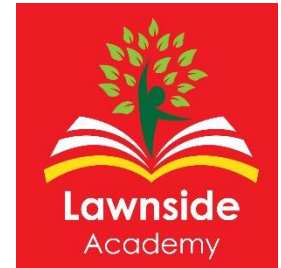


Lawnside Academy
Lawnside
Biggleswade
Bedfordshire
SG18 0LX



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

Friday 13th September 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.**

Welcome back to our existing Lawnside families and welcome to our new Lawnside families. Welcome also, to our new staff – Miss Hickton; Sycamore class teacher and Mrs. Brown; Rowan class and Cherry class teacher. I am confident that you will all soon feel part of our Lawnside family.

Just a few house-keeping items in this first newsletter please...

1. **Bicycles** – if your children are riding their bicycles to school, we are needing them to be **padlocked to the cycle rack/bike stand every morning, please.**
2. **Snacks** – children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a healthy fruit/vegetable snack, daily. Children in Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 can bring a healthy fruit/vegetable snack to school from home daily to eat at break time.
3. **Nuts** – we are a nut-free school and, as such, the following items should **not** be brought into school; for packed lunches and/or snacks:
 - a. Packs of nuts
 - b. Peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches
 - c. Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
 - d. Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
 - e. Sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
 - f. Hummus or houmous as it contains tahini which is made from sesame
 - g. Pesto which contains nuts
 - h. Cakes made with nuts
 - i. Self-serve pastries covered in almonds – for example almond croissants
 - j. Any home-cooked meals for packed lunches that are made from nuts
4. **Birthday sweets** – please can we ask that if you are looking to send birthday sweets into school, that you are mindful that we have a number of children who, for dietary, medical and/or cultural reasons, cannot eat certain foods/ingredients and it is unfair to them if sweets are brought into school which they cannot share. Please speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance who will be only too happy to advise you what ingredients to avoid for the children in their/your class.



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5. Before and after-school – with the new mobile unit for Year 4 and Year 5, it is quite congested now on the path between the pedestrian gate and the main school playground. Please can we ask that before and after-school, this path is kept clear and **not** used as a waiting area. Please can Reception to Year 3 children/parents wait on the playground, close to their/your entry doors and Year 4 and Year 5 children/parents wait on the playground by the bandstand. Thank you for your co-operation with this and hopefully this will reduce any congestion. **CBC HAVE REQUESTED THAT WE (LAWNSIDE) STAGGER THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE SCHOOL DAY BY 20 MINUTES. WE WILL WRITE TO YOU WITH FURTHER DETAILS ONCE WE HAVE CONSIDERED THIS AND PUT A PLAN IN PLACE.**
6. Uniform – please can all items of school uniform be labelled.
7. A polite reminder please for all parents/carers to walk up/down Lawnside and **not** drive.

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)



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- 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



Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher



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Diary Dates:



Date:	Activity:
Wednesday 25 September (3pm)	Year 3 and Year 4 Meet the Teacher presentation – please come to reception for 3pm
Thursday 26 September (3pm)	Year 1 and Year 2 Meet the Teacher presentation – please come to reception for 3pm
Friday 27 September (3pm)	Year 5 Meet the Teacher presentation – please come to reception for 3pm
Monday 14 October	Harvest Assembly – donations for Biggleswade Food Bank*
Thursday 17 October	School photographs – individual/siblings
Monday 21 October (4:30pm – 7:30pm)	Year 5 Parent/Teacher meetings*
Tuesday 22 October (4pm – 6pm)	Parent/Teacher meetings for all year groups*
Thursday 24 October (4:30pm – 7:30pm)	Year R, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 Parent/Teacher meetings*
Friday 25 October	KS1 Outdoor Learning Day
w/c Monday 28 October	HALF TERM – School Closed
Monday 4 November	TRAINING DAY – School Closed
Friday 8 November	Reception Grandparents' Afternoon*
Tuesday 12 November	KS1 Grandparents' Afternoon*
Thursday 14 November	KS2 (incl. Y5) Grandparents' Afternoon*
Friday 15 November	Children In Need*
Monday 9 December	Whole school Pantomime – funded by Lawnside's weekly 'Sweet Treat Friday'
Wednesday 11 December	Christmas Dinner Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 17 December (am and pm)	KS1 Christmas Performance*
Wednesday 18 December (am and pm)	Reception Christmas Performance*
Thursday 19 December (am and pm)	KS2 Christmas Performance*
Friday 20 December	Last day of autumn term
Monday 6 January	TRAINING DAY – School Closed
Tuesday 7 January	First day of spring term

*More details to follow



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**Was your child born between
1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021?
They will start school in September 2025, so you
need to apply for a school place by 15 January 2025.**

Apply online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

You can also complete a paper application form which is available from your local school or by contacting School Admissions @ admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk ☎ 0300 300 8037

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