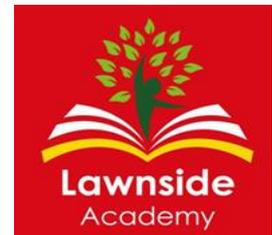


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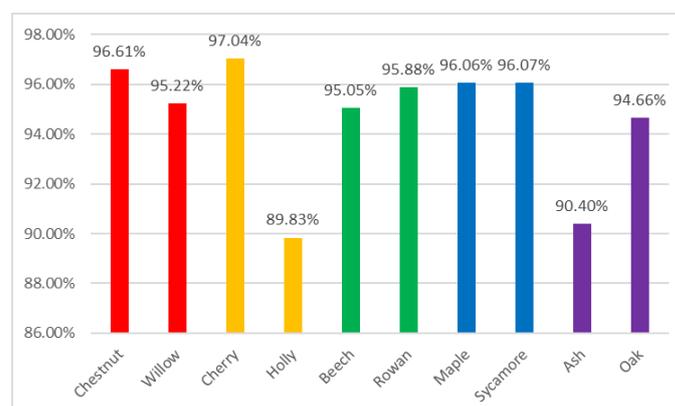
Dear Parents / Carers,

October 2019

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the half-term holiday, and to welcome Mrs. Russell back to Lawnside following her maternity leave. I would also like to welcome Mrs. Whorrod to Lawnside who will be teaching Cherry class on a Wednesday and Early Years on a Thursday. We said goodbye to Mrs. Ely before the holiday and sadly we will also be saying goodbye to Mrs. Simmons, Year 1 teaching assistant, on Friday 15th November. Mrs. Simmons has worked at Lawnside since September 2013 and she will be greatly missed by everyone. I would like to thank her, on behalf of everyone, for her hard work and dedication to Lawnside and to wish her all the very best for her future endeavours.

Three thank you's this month. Firstly, thank you for your very generous harvest donations; these were greatly received by Biggleswade Baptist Church and secondly, thank you to all of you who attended both our Phonics Year 1 Parent Workshop as well as our Parent Consultation Meetings. Teachers value these opportunities to celebrate success, review learning targets and listen to your views. If you did not manage to make a parent consultation meeting with your child's class teacher, please speak with them to arrange a convenient day. Thirdly, thank you for your support at our Macmillan Tea, Coffee and Cake Day - you raised £156.75.

The graph below shows each class' attendance for October. Our attendance target for this academic year is 96%. Our current attendance is 94%. Please can I remind you that if your child is unwell and unable to come to school that you let us know prior to their absence by telephone and you follow up their absence in writing on their return; either by letter or by email. Please can I also remind you that I am unable to authorise any absence during term time for the purpose of a family holiday.



A few messages from staff...



We would like to request **no backpacks / rucksacks** in school please. Our cloakroom areas are very cramped and children are increasingly bringing in very large bags which pose a health and safety risk to everyone.

Children only need to bring to school their:

- Coats
- Book bags
- Lunch boxes / bags
- PE bags and
- Water bottles

Thank you for your support with this.



A polite reminder please, that children need to be wearing the correct **school uniform and school shoes**.

Our policy is based on the belief that a school uniform promotes a sense of pride in the school, engenders a feeling of community and belonging, is practical and smart, is not distracting to learning and makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance, for example.

On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school. The exception to this rule is earring studs in pierced ears. We ask the children either to remove these during PE and games, or to cover them with a plaster.



We are planning a change to our **Christmas performances** this year. Each year group will still be performing something to families - and you have the dates already in your diaries - however we will be doing things a little differently (and a little more creatively). I am not going to give anything away but I will write to you afterwards to seek your views and/or thoughts.



If you are not picking your child(ren) up at the end of the school day, please can you inform school staff who is. If staff do not recognise an adult who has come to collect a child, or another parent comes forward to collect your child, staff need to be certain that this has been agreed by yourselves and they will not hand children over unless they are sure. Please either speak with your child's class teacher in the morning or telephone the school office during the day and a message will be passed on.



When the bell is rung before school, at 8:50am, please can we ask that children line up and parents / carers move back from the line. This way, teachers can see all of their class and you can confidently see your child(ren) enter the school building.

Thank you for your support with this.

Diary Dates for November	
Monday 4 November (2pm)	Early Years Grandparents' Afternoon
Tuesday 5 November (2pm)	Year 2 Grandparents' Afternoon
Wednesday 6 November (2pm)	Year 1 Grandparents' Afternoon
Thursday 7 November (2pm)	Year 4 Grandparents' Afternoon
Friday 8 November (2pm)	Year 3 Grandparents' Afternoon
Wednesday 13 November	KS1 Film Night - PALS
Friday 15 November	Children in Need (we will write to you with further details)
Wednesday 20 November	KS2 Film Night - PALS
Friday 22 November (1:50pm)	Choir - Biggleswade Light Switch On
Friday 29 November	Non-Uniform Day (for PALS)

And finally, you will have noticed our new outdoor learning space, in what was the old school pond. This area is for Year 1 children predominantly to give them some outdoor learning space. Please feel free to come and have a look.

Yours sincerely



Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher

