



Friday 3rd October 2025

Weekly Newsletter

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

Leigh St John's Open Day

This is an opportunity for current and prospective parents, who have children starting school in September 2026, to have a tour of the school and meet with members of the school leadership team prior to submitting their school application in January. This will take place on **Thursday 13th November**. Parents with younger siblings due to start reception in 2026 will need to call into the school office to collect an admissions pack which includes the supplemental form that needs to be returned before the application closing date of **15th January 2026**.

Parent/Carer Drop-in Sessions

We would like to say a huge thank you to those parents and carers who were able to drop-in to school this week. It was great to share with you how your children have settled in their new year groups, and we hope you enjoyed seeing what they have been up to so far this year!

Good Luck Leigh Leopards!

It was wonderful to see the school full of red, white a leopard print today in celebration of tonight's semi-final. Fingers crossed the mighty leopards can book their place at Old Trafford next week! Come on the Leopards!



Morning Routines

We would like to remind parents and carers that only children in Reception should be accompanied to their classroom door when dropping off in the morning. All other children are to enter the school gates themselves and make their way to the classroom. If you do need to speak with a member of staff, we have numerous adults on the gates who are able to take and pass on any messages. 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, 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.

🚒 Special Visitors 🚒

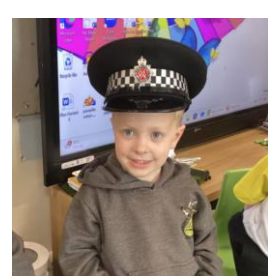
What an amazing experience our youngest children had this week as they were visited by a fireman and some police officers!

In the morning, they learned all about what being a fireman entails, asked lots of questions about the job and even got to try on the uniform! But the fun didn't stop there- in the afternoon we had a special visit from the police! They told the children about their jobs and what they do and why. They spoke about how they don't just catch bad guys; they save lives and help people all the time! We then got to see their uniform and equipment, and we even got to try them on - including the handcuffs!!

Then, to make our experience even more INCREDIBLE, the police officers took us outside to see their police car and van... and what an experience we had! The boys and girls were encouraged to hop in and enjoy! We had lots of sirens, horns beeping and children arrested in the back!! They loved every minute of it!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Elliot's Dad and Lily and Logan's Dad for giving up their time to come visit us- it is greatly appreciated!

A brilliant way to learn all about the emergency services and an experience that the children have loved!



🧦 Odd Socks Day 🧦

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



💛 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.

★ 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.

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

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

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

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
Friday 10 th October	Year 4 Futsal Competition @ Fred Longworth High School
Tuesday 14 th October	Year 2 Visit to Lancashire Mining Museum
Wednesday 15 th October	Year 6 Poetry Workshop @ Leigh Library- Black History Month
Wednesday 22 nd October	Year 6 Poetry Workshop @ Leigh Library- Black History Month
Thursday 13 th November	Reception 2026 Open Day Tours in School



OPEN DAY

FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DUE TO JOIN
RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2026

THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2025

TO BOOK YOUR TOUR, PLEASE TELEPHONE MRS JONES
(SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER) ON 01942 672825

Enjoy meeting the wonderful children and dedicated staff.

Discover how St John's develop curious learners who are
passionate about their bright futures.

'Feel' the St John's family vibe and why it is a special
place to be each day!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE:

- OUR SCHOOL PROSPECTUS
- PROSPECTIVE PARENTS WHOLE SCHOOL VIDEO
- 360° PHOTOGRAPH OF THE RECEPTION CLASSROOM
- AN A-Z OF LSJP
- 'TAKE A PEEP AT RECEPTION' VIDEO



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.**

The Nurturing Programme

Information
for Parents
and carers

How to get the best
out of family life



Where:

Wigan and Leigh Family Hubs

When:

Contact the email below for course
information

Contact details:

Please email:
Earlyhelpdevelopmentteam@wigan.gov.uk

What is the Nurturing Programme?

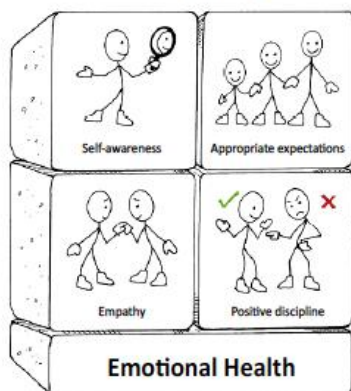
Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging.

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

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

