Lawnside Academy Lawnside Biggleswade Bedfordshire SG18 0LX





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Thursday 28th September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Now that we have been back a month, I wanted to share a few 'good to know – gentle reminders for parents'. We have also added a little more detail to the autumn term diary dates at the end of this newsletter.

Medication:

If your child is coming to school with prescribed medication for a short-term need, you must come to the school office to complete a form. School will administer medicine prescribed for 4 times a day. If medication is prescribed for 3 times a day, you can administer this yourselves; before school, after school and before bed. This includes children with asthma who are prescribed inhalers – please come to the school office to complete a form. Please note, school cannot administer non-prescribed medication (i.e. Calpol).

Lost property:

Remember to add your child's name on all your child's items, including hats and gloves. When items are labelled in this way, adults in school can reunite your child with their lost items during the school day. Do let adults in school know if an item has been lost and they can be on the look-out for it. If your lost items aren't labelled, they will be placed in the lost property box. You can search through the lost property box, situated by the playground door. As the colder weather approaches, many children will be bringing more items of clothing and some of these items may be misplaced across the school.

Healthy snacks at break time:

If you are choosing to send your child in with a snack for break time (KS2 only) please do make sure it is a healthy one (e.g. fruit, vegetable, cereal bar – **no nuts please**). Early Years and KS1 classes all have access to fruit/vegetable snack every day through the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Please also remember to send your child in with water in their bottle.

Scooters and bikes:

If you are coming to school on a bike or a scooter, please dismount when you arrive at the school gates and walk with them to the storage. We ask you not to ride bikes or scooters on the school premises / playground please.

Toys and items from home:

Please ensure your child is not bringing in toys and items from home, such as Pokemon cards. These are not allowed in school as they cause distraction and when they get lost or taken, children are often very sad.



Parking - drop off and pick up times:

If you must travel to school by car, please observe the parking restrictions around the school and do not obstruct the pavement or block neighbours' driveways. If you cannot find a safe place to park nearby, please do not resort to dangerous or inconsiderate manoeuvres: it's better for everyone to stay safe and be a little late. Please do not drive up and down Lawnside road, in the interests of everyone's safety.

Sporting achievements:

If your child has achieved a sporting achievement outside of school, they can share it in our Friday assembly and we will display a photo in the hall. We're proud to display the huge range of sports our pupils take part in, whether it's a swimming badge, a karate belt, horse-riding, sailing, skiing, dancing or gymnastics certificate, you name it we'd love to hear about it!

<u>PE kit:</u>

Children come to school in their PE kit on their PE day. Lawnside's PE kit comprises of the below – strictly, no football kits please:



Attendance Guide for Parents / Carers

What YOU must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.50am each day of your child's absence.
- Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.
- Please do not book holidays in term-time as these will be unauthorised (and you may be fined), unless in exceptional circumstances.
- If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.
- Have a backup plan for if you have transport issues, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.
- If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

- Check your child's attendance every day.
- Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.
- Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.
- If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

Free School Meals (FSM)

Your child will get a free school meal if you receive a qualifying benefit, and your child is:

- at school
- studying in further education



• at a sixth form college

The qualifying benefits to receive free school meals for children are:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part IV of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

If you think you meet the free school meals eligibility criteria, please call Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8306. When you call to apply for free school meals, please have the following information ready:

- National Insurance numbers and dates of birth for you and your partner
- dates of birth for your children
- if you receive support from the National Asylum Support Service, your NASS number

Registering your child as eligible for FSM will bring more money to the school to help your child achieve. There are other benefits which may be available for children registered as eligible for FSM, i.e. help with the cost of music lessons or school trips and free access to CBC's holiday activities and food (HAF) programme.

Yours sincerely

Juna

Cheryl Johnson <u>Head Teacher</u>





Date:	Activity:
Monday 2 October	**NEW** Harvest donations (playground)
Friday 6 October (3pm)	**NEW** PTA AGM (school hall)
Wednesday 11 October	Individual school photos
Tuesday 17 October (4pm - 6pm)	Parent / Teacher meetings*
Thursday 19 October (4:30pm -	Parent / Teacher meetings*
7:30pm)	
Friday 20 October	KS1 Outdoor Learning Day*
w/c Monday 23 October	HALF-TERM HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Wednesday 1 November	**NEW** PTA RECEPTION Film Night*
Tuesday 7 November (2pm)	KS1 Grandparents' Afternoon*
Wednesday 8 November	**NEW** PTA KS1 Film Night*
Thursday 9 November (2pm)	Reception Grandparents' Afternoon*
Friday 10 November (2pm)	KS2 Grandparents' Afternoon*
Wednesday 15 November	**NEW** PTA KS2 Film Night
Thursday 16 November - Tuesday 21	Scholastic Book Fair in school
November	
Friday 17 November	Children in Need*
Friday 24 November	**NEW** PTA Non-Uniform Day (for Christmas Fair
	donations)
Friday 1 December	**NEW** PTA Christmas Fair
Thursday 7 December	Christmas Jumper Day*
Friday 8 December (9:15am)	**NEW** Reception Christmas Performance*
Wednesday 13 December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 14 / Friday 15 December	**NEW** KS2 Christmas Performance*
Monday 18 / Tuesday 19 December	**NEW** KS1 Christmas Performance*
Tuesday 19 December	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM
Wednesday 3 January	Children return to school

*More details to follow





