



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025



# Weekly Newsletter

## Parent/Carer Drop-in Sessions

Next week, we would like to invite parents and carers to our special 'Drop-in Sessions'. This is a chance for you to have a brief chat and catch-up with your child's teacher to see how they have settled into their new class.

The sessions will be as follows:

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September- 3:30pm-4:30pm

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September- 8:00am-8:30am

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 3:30pm-5:15pm

## Jeans for Genes

We would like to say a huge thank you for your kind donations towards this fantastic charity yesterday. It was great to see the children looking smart in their 'alternative' uniforms for the day! We have raised £225.50 which will go towards supporting those affected by genetic conditions. Thanks again



## NEW CLASS PARENT DROP-IN

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September- 3:30pm-4:30pm

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September- 8:00am-8:30am

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October- 3:30pm- 5:00pm

ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO POP INTO SCHOOL FOR A BRIEF AND INFORMAL UPDATE ON HOW YOUR CHILD HAS SETTLED INTO THEIR NEW CLASS. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THE YEAR AHEAD. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT AND MAY ATTEND ANYTIME DURING THE ALLOCATED SLOTS.

## Odd Socks Day

Once again, we will be marking the start of 'Anti-bullying week' by taking part in 'Odd Socks Day' on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November**. Children are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate each other's differences.



## Year 1- Geography Fieldwork

Earlier this week, our Year 1 class went on a walk of the local area. This was a geography focused fieldwork trip to enable the children to look for human and physical features in the area surrounding school. The children did a great job at spotting lots of features on their walk and they behaved impeccably. Well done Year 1!

## App of the Week

### Busy Things



A great app for our younger children to develop key skills and early problem-solving skills.

## Thought of the Week

When you think  
*positive*, good  
things happen.

## ♥ Nurture Course For Parents ♥

Please see the attached details with further information about a fantastic programme being offered by the family hubs to support parents to get the most out of family life.

## ⚠ 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, including the final week of term can result in an EPN Fine that can be issued from a September return. 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. If you have any queries about this matter, then please speak to Mrs. Hughes.

Thank you for your cooperation.

## Attendance ...



## ★ High School Open Evenings ★

We would like to share details of the open evening events from schools in our locality. These events provide a great opportunity for you and your child to look at the facilities, speak to staff members and pupils and to see what each high school has to offer your child for the next step in their education. A great opportunity for our older pupils and their parents.

**Fred Longworth High School-** Thursday 25th September @ 4:30pm

**Lowton High School-** Monday 29th September @ 4:15pm  
**Culcheth High School-** Thursday 2nd October

**St Mary's High School-** Thursday 2nd October @ 5:00pm

**Atherton High School-** Wednesday 8th October @ 3:45pm

**The Westleigh School-** Thursday 9th October @ 5:30pm

**Bedford High School-** Thursday 16th October @ 5:00pm

## ⚽🏀🏠 Half-Term Sports Camps 🏠🏀⚽



**Every Half Term**  
**Monday – Thursday 9am–3pm**  
 Excluding bank holidays

**Leigh Sports Village Arena**  
**Ledgard Avenue**  
**Leigh**  
**WN7 4GY**

### THE ACTIVITIES

Football  
 Cricket  
 Dodgeball  
 Fun Games  
 & Much More

**AGES 8–12**

**REGISTER NOW** 01942 487 894 arena@leighsportsvillage.co.uk

## 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 4-11yr. Old's) 9am
W/C Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent/Carer Drop-in Sessions
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Visit to The Westleigh School
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4 Futsal Competition @ Fred Longworth High School
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 Visit to Lancashire Mining Museum
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception 2026 Open Day Tours in School

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

## FAQs

If I have already booked a holiday for next year, could I receive a penalty fine at the new higher rate?

**Yes, if the absence has not been authorised by the Head Teacher of your child's school. Remember, only a Head Teacher can agree whether an absence can be authorised in exceptional circumstances.**

Who can be issued with a penalty notice?

- **Each parent can receive a fine for each child who has had unauthorised absence from school.**
- **In education law, anyone who lives with a child and who has day-to-day care of the child is also considered to be a parent whether they are the biological parent or not. For example, this will include step-parents and partners.**

Do the new rules only apply to holidays during term time?

- **No, it applies to all unauthorised absence from school including holidays. Unauthorised absence includes other absence that has not been agreed such as truancy, arriving late after the register has closed and failing to provide reasons for absence.**

How do I request for my child to have leave granted during term time?

- **You must submit an Absence Request form at least 20 days before the proposed absence. It will be for your child's Head Teacher to decide as to whether there are exceptional circumstances that will allow them to grant the time off. Do not assume that the absence will be granted until you have received confirmation from the school.**

Do the 10 sessions of unauthorised absence have to be taken all at the same time before a penalty fine is issued to the parent/carer?

- **No, a penalty fine can be issued for any combination of absences over a 10-week rolling period. They can be consecutive or non-consecutive and can span over two terms.**

What happens if I am issued with a penalty fine and I don't pay it?

- **Unauthorised absence from school is an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996. A penalty fine is an opportunity for you to settle out of court. If you don't take this opportunity, you can be prosecuted for the offence of failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.**

What should I do if I am worried about my child's attendance?

- **In the first instance you should contact your child's school and ask for advice on how they can support you to improve the situation.**



September 2025

For parents & Carers

### Anna Freud – Supporting children's transition to secondary school: Guidance for parents and carers.

This short guide provides tips about how children preparing for, or going through, the transition to secondary school can best be supported by their parents and carers.

It includes guidance which explains why the transition can be difficult for some children, and practical advice such as talking and connecting with the new school, as well as suggested resources that children and parents and carers may find useful.

[Visit Anna Freud's resource pack here.](#)

### Month of Hope, 10<sup>th</sup> September – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

You're not alone. Support is available. There is always hope.

Whether it's you or someone you care about, if someone is struggling it's important to know what help is available:

- NHS 111 – Option 2: For urgent mental health help
- Samaritans: Available 24/7, 365 days a year – call 116 123
- EPIC HOPE CIC: Visit one of the welcoming harbours across Wigan borough for a safe space and support.

You can also explore a wide range of mental health resources and useful contacts by [visiting Wigan councils website here.](#)

### Mental Health Support Team – Understanding Anxiety & Low Mood workshops.

As part of the Family Hub offer, the Mental Health Support Team in Schools are offering a series of parent/carer workshops to provide psychoeducation and support around anxiety and low mood during the October half term across each of our Family Hubs.

Invite open to all families and [booking is essential.](#)

The workshops will outline what anxiety or low mood is, the symptoms, and how this impacts children and young people. We will provide support strategies to help manage the physical and emotional feelings of anxiety and low mood.

Workshops are 60 minutes long and will be delivered by the Mental Health Support Team in Schools as part of the Wigan Borough Family Hub offer. If your child is struggling with anxiety or low mood or preparing for transition, this will be a useful, informative workshop for you!

[You can book any of the session via visiting the Eventbrite link here.](#)

### Be Part of Research

Be Part of Research is a free service which makes it easy to find and take part in vital health and care research across the UK.

Simply tell us which health conditions you're interested in. We'll match you to suitable studies and send you information on how to take part.

[You can find out more information via watching the NIHR video.](#)

### Rebuild with Hope Wigan

Looking for a way to express yourself, try something new, and connect with others? Our Building Opportunities creative workshops offer just that — a safe and welcoming space to explore your creativity alongside like-minded people.

[Book your slot via Eventbrite.](#)

## Healthy Schools Newsletter



## The Nurturing Programme

Information for Parents and carers

How to get the best out of family life



### The 10-week Nurturing Programme for parents and carers

#### Where:

Wigan and Leigh Family Hubs

#### When:

Contact the email below for course information

#### Contact details:

Please email:  
Earlyhelpdevelopmentteam@wigan.gov.uk



[emotionalhealth.org.uk](http://emotionalhealth.org.uk)

Registered charity 1062514

# What is the Nurturing Programme?

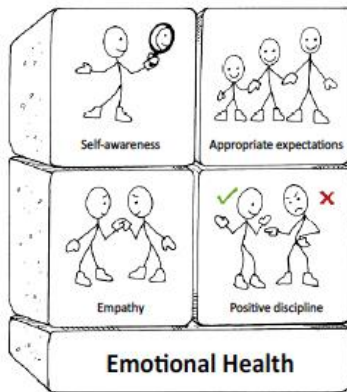
Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging.

The Nurturing Programme helps deal with those challenges so that you can have a calmer, happier life.

A tried and tested programme, it helps us think about what we do, why we do it and how it makes us feel.



## The Four Constructs of the Nurturing Programme



## What does it cover?

Over the 10-week Programme, you will look at lots of different topics, including:

- Understanding** why children behave as they do
- Recognising** the feelings behind behaviour (ours and theirs)
- Exploring** different approaches to discipline
- Finding** ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline in children
- Learning** the importance of looking after ourselves

## How Nurturing Programme Parent Groups have helped other parents

"I am a much more confident, positive and understanding parent. I feel much more able to cope now."

"We are having less family arguments and the household is a lot calmer."

"The group was fun. It's the only two hours I have for myself each week."

"The atmosphere was really relaxed. No-one judged anyone and everyone was listened to and respected."



check out  
[emotionalhealth.org.uk](http://emotionalhealth.org.uk)

for more information on *The Parenting Puzzle* book and The Nurturing Programme

## Practical information

Partners are welcome and it's also fine to come on your own or with a relative or friend

There are ten 2-hour sessions with a tea and coffee break

8-10 parents are invited and there are two trained group leaders

Some groups provide a creche; check with group leaders beforehand

You need to come to all ten sessions as they fit together like a puzzle

