



Friday 31st January 2025



Weekly Newsletter

Reception's Bear Hunt

Wow, wow, wow! What an amazing morning our reception class had on Wednesday as they visited Lilford Park to take part in a bear hunt!

We are so proud of how well they listened to their adults and how sensible they were whilst walking to the park. The boys and girls searched the park and woods for the bears using their amazing binoculars which they made themselves!

When they'd found the bears, they worked in pairs and used their phonic skills to read the names and wrote these on their sheets. After finding all the bears, they enjoyed a lovely little picnic including the jam sandwiches which they had made in school on Tuesday! Finally, they got to enjoy some time playing on the park.



What a fabulous first visit for our youngest children! Well done Reception!

Advance Notice- School Visits

Over the next few weeks, we have a number of classes heading out of school to enrich their learning on educational visits. Please keep an eye out on both ParentMail and Tapestry for information regarding these visits.

Tuesday 4th February **Year 1**

Our Year 1 class are off to Bolton Museum to learn more about Playful Pastimes as part of their history topic.

Tuesday 4th February **Year 3**

To take part in a Roman workshop our Year 3 children will become Romans for their day as they enhance their history topic.

Wednesday 5th February **Year 5**

As part of their topic on the Industrial Revolution, Year 5 are heading to Bradford Museum to further develop their understanding of this brilliant topic.

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 Tuthmose III.

Thursday 13th February **Year 5**

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

What a busy, yet exciting few weeks we have in store!

NSPCC Number Day

On **Friday 7th February** we will be fundraising for the NSPCC by celebrating Number Day 2025. Children can come to school wearing their own clothes that have a number on them for a small donation.

To make your donation, keep an eye out on the Parentmail app.

Year 6 Parent/Carer SATs Meeting

Thank you to those parents/carers who were able to attend the meetings earlier this week- we hope you found them informative, and we look forward to working in cooperation to support your children over the next few months.

ATSA Football League

On Monday we began our boy's football league campaign with two games against St. Richards and Parklee respectively.

In the first game, the boys played some outstanding football, scoring some great team goals; Thomas P was awarded the player of the match award for his superb positional play.

The second game was a much closer affair; St John's eventually came out on top winning 5-3. The boys showed great resilience as they came from behind to get the win. The player of the match award was given to both Emmanuel and Maxim for their hard work throughout and skill with both players getting on the score sheet.

A fantastic first week of fixtures- well done everybody!



Morning Break: snacks

This is a polite reminder regarding children's morning fruit snack. Children are allowed to bring to school some fresh fruit in. We do not allow cereal bars or alternative snacks for morning breaks, and this is in line with our healthy food strategy/approach. As part of the National Fruit Scheme, school are able to provide children with fruit snacks for afternoon breaks.

We would also like to remind you about cutting grapes that are sent in as either a snack or as part of lunchboxes into quarters as they are a potential choking hazard. Please see the image below:



Holidays – not allowed in term time

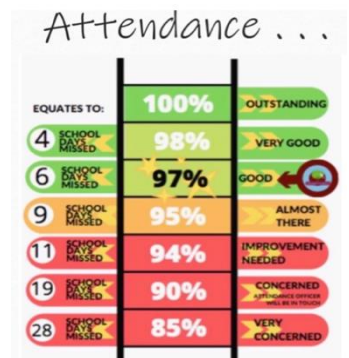


Again, we are continuing to receive notifications from families regarding taking holidays in term time. We politely remind parents and carers that holidays should not be taken in school time. Holidays are unauthorised absences and may result in penalty fines as shared in the updated warning notice on 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
The graphic below shows the impact of absences over a year!.



Reminder!

We would like to remind parents and carers of the morning routines before and once school has started. The gates will open at 8:45am and children from Year 1 to Year 6 are expected to walk into class independently. The only parents who should come through the car park gate and walk their children to the classroom door and Reception parents.

We also ask that those parents who wait with their children on the school car park, ensure their children are not running in and out of staff cars to avoid and potential accidents or injuries. Thank you.

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 |
| Tuesday 4 th February | Year 3 Visit- Chester for a Roman workshop |
| Tuesday 4 th February | Year 1 Visit- Bolton Museum |
| Wednesday 5 th February | Year 5 Visit to Bradford Museum – Industrial Revolution workshop |
| 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 |

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

A Registered Charity
No: 1207535

presented
by:



Aladdin



**WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY -
SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2025**

St Joseph's Hall, Chapel St Leigh, WN7 2DB

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:15 pm

Matinees: 25th, 26th, 1st - 1 pm

Saturday Evening: 6:15 pm

TICKETS:

ADULTS - £12 UNDER 16s - £6

10% DISCOUNT FOR GROUPS 10 AND OVER
[TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/ST-JOSEPHS-PLAYERS](https://ticketsource.co.uk/st-josephs-players)



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