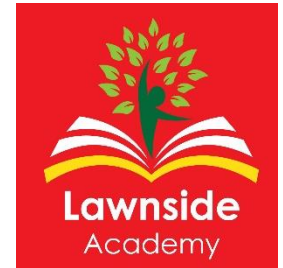


Lawnside Academy
Lawnside
Biggleswade
Bedfordshire
SG18 0LX

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



Friday 9th January 2026

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.

Happy New Year and welcome back to the spring term at Lawnside. Staff have asked me to share a few whole-school reminders and at the end of this newsletter you will see our calendar of activities for this half-term / term.

Safety Practice at School:

On Tuesday, the children took part in a fire evacuation practice. They did an excellent job listening carefully to instructions and evacuating the building calmly and sensibly. Practising these procedures helps the children feel confident and prepared, while also ensuring that staff can review and refine our safety routines.

Over the course of this term, we will also be talking to the children about our lockdown procedures in an age-appropriate and reassuring way. These discussions focus on helping children understand how to stay safe and follow adult instructions, without causing unnecessary worry.

In addition, some classes will be practising how to safely evacuate the building through exit windows. This applies to rooms that do not have a direct fire exit door and is an important part of our overall fire safety planning. Staff will carefully support and supervise all children during these practices.

Please be assured that all safety procedures are explained calmly and sensitively, and children are encouraged to ask questions and share any concerns they may have.

If you have any questions about our safety practices, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



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Teddies at School:

Please remember that children should not bring teddies or soft toys into school. These items can easily get lost, which often causes upset and stress for children. It can also be difficult for other children who do not bring toys in. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us keep school a calm and happy place for everyone.

Lawnside Road – Please Walk, Not Drive:

For the safety of all our children and families, we kindly remind everyone not to drive up or down Lawnside road at drop-off and pick-up times. This road becomes very busy and narrow, and vehicle traffic creates significant risk for pedestrians – especially our youngest pupils.

Please walk up and down Lawnside road whenever possible. Choosing to walk helps keep the area safe, reduces congestion, and sets a positive example for our children. Thank you for your continued cooperation in helping us keep our school community safe.

Could we please ask parents and carers to keep the school informed of any changes to phone numbers, email addresses, or home addresses. Having up-to-date contact details helps us communicate effectively and ensures we can reach you when needed.

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.



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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)
- 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



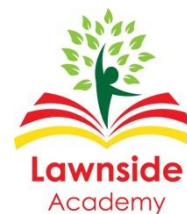
Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher



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Diary Dates:



Date:	Activity:
Tuesday 13 January (2:45pm)	Year 2 SATS Parent Meeting
Thursday 15 January	Census Day - special menu has been sent on MCAS
Tuesday 27 January	Year 3 / 4 Sportshall Athletics @ Edward Peake School*
Tuesday 3 February	Year 3 / 4 Sportshall Athletics @ Edward Peake School*
Tuesday 10 February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11 February	Inter-School Boccia Competition @ Lawnside
Friday 13 February	Last Day of Half-Term
w/c Monday 16 February	School Closed for Half-term Holiday
Monday 23 February	First Day of Half-Term
Thursday 26 February (3pm)	Year 1 Phonics Screen Parent Meeting
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day
Wednesday 11 March	Year 3 / 4 Football @ Robert Peel School*
Thursday 12 March	Book Fair
Friday 13 March	Reception Mother's Day Assembly - time TBC
Friday 13 March	Book Fair
Thursday 19 March	Year 5 / 6 Football @ Robert Peel School*
Tuesday 24 March (4pm - 6:30pm)	Parent / Teacher Meetings
Thursday 26 March (4:30pm - 7:30pm)	Parent / Teacher Meetings
Friday 27 March	Last Day of Spring Term
Monday 30 March - Monday 13 April	School Closed for Easter Holiday
Tuesday 14 April	First Day of Summer Term

*to be confirmed



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