Lawnside Academy
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Thursday 22nd October 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 to the first newsletter of the 2026-2027 academic year.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our children and families, particularly those who are new to our school community this year. I also welcome the new members of staff who have joined us. I hope everyone has settled in well and enjoyed a positive start to the term.

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school with enthusiasm, ready to learn and make the most of the opportunities available to them. Classrooms have been busy, and there is already much to celebrate across the school.

This newsletter contains a range of important information, including key messages, reminders and diary dates for the term ahead. Please take a few moments to read it carefully and keep it for future reference.

Thank you for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure that every child is happy, successful and able to thrive throughout the year ahead.

Trim Trail Reminder

Thank you to all parents and carers for supporting us with this important safety message.

Our trim trail is currently out of use while essential repairs are carried out. We are very proud of how well the children have responded during the school day and how responsibly they have followed staff instructions by not using the equipment.

We would be grateful if you could reinforce this message with your child and help us by ensuring that children and younger siblings do not use the trim trail before or after school, including whilst waiting on the playground. This will help us keep everyone safe while the necessary repairs are completed.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Parking Reminder

Thank you to all parents and carers who continue to park considerately when dropping off and collecting children from school.

We have recently received concerns from members of the local community regarding parking on Lawrence Road and surrounding streets, particularly vehicles stopping or parking on double yellow lines and in locations that may reduce visibility or restrict access for other road users.

We also ask parents and carers not to drive up Lawnside when dropping off or collecting children. This helps to reduce congestion, improve visibility and maintain a safer environment for pupils, families and local residents.

We kindly ask all families to:

Park legally and considerately at all times.
Avoid stopping on double yellow lines.
Be mindful of pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.
Help keep roads clear and accessible for residents and emergency vehicles.

By working together, we can help ensure that the area around the school remains safe for everyone.

Damage to School Property

We take great pride in our school environment and encourage all pupils to treat school property, equipment and resources with care and respect.

Where damage to school property or resources is found to be deliberate or the result of inappropriate behaviour, the school reserves the right to ask parents/carers to contribute towards or meet the cost of repair or replacement.

We appreciate the support of parents and carers in helping pupils understand the importance of looking after the facilities and resources that are provided for the benefit of all children.

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) - UPDATED

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you receive certain benefits. From September 2026, all children whose household receives Universal Credit are eligible for free school meals.

Children may also qualify if a parent or carer receives one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Even if your child already receives a free meal through another scheme, such as Universal Infant Free School Meals, we strongly encourage eligible families to register. This may enable the school to receive additional funding to support your child's education and can help families access other support and opportunities.

If you think your child may be eligible, please contact Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8306 or visit their website for information about how to apply.

Registering your child, where eligible, helps the school secure additional funding that can be used to support pupils' learning and wellbeing. It may also help families access other forms of support, including assistance with educational visits and holiday activity programmes where available.

Operation Encompass

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse.

As a school we have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

On 24 May 2024 Royal Assent was granted to The Victims and Prisoners Act. The Act placed Operation Encompass into Law. This places a statutory obligation on police forces to share Operation Encompass notifications with schools/educational settings.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and through Operation Encompass we will be able to provide the best possible support to our children.

We are a Ruth Miskin Read Write Inc. school 2024
MUSIC MARK
PROUD TO BE A MUSIC MARK SCHOOL 2023 - 2024
Ofsted Good Provider

Harvest Thank You

Thank you to all of our families who supported our whole-school outdoor Harvest Assembly on Friday 16 October. It was wonderful to come together as a school community to celebrate the harvest season and reflect on the importance of helping others.

We would also like to thank everyone for their generous harvest donations. Thanks to your kindness and support, we have collected a fantastic range of items, all of which will be donated to the Biggleswade Baptist Church Food Bank to help local families and individuals in need.



Expansion Project Update

We are excited to share the proposed site plan for six new permanent modular classrooms, which are expected to be in place and ready for pupils from September 2027.

The additional classrooms will provide much-needed teaching space as the school continues to grow. The proposed location has been carefully planned to make the best use of the site while retaining outdoor learning and play areas wherever possible.

We recognise that families may have questions as the project develops and will ensure that regular updates are shared throughout the planning and construction process. We look forward to keeping you informed as this exciting project moves forward and takes shape over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Johnson
Head Teacher

Diary Dates:



Date:	Activity:
Thursday 22 October (4:30pm – 7:30pm)	Parent / Teacher Meetings – YEAR 1 TO YEAR 6 ONLY
Friday 23 October	Year 3 and Year 4 Bikeability
Friday 23 October	Non-School Uniform Day – FOR WINNING HOUSE POINT TEAM ONLY
Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October	Half-Term Holiday – School Closed
Thursday 5 November	Book Fair
Friday 6 November	Book Fair
Monday 9 November	Book Fair
Tuesday 10 November	Reception – Knife and Fork Workshop (Stir-Foods)
Wednesday 11 November	Remembrance Day Assembly – CHILDREN ONLY
Friday 13 November	Flu Vaccinations**
Friday 13 November	Children in Need**
Wednesday 18 November	Wellbeing / SEND Coffee Morning**
Wednesday 25 November	Boccia Competition – YEAR 1 TO YEAR 6**
Friday 27 November	Biggleswade Christmas Light Switch On**
Thursday 3 December	Flu Vaccinations**
Tuesday 8 December	KS1 Pantomime Visit**
Wednesday 9 December	School Christmas Dinner / Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 9 December (am)	Year 1 Christmas Craft Morning**
Thursday 10 December (9:30am and 2pm)	Reception Christmas Performance**
Friday 11 December	Rock Steady Concert – BY INVITATION ONLY**
Tuesday 15 December (9:30am and 2pm)	Year 2 Christmas Performance**
Wednesday 16 December (9:30am and 2pm)	Year 1 Christmas Performance**
Thursday 17 December (am and pm)	KS2 (Year 3 to Year 6) Christmas Performance**
Friday 18 December	Last Day of Autumn Term
Monday 21 December – Friday 1 January	Christmas Holiday – School Closed
Monday 4 January	Training Day – School Closed
Tuesday 5 January	Children Return to School

**more information to follow