



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

# Weekly Newsletter

## Happy Half Term

We cannot believe that we finish today for the February half term which marks our halfway point in the school year- doesn't time fly when you're having fun! We've had another fun-filled few weeks with visits out, visitors in school, sporting events and loads of fantastic learning taking place over the last six weeks. We would like to wish you all a happy half term and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**.

## Advance Notice: Dates for Spring Parent/Carer Progress Meetings (Parents' Evening)

Our Spring Parent/Carer Progress Meetings will follow the same hybrid format as in the Autumn: one night will be for face-to-face appointments and the other will be a mixture of face-to-face and via ParentMail video. Please see below the dates and arrangements for your child's class. Further information regarding when the booking portal will be made live will be sent in future weeks.

### Year 6

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

### Reception - Year 5

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April & Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May

## World Book Day 2024

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, we will be celebrating World Book Day, and we will be having a 'Story Slumber Party' where children are able to come to school wearing their pyjamas. If the children want to, they can also bring a pillow too. We would like all children to bring in a wrapped, age-appropriate book that they can swap with somebody in their class. Further details will be shared after the half-term break.

### Flexi-Thursday

On World Book Day, there will be an option for all children to have a special book-themed lunch- this can be purchased via the Evolve app in the coming weeks.

## Educational Visits

### Year 6- Bolton Museum

What a brilliant day Year 6 had at Bolton Museum on Wednesday!

They spent the morning looking at the Bolton history and natural history exhibits. They then explored the aquariums and the art galleries where the children showed great interest in sketching some of the artefacts and produced some great work.

After lunch they took part in a workshop all about the ancient Egyptians- the educator leading the session was blown away by the children's knowledge and their ability to articulate their understanding!

We finished the workshop with a tour around a replica of Thutmose III's tomb- a great experience as we learned that hieroglyphics on the walls told the story of a Pharaoh's journey to the afterlife.

A brilliant visit to finish our topic on ancient Egypt!



### Year 5- Horrible Histories

What a performance our Year 5 class got to see yesterday! It was AMAZING!

The children visited the Palace Theatre in Manchester to watch a Horrible Histories performance all about the 'Terrible Tudors'. The children had. Fantastic time as they were able to use their knowledge of Tudor history to answer questions throughout and it was great to hear the historical tales told in such a funny and entertaining way!

They had singing, dancing, chants, actions and even got to wear 3D glasses whilst things zoomed towards them! There was lots of laughter and screaming at that point 🤪👂

A great day out - the children were fantastic and so sensible throughout. Well done Year 5! 🍷👂

 **Sporting News** 

**Year 5/6 ATSA Football**

Our football team continued their unbeaten start to the season with a great win against Meadowbank and a closely fought 1-2 draw with St Michael's on Monday. Once again, the team showed some great skills and scored some great goals. Player of the evening was awarded to Jack S in Year who scored his first goal and showed some classy touches throughout.

Well done everyone!

 **School Photographs** 

Tom Gradwell will be visiting school on **Monday 28th April** and **Tuesday 29th April** to take some lovely photos of our children.

We are hoping that the later than usual date will give us better weather to have our fantastic natural outdoor pictures.

So please keep these dates for your diary  



**Tom Gradwell Photography**

**!!! Advance Notice- Future Dates !!!**

**Thursday 6th March**

World Book Day

**Friday 21st March**

● Non-uniform to raise funds for Comic Relief ●

**Monday 24th March**

◆ Non-uniform- Easter egg donation for the Easter Chocolate Hamper Raffle ◆

**Wednesday 26th March**

🌸 Special Ladies Art Gallery 🌸  
3:35-5:00pm

**Monday 31st March**

Reception-Year 3

🧺 Easter Bonnet Parade (more details to follow) 🧺

Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6

🧺 Easter Bake off & Easter Box Design (more details to follow) 🧺

 **Tesco Community Grant** 

Our application for the Tesco Community Grant has been approved! We have applied for some funding towards developing our outdoor PE facilities including a range of sports markings to allow the children to practise on courts and pitches suited for a range of sports.

To support us, please share this information with your friends and family, and shop at Tesco in Leigh .

When in store, you only need to buy a nominal item to get tokens to vote for the St.

John's project. We are competing with two other bids for a top prize of £1500.

After you have purchased something, you will be given some tokens to add to the scheme as you are leaving the store.

🙏 We urge you to share information with friends and family via social media, mention Tesco's initiative and start collecting vouchers on our behalf!

**⚠️ Holidays - not allowed in term time ⚠️**

Again, we are continuing to receive notifications from families regarding taking holidays in term time. We politely remind parents and carers that holidays should not be taken in school time. Holidays are unauthorised absences and may result in penalty fines as shared in the updated warning notice on attached. Holidays in term time also have a detrimental effect on children's emotional well-being as often when they return to school, particularly after a 2-week absence, friendship groups have often moved on/shifted.

Thank you for your co-operation

**📄 Polite Request- Roman Fort 📄**

After the half term break, our Year 3 class will be building Roman forts as part of their DT project. If you have any kitchen roll tubes that you could save and then bring to school, this would be greatly appreciated. Thanks

**OTHER DIARY DATES**

DATE	Event
Each Sunday	St Mary's Church Sunday Service @ 10am with Sunday School. Junior Park 2K Run @ Leigh Sports Village (free for 4-10yr. Old's) 9am
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for the February half-term break
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	SCHOOL CLOSED- STAFF INSET DAY
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	School opens @ 8:45am
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Rugby League Match @ Leigh Miners

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence, is being introduced following changes to the law. These new Government regulations will come into effect from 19 August 2024, and we wanted to bring this to your attention now, as it will affect when penalty notices are issued in Wigan.

In line with the [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk), Wigan Council will prioritise the 'support first' approach expecting that support will have been offered to families in cases where it is appropriate, and parents/carers are encouraged to communicate with the school should any support be required to improve attendance.

Penalty Notices are requested by schools and academies and issued by the Local Authority to the parents/carers of statutory school age children, per parent, per child. For example: two children in a family absent from school for a leave of absence may result in each parent receiving a Penalty Notice for each child at the below rates.

### **What are the changes?**

1. There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.
2. The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without a penalty notice being issued.
3. There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
4. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
5. If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them.

We would like to thank parents and carers for their support in making sure that children do not miss any learning time.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Pealing  
Assistant Director – Education



**Do you know what is available to support young people in Wigan? Find out Here:**



**Emotional Health & Well-being**



[https://padlet.com/marie\\_baronTHRIVE/WiganTHRIVE](https://padlet.com/marie_baronTHRIVE/WiganTHRIVE)

**Support for Neurodiverse Young People**



[https://padlet.com/marie\\_baronTHRIVE/WiganND](https://padlet.com/marie_baronTHRIVE/WiganND)