



Friday 24th October 2025

Weekly Newsletter

📺 Harvest Donations- The Domino Effect 📺

We can not thank our parents and staff enough for your generous donations which will be delivered to our local food bank. The boxes have been kindly collected, and the St John's JAM squad helped to load them into the van. The whole school enjoyed the 'domino effect'. Mrs Lightfoot's worship was based on how our actions can affect others in either a positive or negative way. She looked at the negative and positive actions we can have on others, and how it is important to make good choices.

As a school, we thank you for your valued support.
LSJP Team ❤️



🌟 Happy Half-Term 🌟

What an amazing start to the year we have had! We can't quite believe that we are halfway through the autumn term!

School closes today for the half-term break and we are back in on Monday 3rd November at the usual time of 8:45am.

We hope you have a restful, safe and happy break and look forward to hearing all about it when we return to school.

Children in Need



Friday 14th November

Children are invited to wear either

- Pyjamas
- Spotty Clothing
- Official Children in Need Clothing



Donations can be made through ParentMail



🌟 Wigan Borough Family Hubs App 🌟

Exciting News for Families!

Wigan Council are thrilled to launch the Essential PARENT App - and it's ready to download TODAY!

This free app is designed to make life easier for parents and carers. You'll find helpful info, local services, fun activities, and support all in one place - right on your phone.

Need help getting started? Pop into your local Family Hub - we're happy to help!

Let's make parenting a little easier, together

Download it via the links below:



● iPhone: <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/essential-parent-gm-family-hub/id6739504014>

● Android:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cz.pixelfield.manchester>

!! Polite Reminder !!

Please can we remind parents not to park on the double yellow lines and markings outside school when dropping off or collecting your child. This is for the safety of all pupils and adults as these times can be extremely busy.

Thanks 🍌

Flu Vaccine Update

Flu-vaccine catch-up sessions planned at the venues on the dates listed below for anyone who missed out:

27.10.2025	9:00am-4:00pm	Meadows Family Hub 110 Raynard St, WN5 9RQ
28.10.2025	9:00am-4:00pm	Family Hub Fomby Avenue, Atherton M46 OHX
29.10.2025	9:00am-4:00pm	Family Hub Hindley, WN2 4LG

High School Open Applications

Year 6 parents/carers need to apply for their child's place at high school before **31st October 2025** using the link below:

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

Poppy Appeal 2025

From Monday 20th October, we will begin selling Poppy appeal products in the school office before and after school. There are a selection of snap bands, key rings and bracelets along with traditional paper poppies. Please pop in and support this great cause if you are able.

Thanks, 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**.

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. If you are taking your child out of school, please can you ensure that you inform school several weeks in advance of the time out of school. 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, which 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 24 th October	School Closes for Half Term Break
Monday 3 rd November	School reopens @ 8:45am
Thursday 13 th November	Reception 2026 Open Day Tours in School
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need 2025



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.**