



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

# Weekly Newsletter

## 🌟 Welcome Back 🌟

We would like to wish all of our children and families a happy new year! We hope you had an enjoyable Christmas break and feel refreshed ready to tackle all that 2025 has to offer! It has been wonderful to welcome back the children this week and to hear all about their time off over the festive period- it seems lots of the children were on Santa's nice list which is great to hear! We've another busy half-term ahead with visits, workshops, sports events and more planned over the coming weeks.

## 🌟 Thank You 🌟

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding over the last couple of days with the changes having to be made to drop-off and collections due to the unexpected weather conditions. Fortunately, the forecast is set to improve over the weekend so all being well, we should be back to normal on Monday; however, keep an eye on Tapestry for any updates if this changes. Thanks again for your support this week.



## ❄️ Fun in the Snow ❄️

Despite the complications the adverse weather conditions made to some aspects of school life, the children seemed to have a brilliant time in the snow and ice this week. We had ice potions being made, mini snowmen being built and lots and lots of snowball fun. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying the snow with their friends!



## 🔔 Polite Reminder 🔔



We would like to remind Parents and Carers that Tapestry is the main communication tool used in school and there are many messages posted throughout each day beginning early in the morning to late in the evening. We understand that you will post at a convenient time for yourselves; however, we are sure that you will appreciate that many of these messages appear outside of our staff's working day. Please take into consideration that our staff members have families and lives away from school too and that if messages are received outside of usual working hours, they may not be able to and are not expected to respond immediately. Each of our classes has a minimum of 30 pupils so it would not be feasible for staff to respond to 30 requests in this manner. Staff will always endeavour to respond to any Tapestry messages at the earliest opportunity, but this may not always be immediate. Thanks for your support, LSJP Team

 Applications For Reception Places 2025 

Parents and carers with children who are due to start school in September 2025 are advised that the admissions process is still open, and the application portal is where online submissions can be made. All applications must be made by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Please note that we require a supplementary form to be completed in addition to the online application, and we ask that all supplementary forms are returned directly to our school office by **4:30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**. If we receive your supplementary form after this time and date, the application will be classed as a late application. If your younger child is due in September 2026, please make sure that we have you registered so that we can communicate important information to you. Parents wishing to have their supplementary form signed will need to attend the signing at church tomorrow (**11<sup>th</sup> January**) **between 9am and 1:00pm**. The link to the online application is shared below:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/resident/education/schools/school-admissions/primary-schools.aspx>

Advance notice:

 **Swimming Lessons for Y3** 

Swimming lessons will begin Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Please see Tapestry for further details and information.

Advance notice:

Year 6 Parent/Carer SATs Meeting

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Mr Thomason will be holding a meeting for current Year 6 parents and carers to share information about their child's end of year assessments and how we can support them over the coming months.

**! Reminder !**

We would like to ask parents and carers to avoid parking on any double yellow lines around school during drop-off and pick-up times including those who are using our AFA & HAF clubs.

Thanks, LSJP Team

**! 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.

To help with scheduling holidays for the next school year, attached is the holiday list for the **2025-2026** academic year.

Thank you for your co-operation.

**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
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	LIFE Education Visit Years 4, 5 & 6
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	GUFUS Theatre Visit in school- Full day
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5/6 Dodgeball Competition @ Fred Longworth High School
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 Parents/Carers SATs Meeting @ 3:30pm and 5:00pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 Visit- Palace Theatre (am)

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