



Friday 7th February 2025



Weekly Newsletter

Educational Visits Galore

What an extremely busy week we have had with three classes leaving school premises to visit some wonderful places with the aim of enhancing the children's learning!

Year 1- Bolton Museum

As part of their Childhood in the Past topic, our Year 1 children visited Bolton Museum and had a wonderful time.

Their first stop off was the children's library. The children really enjoyed this colourful space, looking for their favourite books, and filling out their activity sheets- they were even treated to a story! 📖

The second stop was the aquarium! 🐟 The children loved finding the fish on their 'hide and seek' sheet and they spent lots of time exploring the area with their friends.

After this, they visited the art gallery. 🎨 The children enjoyed draw animals colouring in this creative and calm space. They also had time to explore the nature gallery and the Egyptian zone. The children enjoyed spotting the different animals and dressing up in the costumes.

In the afternoon, the children took part in a Childhood in the Past workshop. The children learnt about the different games children played in the past and they had the opportunity to have a go at playing with some replica old fashioned toys.

What a fun-filled and action-packed day!

Year 3- Chester Amphitheatre

Our Year 3 children travelled to Chester to enjoy a Roman soldier tour to the Roman amphitheatre. At the amphitheatre, the children completed a range of different soldier formations, and they had to defend their army line against the barbarians (school staff). 🤖

In the afternoon, they enjoyed looking at a range of Roman artefacts and guessing what they were used for during the Roman period. After this, the children had an opportunity to take part in a range of challenges from dressing up as a Roman to building a Roman building.

Before we left, we had an opportunity to look around the two Roman museum rooms.

It was such an enjoyable trip, and the museum staff were amazed by the children's knowledge!



Year 5- Bradford Museum

As part of their Industrial Revolution topic, our Year 5 children travelled to Bradford Museum. They experienced how loud the machines would have been if all of them were switched on (only 3 turned on at the time); discussed the working conditions and the roles which children, as young as 5, would have had. The children also looked for 'rats' hiding amongst the machinery.

They also had a workshop in which they had 'weaving hands' and took the role of those in the Cottage Industries. It was great to hear the children answering questions about The Industrial Revolution and being so respectful to the staff members.

Finally, they had the opportunity to have a go at using Carding Paddles (combing the wool fibres ready for spinning), using a miniature hand loom with our partner and weaving wool. We were also extremely lucky to watch a demonstration of a blacksmith making nails.

What a brilliant way to gain a better understanding of what factories were like during the Industrial Revolution!

 **Sporting News** 

 **Swimming Lessons** 

Our Year 3 children had their first taste of what is to come in their swimming lessons this week as they visited Howe Bridge for a taster session. The children were brilliant and had a fantastic time- our Year 3 team are very proud!

 **Upcoming Fixtures** 

On Monday we play our next round of fixtures in the ATSA football league. Good luck to those selected- we look forward to the match report next week!

We have also had confirmation that the LLG football league is due to begin after half term along with our girls' league so our football squads will be busy over the coming weeks.

Following the half-term break, our rugby team begin their league fixtures with a match against Sacred Heart @ Leigh Miners.

 **Reminder- School Visits** 

Wednesday 12th February
Year 6

To complement their learning about the Ancient Egyptians, Year 6 are off to Bolton Museum where they will take a virtual tour around burial chamber of the pharaoh Tutmosé III.

Thursday 13th February
Year 5

A visit to the Palace Theatre to watch the Horrible Histories performance about the Terrible Tudors

 **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



 **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.

 Please check the name of the school you are adding the tokens to! 

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

 **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
Wednesday 12 th February	Year 6 Visit- Bolton Museum for an Ancient Egypt workshop
Thursday 13 th February	Year 5 Visit- Palace Theatre (am)
Thursday 13 th February	Year 3 Swimming Lessons begin
Friday 14 th February	School closes for the February half-term break
Monday 24 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED- STAFF INSET DAY
Tuesday 25 th February	School opens @ 8:45am

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