



Friday 10th October 2025



# Weekly Newsletter

## **Cauliflower Cards**

We know it may seem a little early to be thinking about Christmas, but your child will be bringing home their Christmas Card design soon which can be printed on packs of Christmas cards, wrapping paper, tags, mugs and much more.

In the past, we have worked with 'Cauliflower Cards' to enable Parents / Carers to have the opportunity to purchase personalised cards by their children. It is also a great way of fundraising for school. Every time an item is ordered by yourselves, we are able to raise much needed funds for our fantastic resources.

### KEY DATES

**Friday 17th October**- designs will be sent home on the order form.

**Friday 24th October 3:30pm** - deadline for forms to be returned.


### Absence from school

Please note - if your child is absent from school, they may not be in class when the designs are created. Unfortunately, we will be unable to make a design in school if this is the case. If your child still wishes to make one, they are welcome to make a design at home, and we will give you a form to attach it to. Similarly, if the form is not returned on time, we will be unable to send the form to the company.



### !!IMPORTANT!

Your child's design will come home on a form. This form needs to remain in the best possible condition and **MUST** be RETURNED to school when an order has been placed. The deadline for returning the form is **Friday 24th October**. There is a lot of admin that goes on behind the scenes and the forms are collected by an external provider. Unfortunately, any orders received after the deadline will miss the collection.

 **HOW TO MAKE AN ORDER:** all instructions are on the order form.

There is also a video on the form that you can scan that shows you how to order!

If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher initially, or put a message on tapestry with the [#cauliflowercards](https://www.instagram.com/leighbyschool) so I can get back to you. 🥰

Many thanks for your support,

Team LSJP 🍀

## **Black History Month- Poetry Workshops**

Over the next couple of weeks our Year 6 children will be visiting Leigh Library to take part in a poetry workshop to celebrate Black History Month. The children will be exploring the theme 'Standing firm in power and pride'.

They will analyse a range of poems written by black poets before they begin to write their own poems. In the final session, the children will have the opportunity to perform their poems.

A fantastic opportunity for our pupils to showcase their literary skills!

### 🌟 Grandad Anansi Performance 🌟

On Thursday, our children were treated to a fantastic performance of Grandad Anansi.

Grandad Anansi beautifully weaves storytelling, culture, and wisdom together just like the spider's web itself. An award-winning children's play about an intergenerational relationship and the power of storytelling, featuring the classic trickster figure Anansi. ✨ What a vibrant and powerful performance! 🌟

### 🌟❤️ 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.

### 🌟 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.

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

Parents/Carers need to apply for their child's place at high school before **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025** using the link below:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/resident/education/schools/School-Admissions/Secondary-Schools.aspx>

### 🔔 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

### ⚠️ **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.

## 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 <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
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Poetry Workshop @ Leigh Library- Black History Month
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 6 Poetry Workshop @ Leigh Library- Black History Month
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception 2026 Open Day Tours in School



# OPEN DAY

FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE DUE TO JOIN  
RECEPTION CLASS SEPTEMBER 2026

# THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 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.**