Our school will continue to be a breakfast club early adopter school and will be free of charge from reception age to Year 6. The breakfast club will be open to all children. Nursery children can continue to attend breakfast club with voluntary charge of 50p per day. To foresee staffing, if your child **does not** usually attend breakfast club, you will be required to book a place for your child. If you would like your child to attend please contact the school office



Wraparound After School

Eastcroft Park Primary School will continue the wraparound childcare service of an After School Care held within a safe and secure environment.

We offer a wide range of planned, age-related activities based on the children's interests. We also ensure that our activities are designed to enhance the learning journey for our children through child centred, purposeful play and fun. Wrap around care provision is term time only and is only available to those children who will be attending Eastcroft Park School.

We are currently limiting the number of spaces available to 20 due to the required staff: pupil ratios. However, this number may increase as our school grows. The after-school provision is currently available for Reception to Year 6 children. After School Care runs from 3.15 pm to 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. Your child will be given a snack and a drink. The cost for this session is £6.00 per day. There is a discount for siblings within the same family. Please contact the school office if you wish for your child to attend

If you pay via tax free childcare you could save 20% , please see link [Tax-Free Childcare - Best Start in Life](#)

School Dinner 2026

For children who do not qualify for free school meals , the price of a school dinner for children in Year 3-6 is increasing to £2.50. please visit [Apply for free school meals | Knowsley Council](#) to see if you are eligible for help



Parent Pay cashless system

From September 2026, Eastcroft Park School are going to attempt to go completely cashless due to the closure of the banks in the North West. To remove all cash and cheques from school we are asking all parents to only use our e-payment method to pay for dinner money, snack and other forthcoming money items such as charity donations, trips, school activities.

This can be done online using a very secure website called ParentPay or in cash at local stores where you see the Pay Point logo. If your child has not got a Parent pay account set up, please contact the office for a letter.

Snack for Nursery children 50p a week or £19.50 for the school year

Snack for Nursery children 30 hours per week £1.00 a day or £39.00 for the school year

Reception children £1.00 per week or £39.00 for the school year

KS2 children Year 3 to Year 6 50p a week or £19.50 for the school year



Parent App

This is the most effective way of communication between school and Parents/Carers

Once your child is enrolled at Eastcroft Park School, you will receive a TEXT or EMAIL invitation with further instructions on how to download and access the app. If your child is currently enrolled at Eastcroft Park School and you do not have the Parent App or you have not received an invitation, please contact the school office and we can check that we have the correct contact information for you. The App is free to download and is available for both Apple and Android devices. It will provide you with instant access to our term dates, event information, newsletters, social media, website and much more. We will use the app to send targeted messages via push notifications so you aren't bombarded with messages that are not relevant. Lastly, the app is fully secure and GDPR compliant and in order to access it you will need to be invited via email or SMS message.

It is very important you download the school app especially during the current climate as this is our main source of communication and you will miss out on important information about your child and what is happening within our school.

FACE



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Free School Meals eligibility Changes for the 2026-2027 academic Year

Eastcroft Park School has been informed by the local authority that the eligibility for Free School Meals is expanding from September 2026.

Who is eligible for benefits based free school meals

From 1st September 2026, if you are a Knowsley resident and in receipt of one of the following benefits you may be eligible for free school meals

Universal Credit – income below £7400

Universal Credit – income above £7400
Income-related Employment and Support allowance
The guaranteed element of Pension credit
Support under Part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999

In summary, from 1st September 2026, all children from households receiving **Universal Credit** will be eligible for free school meals (FSM), regardless of their household's annual income.

Going forward, there will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:

Targeted FSM, which continues to be based on the existing threshold, covering eligible children's who are in households in receipt of Universal credit with annual household earnings of £7400 or less. These children will attract pupil premium and other funding available for their schools. Other entitlements, such as the holiday activities and food programme (HAF) will be based on targeted free school meals. **This is equivalent to the current system**

Expanded FSM, a new category covering children who are in households receiving Universal Credit with an annual household earning above £7,400. Children will be entitled to free school meals only- they are not entitled to Pupil Premium or other extras that are linked to FSM eligibility.

Transitional Protection

If your child is currently receiving free school meals this academic year 25/26 based on benefits- based criteria you should continue to receive the entitlement until 31.08.2026. From the start of the 2026-2027 academic year this will end.

Checking / Rechecking FSM Eligibility

From 1st September 2026, FSM eligibility will need to be checked for new claimants or rechecked for current claimants.

You can apply on the Knowsley website [Apply for free school meals | Knowsley Council](#) www.knowsley.gov.uk

If you require any further information, please contact the school office on 0151 477 8210 or email eastcroft@knowsley.gov.uk.

For further information please to any of the items above please refer to Eastcroft park School website <https://www.eastcroftpark.co.uk> or contact the school office on 01514778210 email eastcroft@knowsley.gov.uk

Is your child experiencing anxiety?



NHS

Knowsley MHST are excited to offer a parent led group intervention that will aim to support parents to manage their child's worries and anxious expectations. These groups will take place in local community centres, register your interest below.

DOES YOUR CHILD COMPLAIN ABOUT FEELING SICK WHEN THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?

DOES YOUR CHILD SEEK REASSURANCE FROM YOU BEFORE CERTAIN SITUATIONS?

DOES YOUR CHILD NOT WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL DUE TO FEELING WORRIED?

DO THEY STRUGGLE TO GO TO SLEEP AS THEY FEEL ANXIOUS?



Then register your interest by clicking or scanning the QR code below



KNOWSLEY MHST:

OFFICE: 01925 664 120

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY:
9.00AM – 5.00PM**

*It takes less
than 5 minutes!*

<https://forms.office.com/e/N2agUhuvsA>



FREE School Meals

Are you eligible?

From September 2026, if you receive Universal Credit, your child will qualify for free school meals, regardless of the household's income.

This starts from your child's first day of school in Reception until they finish in Year 11 at secondary school.





Who is eligible for free school meals?

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school meals automatically under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme.

However, if you do receive Universal Credit, please still complete an application as this will help to maximise funding coming into your school.

From September 2026, pupils of parents from Year 3 to Year 11 will be eligible for a Free School Meal if they claim one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit
 - Income Support (IS)
 - Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)
 - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
 - Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- 

Who is eligible for free school meals?

To ensure your child receives meals from the start of the autumn term, we need to confirm your child's eligibility before the school year begins.

If you are already receiving free school meals, we will automatically check and inform you if you are still eligible.

If you are not currently receiving a free school meal but you do receive Universal Credit, please ensure you apply.



How to apply

Apply for a free school meal on the council's website by scanning the QR code.

Please ensure you apply by **Friday 28 August 2026**.



Help and support

If you need any help and support, please speak to your school (before the school year finishes). Alternatively, call Knowsley Council on **0151 483 8000** or via the online chat at www.knowsley.gov.uk/contact-us and then click 'Chat to us'.

