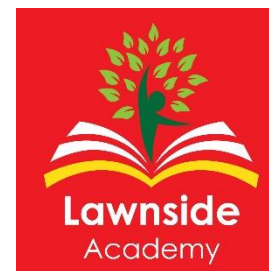


Lawnside Academy
Lawnside
Biggleswade
Bedfordshire
SG18 0LX



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

Thursday 30th January 2025

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.

January has been a busy month at Lawnside.

A group of Year 5 children have undertaken Bikeability Level 2 training. They were taught how to start and stop with more confidence, pass stationary vehicles parked on a road, understand the road: signals, signs and road markings, negotiate the road: including quiet junctions, crossroads and roundabouts and share the road with other vehicles. Well done to these children – for their learning and their behaviour; demonstrating our Lawnside Values.

Two groups of Key Stage 2 children have also competed in Sports Hall Activities at Stratton School.

Reception children had a visit from PC Amy who came to talk to them about being a police officer.



A few polite messages/reminders from staff, please:

- Please can you refrain from driving up/down Lawnside. Please park on the surrounding streets and walk up/down Lawnside.
- We have a **'no dogs on school grounds'** policy meaning that dogs cannot go beyond the school gate and into the playground. Only assistance dogs and dogs being used for educational purposes are generally allowed onto school premises. 'No dogs on school grounds' policies are designed for the safety of children and to protect children with allergies. Plus, there's nothing worse than dog poo in the playground...other than dog poo on children's shoes!




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- Can we please ask for clean, good condition uniform donations. We would like to organise a second-hand uniform sale in school so any donations that your children have outgrown will be very much appreciated.

Meet our School Governors:

	<p>My name is Susanne Combe and I am the Chair of Governors at Lawnside Academy.</p> <p>I have been the Chair for five years and it has been a privilege to work with Ms Johnson and all staff to move the school to a Good Ofsted outcome at the last inspection.</p> <p>Apart from chairing meetings, I regularly visit the school to speak to teachers and pupils. I always enjoy coming to Lawnside for Christmas performances and to give out the Governors' awards each term.</p> <p>If you see me in school, please come and say hello!</p>
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Attendance Guide for Parents / Carers

What YOU must do:

- Try to telephone the school before 8.50am each day of your child's absence.
- Arrive at school, via the playground gates, **between 8:40am and 8:50am; when the bell is rung.**
- 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



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- 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



Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher



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2023 - 2024



Diary Dates:



Date:	Activity:
Tuesday 11 February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 12 February	In-School Boccia Competition
Friday 14 February (pm)	Reception Valentine's Event (details tbc)
Monday 17 February	Half-Term Holiday (school closed for the week)
Monday 24 February	**NEW** Children return to school
Wednesday 26 February	**NEW** Reception Theatre Visit
Thursday 27 February (3pm)	**NEW** Phonics Screen Meeting for Year 1 Parents
Thursday 6 March	**NEW** World Book Day - details to be confirmed
Thursday 13 March - Monday 17 March	**NEW** Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday 26 March	**NEW** Year 3 / Year 4 Football Festival @ Robert Peel School
Friday 28 March	**NEW** Reception Mothers' Day Assembly - time to be confirmed
Monday 31 March (3pm)	**NEW** Governors' Award Assembly - by invitation only
Tuesday 1 April (4pm - 6pm)	**NEW** Parent / Teacher Meetings - details to be confirmed
Thursday 3 April (4:30pm - 7:30pm)	**NEW** Parent / Teacher Meetings - details to be confirmed
Friday 4 April	**NEW** Rock Steady Concert - by invitation only
Friday 4 April	**NEW** Last day of Spring Term
Monday 7 April - Tuesday 22 April	**NEW** Easter Holiday
Wednesday 23 April	**NEW** Children return to school

BEST Academic Calendar 2025/2026

School Holiday ■ Bank Holiday ■ Pupil Day ■ Training Day ■



September 2025							October 2025							November 2025							December 2025						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon	6	13	20	27		Mon	3	10	17	24		Mon	1	8	15	22	29			
Tue	2	9	16	23	30		Tue	7	14	21	28		Tue	4	11	18	25		Tue	2	9	16	23	30			
Wed	3	10	17	24			Wed	1	8	15	22	29		Wed	5	12	19	26		Wed	3	10	17	24	31		
Thu	4	11	18	25			Thu	2	9	16	23	30		Thu	6	13	20	27		Thu	4	11	18	25			
Fri	5	12	19	26			Fri	3	10	17	24	31		Fri	7	14	21	28		Fri	5	12	19	26			
Sat	6	13	20	27			Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	6	13	20	27			
Sun	7	14	21	28			Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	7	14	21	28			

January 2026							February 2026							March 2026							April 2026						
Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon	2	9	16	23		Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27				
Tue		6	13	20	27		Tue	3	10	17	24		Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue	7	14	21	28				
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29			
Thu	1	8	15	22	29		Thu	5	12	19	26		Thu	5	12	19	26		Thu	2	9	16	23	30			
Fri	2	9	16	23	30		Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24				
Sat	3	10	17	24	31		Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25				
Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	1	8	15	22		Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26				

May 2026							June 2026							July 2026							August 2026						
Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27		Mon	3	10	17	24	31			
Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28		Tue	4	11	18	25				
Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26				
Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu	4	11	18	25		Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	6	13	20	27				
Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28				
Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29			
Sun	3	10	17	24	31		Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30			

Term 1 - 75 days. Term 2 - 55 days. Term 3 - 65 days. = 195.
Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on 5 of the 195 days. In accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service, five days will be used to enable teacher training to take place.

Training days set as follows: 1st September 2025, 2nd September 2025, 5th January 2026 and 13th April 2026. Training day 5 will be made up of several twilight sessions determined by individual schools.



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