

OLDHAM COUNCIL



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Head teacher
Mr M Roberts

Dear Parent/carer,

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER THREE, 2025

Parents' evening date/info

A parents' consultation event has been scheduled for Thursday 1st May, for pupils in Reception through to pupils in Year 6. This event will be held at school, in person and face-to-face.

We will circulate further information (how to book etc.) closer to the day but please save the date.

Query or concern re-your child's education at Limehurst

If you have a query or concern, please do not hesitate to contact school at the earliest possible opportunity. Most queries/concerns can be resolved quickly once all the relevant information has been gathered.

If you do have a query or concern about the education that we provide, please discuss the matter with your child's class teacher in the first instance. All teachers work hard to ensure each child is happy at school, and are making timely progress; as such, teachers want to know if there is a concern to ensure that action can be taken before it affects a child's educational progress.

Teaching staff are available before and after school for parents to raise any queries or concerns **but please note, from 8.35am onward, teachers will be in their classroom and UNAVAILABLE.** Please attend school before this time if you need to raise a query or concern. **For a formal discussion, please contact the school office to arrange a specific appointment** (either in person or via telephone call back).

In addition, please remember that for each part of school we have a Unit Leader who may also be able to help:

Mrs. Roberts, Assistant Head teacher
Miss. Simpson, Unit Lead
Mrs. Wright, Assistant Head teacher
Mrs. Atherton, Unit Lead

Nursery and Reception
Infants (classes 4, 5 and 6)
Lower Juniors (classes 7, 8 and 9)
Upper Juniors (classes 10, 11 and 12)



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Senior leadership

Mr. Wilson (Associate Head teacher & Deputy Safeguarding Lead) and Mrs. Taylor (SENCo & Designated Safeguarding Lead) will be stationed at the junior entry door from 8.40am to 9am if you need to discuss general pastoral care. Mrs. Taylor oversees provision for Special Educational Needs. If you feel your child requires individual specific support, please arrange a **formal appointment**.

For a formal discussion please contact the school office to arrange a specific appointment (again either in person or via telephone).

Naturally, if you feel a query or concern has not been resolved, please make an appointment (via the school office) to speak directly with me.

Safeguarding update

At Limehurst we want to make sure that all the children in our care are kept safe and feel secure. A summary of the school's Safeguarding Policy (including Child Protection) can be found on the school website.

The people who have responsibility for Safeguarding & Child Protection are:

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL); Mrs L. Taylor (SENCo).

Deputy Safeguarding Lead; Mr I Wilson (Associate Head teacher).

Governors with responsibility for Safeguarding; Mr G Shuttleworth (Local Authority Governor) and Mrs S Longley (Co-opted Governor).

Please note: When in school we have a duty of care towards your child and in certain situations it may be necessary to contact Social Care Services if we believe it necessary and appropriate.

Medical information

We remind parents and carers that school is only permitted to administer prescribed medicines. The full policy for medicines in school is laid out in the School Medical Policy (available on the school website) but please note:

'Only named medicines clearly marked with the child's name and class will be accepted into school and only if it is necessary for a child to take four doses daily. Medicines will be kept safe in the school office. All medicine must be in the original package and have the strength and dosage required.'

Once at school, if a child is physically sick, we will phone home to arrange for the child to be collected. If your child complains of being 'poorly' or is injured during the school day we may phone home to explain the circumstances and then ask a parent/carer to make the decision whether to collect their child early or leave their child at school. **Our assessments are made by qualified first aiders who judge symptoms, injuries and most importantly, if a child is distressed.**

Pupils with asthma- reminder

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Parents/carers need to ensure that the school is provided with a reliever inhaler if their child suffers with asthma. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. 'Older' pupils with asthma are encouraged to 'look after' their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough to do so. Reliever inhalers for 'younger' children will be retained safely in the pupil's classroom.



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Other medical conditions

As always, we want pupils in school every day of every term, but we do ask parents to adopt a common-sense approach to your child's attendance. If your child is fit and healthy, they should be in school. However, if your child has a genuine illness or injury, please keep them 'off' school for a sufficient period to until they are 'well'. In addition, this may reduce the risk of infection to other pupils.

Below is a selection of 'common' school bound illnesses and conditions with specific advice provided to school by the Health Protection Agency.

<u>Illness/condition</u>	<u>Recommended period to be kept away from school</u>
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 Hours from <u>LAST EPISODE</u> of diarrhoea or Vomiting. Please see note overleaf*
Chicken pox	Until all spots have crusted over (commonly five days from onset of the rash)
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment
Scabies	Children can return after first treatment. House and close contacts require treatment
Conjunctivitis	None but condition needs treatment
Head lice	None but condition needs treatment
Threadworms	None but condition needs treatment for child and household contact
Measles	Four days from onset of rash

If your child is sick the morning before school, they MUST not attend school on that day. Please apply a 'common sense' approach.

***Children with a stomach 'bug', such as norovirus (winter flu) or rotavirus, MUST stay off school for 48 hours, from the last episode of vomiting, as per Public Health England guidance.**

Please employ a 'catch it, bin it, kill it' strategy to prevent much of the above. Wash hands often with soap and water. Use tissues if you need to cough or sneeze and throw used tissues in the bin.

In school illness or injury

- If a child is physically sick in school, we will contact home for a parent or carer to attend school and collect. It is essential that we have up-to-date contact details for this purpose.
- If your child complains of being 'poorly' during the school day a qualified first aids will assess their symptoms. Usually school will phone home to explain the circumstances and then ask parent/carer to decide whether to collect the child early or leave the child in school.
- If your child is injured during the school day the same measures apply. Head injuries are always particularly difficult to diagnose. Generally, if a child complains of a headaches, dizziness, or blurred vision we will always phone home to inform parents/carers.
- If your child sustains injury requiring urgent medical attention (i.e. an ambulance to hospital) school will always send a member of staff to support the situation until a parent/carer is able to attend.



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We re-iterate, all significant assessments are made by a qualified first aider who will judge symptoms, injuries and most importantly, how distressed a child is.

The Department for Education have stated that where reasonably possible, schools and colleges should hold more than one emergency contact number for each pupil or student. This goes beyond the legal minimum (one emergency contact number) and is good practice to give the school or college additional options to contact a responsible adult when identified as a welfare (poorly/injured) or safeguarding concern.

Taking this into consideration we ask parents to ensure that school holds at least **two emergency contact numbers** for your child. Needless to say, each number (whether landline or mobile) needs to be 'in service' and accessible at all times.

School will only contact a parent during the school day if their child is ill and distressed, injured and distressed, involved in a 'significant' incident and/or there is a 'significant' change to the school day i.e. cancellation of an event or school closure.

School dinners and change to the current Local Authority Catering arrangements: UPDATE

Information from Spring term two (below in italics):

At the end of the autumn term we were informed by the Oldham Education Council Services (Catering Transition Team) that this service/provision was to be WITHDRAWN in 2025, and by no later than September 2025. They state that the current delivery model is NOT sustainable due to:

- *Rising service delivery costs*
- *Increasing food inflation costs*
- *Reduced market shares due to school academisation (resulting in schools leaving the LA)*

We must stress, the decision to transition catering arrangements to the responsibility of school has NOT been welcomed and is wholeheartedly very disappointing.

However, we appreciate that this decision sits outside of our control and therefore, as always, we must make every effort to find the best solution for the children and families that we service.

In addition, and with great disappointment, we must also inform you that school meal prices (for parents/carers who pay for a school dinner) will increase following transition. In all honesty, a price increase was expected due to changes to the employers National Insurance contribution, however the 'transition' to a private company will exasperate any expected increase. Apologies for this, but again, we must stress, this change sits outside of our control.

Further to this newsletter, please be mindful that school will be changing our catering arrangements/provider after the Easter Holiday. This Change will 'go live' on Wednesday 23rd April.

Our new catering partner, The Totally Local Company (TLC) have informed us that the cost of a school meal for parents/carers who pay for a school dinner will rise to £3.50 per day, £17.50 per week. This is undoubtedly a significant increase on the previous cost of a school meal but again, we must stress, this change/switch to a new catering provider was not our choice nor desire. Following a procurement exercise, this was the best price school could achieve given our individual circumstances. On behalf of Oldham Council Catering, we apologise for this increase.

In other changes, TLC use a software company (SchoolGrid) that allows parents/carers to pre-order meals for their child, in advance of the school day/week. School will provide bespoke details of how the SchoolGrid process works in the near future.



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Easter Raffle

We will once again be holding an Easter Raffle. The money raised from this event will be put towards purchasing more iPads and laptops for the children.

We have lots of great prizes up for grabs including, Easter hampers, large easter eggs, soft toys, fruit hampers and much more. Tickets cost £1.00 per strip and will be on sale from Monday 17th March until Wednesday 2nd April. Tickets can be purchased from class teachers Please note tickets cannot be purchased from the school office. The draw will take place in a whole school assembly on Thursday 3rd April. Prizes will need to be collected from the Limehouse the end of the day. Adults will need to collect any prizes containing alcohol.

End of the half term (spring term two)- Friday 4th April 2025

Friday 4th April is the last pupil day of the spring term. School will close on this day at our *usual* finish times.

Beginning of the summer term (summer term one)- Tuesday 22nd April 2025

School will open for the summer term on this day, Tuesday 22nd April, at our *usual* start times.

Important future dates

National Assessments 2025 will take place after Easter for children in Year 6, Year 4, and Year 1:

Year 6 SATs start on **Monday 12th May** to be completed by **Thursday 15th May**

Year 4 Multiplication test week commencing **Monday 2nd June to Friday 13th June** (two weeks window)

Year 1 Phonics screening week commencing **Monday 9th June** (one week window)

And finally, please see attached details/information for our School Nursery.

At present, we have a small number of places available for September 2025, but these are filling up quickly.

Let's work together.

Yours sincerely,

M Roberts

Mark Roberts
Head teacher



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