



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

# Weekly Newsletter

## Create and Celebrate

During 'Create and Celebrate' sessions, you have the opportunity to do the following:

- Take part in a simple festival craft activity with your child.
- Look through your child's learning books in the classroom and celebrate their achievements together.
- Chat informally with staff about how your child is getting on and see how much progress they've made during the Autumn term.

The special session is designed to be informative for parents and enjoyable for children, giving you precious time together to create, connect and celebrate progress.

**Reception:** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November- 2:15pm-3:15pm

**Year 1 & 2:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November- 2:15pm-3:15pm

**Year 3 & 4:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November- 2:15pm-3:15pm

**Year 5 & 6:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November- 2:15pm-3:15pm

RSVP: To confirm your attendance, please reply to your child's Tapestry post no later than Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

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 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.**

## Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November



# ODD SOCKS DAY



Once again we will be marking the start of Anti-bullying week by taking part in 'ODD Socks Day' Children are encouraged to wear ODD socks to celebrate everyone's individuality!

### Children in Need



### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

- Children are invited to wear either
- Pyjamas
  - Spotty Clothing
  - Official Children in Need Clothing



Donations can be made through ParentMail



### ♥ Veterans' Coffee Morning ♥

This morning a group of children from Key Stage 2 headed to Leigh Miners to attend a Veterans' Coffee Morning to show their appreciation for their service and sacrifices they made having served in the Armed Forces. Earlier this week, all the children in school created thank you cards for the veterans, and these were given to them this morning.

The children also performed a number of songs to entertain them whilst there. The children were superb and a real credit to the school- they made the occasion truly memorable for the veterans.

Well done Team LSJP ♥

### 🎉 Huge Congratulations 🎉

We're delighted to share some wonderful news from our school community! Mrs Winnard is expecting a baby! We're thrilled for her and her family as they prepare to welcome their new arrival in March next year.

Please join us in congratulating her on this exciting news. ♥

### 🔔 Polite Reminder 🔔

We would like to remind all parents and carers that dogs are not allowed on school property at either morning drop-off or collection at home time. If you are walking to school with a dog, please wait for your child outside the school perimeter.

Thanks, LSJP Team

### Reception Garden Donations

We're excited to share that we're beginning a new project to transform part of our outdoor area into a beautiful garden space for the children to enjoy, learn, and explore nature! 🌱

To bring our vision to life we're kindly asking for donations of any gardening supplies you might be able to spare or happily contribute to our school. These could include:

- 🌱 Bags of soil or compost - we are in need of quite a lot!
- 🌱 Potted plants or flowers
- 🌱 Seeds or bulbs
- 🌱 Watering cans or small gardening tools
- 🌱 Plant pots or containers

Every little contribution helps, and together we can create a vibrant, green space that our children will love and take pride in.

If you're able to donate, please drop items off at the school office or send them in with your child anytime over the next few weeks.

Thank you so much for your support and generosity — we can't wait to see our garden grow! 🌸

Thank you so much! ♥

### ⚠️ 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
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd Socks Day
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception 2026 Open Day Tours in School
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 & 6 LLG Football League Begins
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need 2025
W/B Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Create & Celebrate Sessions



# 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.**