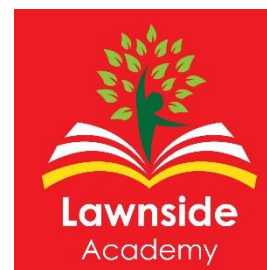


Lawnside Academy
Lawnside
Biggleswade
Bedfordshire
SG18 0LX



Website: www.lawnsideacademy.org.uk
Telephone: 01767 312313
E-mail: LSA-office@bestacademies.org.uk

Wednesday 31st January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Please can we politely request that you do not let your children play on the pirate ship, trim trail or field before and after school. These are wet and slippery in the morning, therefore dangerous, and children are bringing wet / muddy feet into school.

The gates are opened at 8:40am, and the bell is rung at 8:50am. This only gives children 10 minutes before school; where they need to be fully supervised by parents, please.

Children are not permitted to climb the trees at any point during the day at Lawnside.

I wanted to start by sharing with you a brief update on our transition to a primary school, which is happening in September. I would like to reassure you that everything is on track for Lawnside Academy to convert from a lower school, as part of Central Bedfordshire Council's Schools for the Future programme. This is the latest exciting chapter in our school's journey, following our Good Ofsted report last year, and means pupils will stay with us until the end of Year 6 before moving on to secondary school. We are very much looking forward to our expansion and are doing lots of work behind the scenes in preparation; including writing our curriculum ready for our first Year 5 cohort in September and recruiting new teaching staff to join our Lawnside family. Our site will require some new facilities, including additional classroom space, a multi-purpose room and a multi-use games area – we expect CBC to finalise plans and submit these very soon. We look forward to sharing these plans with you and the wider community when they are available.

I have been asked to add a number of polite reminders to this newsletter please:

1. Please label all of your children's clothes and belongings – our lost property box is overflowing and we are unable to re-unite items with their owners as they are un-named.
2. Please refrain from driving up Lawnside before and after-school - **Central Bedfordshire Council will be trialling a part-time / no entry road closure (between the hours of 7:30am – 9am, and 2:30pm – 4pm) on Lawnside; I will share the details regarding this with you once they have been finalised.**
3. Please supervise your children on the playground before / after school – I have received a number of complaints regarding the behaviour of some children towards other children whilst under parental supervision on the playground.
4. Please speak with your children about taking care when exiting the school premises into the alleyway on bikes and scooters after school – I have received a complaint from a member of the public who nearly collided with a pupil.



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At the end of every term, staff nominate children for a governor award. These awards are not for academic progress and/or achievement – they are for children who demonstrate Lawnside’s school values; particularly those children who display respect, readiness and resilience towards their learning. Last term’s nominees were:

- Willow class – Ivy
- Chestnut class – Alice Ha
- Cherry class – Gabriela
- Hazel class – Eliza
- Rowan class – Tilly
- Sycamore class – Charlie
- Birch class – Charlie
- Oak class – Alfie Bu

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



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- 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.

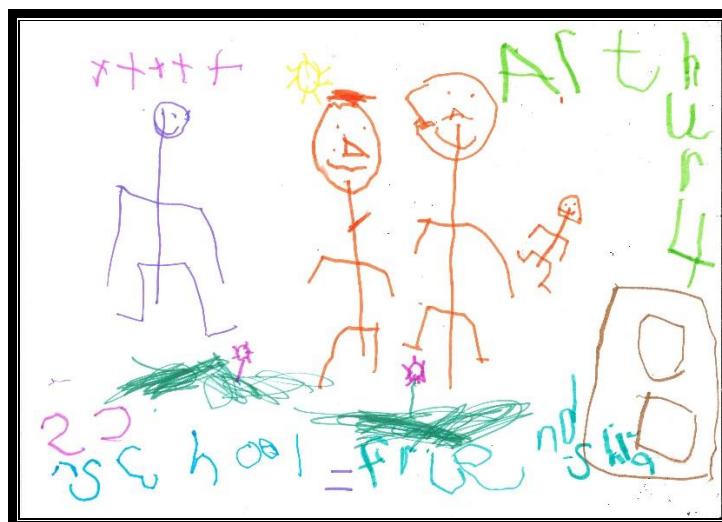
To end this newsletter, I would like to officially welcome Miss Hooper to Lawnside. Miss Hooper will be teaching Rowan class on a Wednesday and Cherry class on a Friday. Welcome to Lawnside, Miss Hooper – I am sure that you will enjoy being part of our Lawnside family.

Yours sincerely



Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher

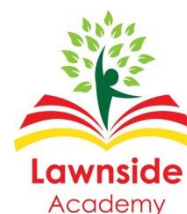
Don't forget to send your CBC School Art Competition – 'What Does School Mean to You?' – entry into school. The deadline is Friday 9th February.



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Diary Dates:



Date:	Activity:
Thursday 1 February	Time to Talk Day / No Writing Day
Tuesday 6 February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 14 February (pm)	Reception Parent Valentine Event - details tbc
w/c Monday 19 February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
Thursday 7 March	World Book Day - details tbc
Friday 8 March (pm)	Reception Parent Mothers' Day Event - details tbc
Thursday 14 March - Monday 18 March	**NEW** Scholastic Book Fair
Friday 22 March (10am)	Rock Steady Concert - by invitation only
Tuesday 26 March (4pm - 7pm)	Parent / Teacher Meetings
Thursday 28 March (4pm - 6pm)	Parent / Teacher Meetings
Friday 29 March - Monday 15 April	EASTER HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 16 April	Children return to school
Friday 19 April (3pm)	Year 2 Parents Q&A SATS Drop-In Session
Thursday 25 April (3pm)	Year 1 Parents Q&A Phonics Drop-In Session
Friday 26 April (pm)	Reception Theatre Visit to Radlett Theatre
Monday 6 May	**NEW** Bank Holiday - School Closed
Thursday 23 May	**NEW** Class Photos
w/c Monday 27 May	**NEW** HALF TERM HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED

School visits are in the diary for the summer term:

- Reception - Friday 26 April (Radlett Theatre)
- Reception - Thursday 13 June (Paxton Pits)
- KS1 - Monday 8 July (Windsor)
- KS2 - Thursday 20 June (St. Albans / Verulamium)

We have set up payment plans for these visits on Parent Mail hopefully making it easier for parents to be able to spread the costs and reduce the risk of school needing to cancel these visits.



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Stay & Play!

9 -10am every Wednesday (term time)
0 – 4 years



50p per session

Come along to our Stay and Play on Wednesday mornings for an opportunity for your child to play and you to meet and chat to other parents, grandparents and carers.

Interested?
Please telephone or email Mrs Alison Gardner (Family Support Worker) to book your space, spaces are limited to 15 children.
Telephone: 01767 312313
Email: agardner@bestacademies.org.uk



LAWNSIDE ACADEMY WRAP-AROUND CLUB

BREAKFAST CLUB

From 7:30am - £5.50
Breakfast served until 8.15 only

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

3:30pm-4:30pm - £6.50 per session
3:30pm-5:00pm - £8.50 per session
3:30pm-5:30pm - £10.00 per session



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
Dodgeball	Inflatables	Multi-Activity	Football	Multi-Activity



At our after school club, the children will be offered the activity listed above or they can choose time in our chill and care area where they will have access to a variety of play activities. Children staying beyond 4:30pm will be provided with a light tea and then have further opportunities for indoor or outdoor games and play activities or quiet time if they prefer.

To book a slot please visit our website
risingstars.magicbooking.co.uk
If you need to contact us please email
lawnside@risingstars-wraparound.co.uk 07990 367199
or for admin queries info@risingstars-wraparound.co.uk 01462 790152

On registering your child for a place on our courses Rising Stars will collect certain information about you / your child which will include your names, email address, telephone number, date of birth, gender and school. We will not share this information with any third party for marketing purposes.

PUPIL PREMIUM PARENT INFORMATION

WHAT IS IT?

'Pupil premium' is **additional funding** for our school to ensure we can support all pupils to **achieve their best**.

It's not a personal budget for individual pupils, but we will aim to **prioritise the academic support** of eligible pupils with it.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Your child may be eligible if you receive: income support, jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance, asylum seeker support, universal credit, child tax credit, working tax credit, or state pension.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Get in touch with your **local council as soon as possible** to see if you're eligible.

Remember: Our school can only receive pupil premium for your child if you claim it.



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