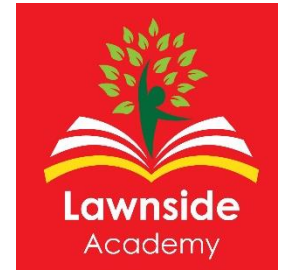


Lawnside Academy  
Lawnside  
Biggleswade  
Bedfordshire  
SG18 0LX



Website: [www.lawnsideacademy.org.uk](http://www.lawnsideacademy.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01767 312313  
E-mail: [LSA-office@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:LSA-office@bestacademies.org.uk)

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 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.

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed a restful February half-term break. It has been lovely to see everyone return with such positivity and enthusiasm, ready for another busy and exciting half-term.

#### Welcome to Our New Teacher

We welcome Mrs. Arthurton to Lawnside this week. She will be teaching Rowan Class on Wednesdays and Cherry Class on Fridays, and we hope she quickly feels part of our Lawnside family.

#### Keeping Lawnside Road Safe

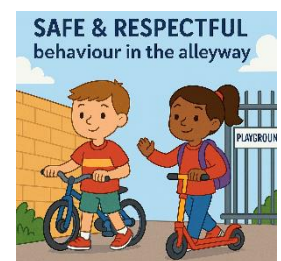
We kindly ask all families to support the safety of our school community by avoiding driving or parking on Lawnside road during drop-off and pick-up times, as this area becomes extremely busy and poses a risk to children and parents walking to and from school. Whenever possible, please walk up and down Lawnside road instead, use alternative nearby parking if you must drive, and help us keep the route clear – especially for those who rely on Blue Badge access – so that everyone can arrive and leave safely. We also remind parents not to park in the staff car park at any time unless using the designated disabled parking space.

#### Alleyway Safety Reminder

We kindly ask all families to support us in keeping the alleyway leading to school safe and respectful for everyone. This area becomes very busy at drop-off and pick-up times, and we have received recent reports of children riding bikes and scooters at speed, causing near-misses with other pupils, adults, and those with mobility needs. Please ensure children walk their bikes and scooters through the alleyway, stay close to their grown-ups, and show patience and courtesy when passing others.



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## ☀️ World Book Day - Thursday 5th March 2026 ☀️

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 5th March 2026, and this year Lawnside Academy is celebrating with a vibrant theme of “Vibrant Vocabulary.” Children are invited to come dressed as a specific word – such as *enchanted*, *botanical*, *luminous*, or *fragile* – to help create a whole-school “living dictionary.” The day will include a Vocabulary Parade, exciting Word Detective Hunts, and the distribution of £1 World Book Day tokens for pupils to exchange for a special book. We look forward to seeing the imaginative word-inspired outfits and celebrating a love of language and reading together.

### Scholastic Book Fair - Coming Soon!

Our Scholastic Book Fair will take place on 12 March, 13 March, 16 March and 17 March, giving children and families the chance to browse and purchase a wide range of exciting books. Every child will receive a book token to use towards their purchase, helping to make reading more accessible and encouraging pupils to discover new stories and authors. Purchases made at the fair also help the school earn free books for our classrooms - thank you for your continued support.

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. We also kindly ask that parents and carers ensure all consents on the MCAS app are kept up to date. Keeping these updated helps us support your child safely and appropriately.

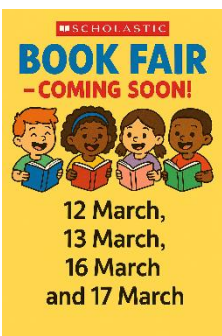
### Attendance Guide for Parents / Carers

#### **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:
Monday 23 February	First Day of Half-Term
Wednesday 25 February	<b>**NEW**</b> Reception Children Vision Screening
Thursday 26 February (3pm)	Year 1 Phonics Screen Parent Meeting
Tuesday 3 March (6:15pm)	<b>**NEW**</b> Year 6 Parents' SATS Meeting
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day
Tuesday 10 March (3pm)	<b>**NEW**</b> Year 2 Parents' SATS Meeting
Wednesday 11 March	Year 3 / 4 Football @ Robert Peel School*
Thursday 12 March - Tuesday 17 March	Book Fair
Friday 13 March (2:15pm)	Reception Mother's Day Assembly
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 (10am)	<b>**NEW**</b> Rock Steady Concert ( <i>by invitation only, from Rock Steady</i> )
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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