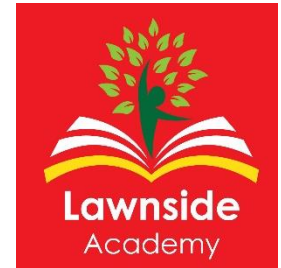


Lawnside Academy
Lawnside
Biggleswade
Bedfordshire
SG18 0LX



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

Tuesday 30th September 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.

Welcome back to our existing Lawnside families and welcome to our new Lawnside families. Welcome also, to our new staff – Mrs. Dienna; Birch class teacher and Miss Fuller; administrative assistant. 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, Year 5 and Year 6 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 mobile unit for Year 5 and Year 6, 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 4 children/parents wait on the playground, close to their/your entry doors and Year 5 and Year 6 children/parents wait on the playground by the bandstand and/or on the path alongside the mobile classrooms. Thank you for your co-operation with this and hopefully this will reduce any congestion.
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.
8. **Please can we ask all parents/carers to log in to MCAS, find the section related to parental consent, which allows you to view, give or revoke consents for your children and review your consents; specifically:**
 - a. **Data exchange – this consent enables/allows the children to use TT Rockstars (times tables) and Purple Mash (computing) software, for example.**
 - b. **Internet Access – this consent enables the children to be able to access the internet for their learning.**
 - c. **Evolve – this consent enables children to be able to participate in any off-site school activities /school visits.**

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



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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



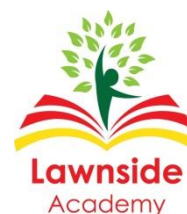
Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher



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Diary Dates:



Date:	Activity:
Monday 6 October	Walktober Challenge week
Tuesday 7 October (2:45pm)	EYFS Meet the Teacher meeting - school hall
Friday 10 October	Sports Day KS1, 9:15am - 10:15am (Cherry, Hazel, Rowan) LKS2, 10:30am - 11:30am (Sycamore, Birch, Oak) UKS2, 2pm - 3pm (Pine, Cedar)
Monday 13 October (2:45pm)	Harvest Assembly (children only) - please can donations be brought to school for the Food Bank.
Tuesday 14 October (7:30pm)	PALS PTA Meeting - online / TEAMS meeting
Thursday 16 October	Individual school photos
Monday 20 October	Sports Leaders training for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils (morning)
Tuesday 21 October (4pm - 6:30pm)	Parent / Teacher meetings*
Thursday 23 October (4:30pm - 7:30pm)	Parent / Teacher meetings*
Friday 24 October	Last day of half-term
w/c Monday 27 October	Half-term holiday - school closed
Monday 3 November	Children return to school
Thursday 6 November (4:15pm - 6pm)	Open Evening for Reception 2026 Intake
Monday 10 November	Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Sock Day
Thursday 13 November (morning)	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 14 November	Children In Need*
Friday 21 November	Non-Uniform Day for PTA Christmas Fair donations*
Friday 21 November	School Nurse - Year 6 heights / weights, Reception hearing screening
Tuesday 25 November (6pm - 7:30pm)	Open Evening for Reception 2026 Intake
Friday 5 December (3:30pm - 5pm)	PALS PTA Christmas Fair*
Tuesday 9 December	Year 4 and Year 6 First-Aid Training
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas Dinner Day*
w/c Monday 15 December	Christmas Performances*
Friday 19 December	Last-day of term
Tuesday 6 January	Children return to school

*More details to follow



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