

OLDHAM COUNCIL



Limehurst Community Primary School
Whitebank Road
Oldham
OL8 3JQ
Telephone: 0161 770 7220
Mobile No: 07494403422
info@limehurst.oldham.sch.uk
www.limehurst.oldham.sch.uk
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Head teacher
Mr M Roberts

Dear Parent/carer,

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER TWO, 2024

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 to raise a query/concern. **For a more 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)	Nursery and Reception
Miss. Simpson (Unit Lead)	Infants (classes 4, 5 and 6)
Mrs. Wright (Assistant Head teacher)	Lower Juniors (classes 7, 8 and 9)
Mrs. Atherton (Unit Lead)	Upper Juniors (classes 10, 11 and 12)

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.



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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 safely 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.

Other Medical Conditions including Measles

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.

Unfortunately Measles has made an unwelcome return and case number are rising in England. Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some cases. The best way to prevent it is to receive the MMR vaccine. Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms followed by a rash. The cold symptoms often include red, sore, watery eyes. The MMR vaccine can prevent measles. It also provides protection from Mumps and Rubella. The MMR is offered to ALL children in the UK. Two doses can give lifelong protection against Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Ask at your GP surgery if you are unsure whether you or your child have had the vaccine. The vaccine is free from the NHS.

If you suspect that your child has got Measles, please contact your GP surgery, or dial 111 to discuss your concerns. However, Measles diagnosis must be confirmed by a professional.



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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.

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.



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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.

Breakfast club: Breakfast club is open at 8.20am with last entry at 8.40am.

Start-of-school day.

School will start at the times illustrated below. School entry points remain unchanged from September. In addition, parents with multiple children (excluding nursery) will be asked to 'drop off' the youngest child FIRST, followed by next youngest and so on. These details have been circulated previously. Pupils in the nursery will now be the last cohort admitted to school.

Year Group	Start time	Finish time
Nursery	8.55am (last entry, 9.00am)	3.10pm
Reception	8.45am (last entry, 8.55am)	3.15pm

Year Group	Start time	Finish time
Year 1	8.45am (last entry, 9.05am)	3.15pm
Year 2	8.45am (last entry, 9.05am)	3.15pm

If you have a child in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 or Year 2), please collect your KS1 child from the school hall first and then go to the Reception exit point afterwards. Key Stage 1 children who are not collected on time (from the hall) will be escorted to the main school entry door (by the school office) by 3.20pm.

Year Group	Start time	Finish time
Year 3	8.50am (last entry, 9.05am)	3.20pm
Year 4	8.50am (last entry, 9.05am)	3.20pm
Year 5	8.50am (last entry, 9.05am)	3.20pm
Year 6	8.50am (last entry, 9.05am)	3.20pm

PLEASE BE ON TIME. Good punctuality is essential to your child's early Reading/ Phonics progress at school. This is how we start our school day.

Afterschool club (wrap around care, Monday- Thursday): Finish time at 5.15pm, daily.

School Gateway

If you have not yet downloaded the 'School Gateway' communication app, we would advise you to download as soon as possible. School is no longer using 'Parent Mail' and the gateway will be the new main method of communication between school and parents. You can download the app by searching 'School Gateway' in your smartphones App Store.

Parents' evening

A parents' consultation event has been scheduled for the evening of Thursday 24th April, for pupils in Reception through to pupils in Year 6. It is our intention to hold this event 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.



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Other upcoming events

After school Reading Club/Library Club, commencing Thursdays after Easter. Please be aware that school has been successful in bidding for **Tesco Stronger Starts funding**. Funding for our proposed Reading Club/Library Club application has been placed in four Tesco local stores (Failsworth Extra, Droylsden, Beswick Express and Manchester Gorton Extra).

If you a Tesco shopper, please support our funding bid by voting using the Tesco Stronger Starts 'blue' tokens. The application (our Reading Club/Library Club plus two other projects) with the highest number of votes across the four stores will receive £1,500! Second and third place will receive £1,000 and £500 respectively.

Voting will commence in store from the first week in April 2024 and until the end of June 2024.

World Book Day, Thursday 7th March. A bespoke WBD letter has been circulated previously.

Easter Raffle, between Tuesday 12th March through to Tuesday 26th March. A bespoke letter with details will be circulated at the end of next week.

Sponsored Easter Bunny Hop, Thursday 27th March. A bespoke letter with details will be circulated at the end of next week.

Food Vouchers to cover the Easter holiday 2024

You may have read in the local media that Oldham Council has been allocated funding to support vulnerable residents through its Household Support Fund (HSF). Some of this funding will be used to cover food voucher support for children eligible for means tested Free School Meals over school holidays.

We want to ensure that those eligible for free school meals on the grounds of low income receive a food voucher to cover the holiday at a rate of £40 per eligible child.

However, we must also inform you that the Household Support Fund will cease at the end of March 2024, and at present, there is no planned funding for future holiday periods.

End of the half term (spring term two)- Thursday 28th March 2024

This will be the last day of spring term two. School will close on this day for Easter at the times stated in this letter.

Beginning of the summer term (summer term one)- Monday 15th April 2024

School will open for the second spring half term on this day. Again, at the start times illustrated in this letter.

Important future dates

National Assessments 2024 will take place after Easter for children in Year 6, Year 4, and Year 1:

Year 6 SATs start on Monday 13th May to be completed by Thursday 16th May.

Year 4 Multiplication test week commencing Monday 3rd to Friday 14th June (two weeks).

Year 1 Phonics screening week commencing Monday 10th June (one week).

And finally, please see overleaf for details of our September 2024 Nursery offer. At present, we have a small number of places available for September, but these are filling up quickly.

Let's work together.

Yours sincerely,

M Roberts

Mark Roberts

Head teacher



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Nursery provision at Limehurst.

At Limehurst we offer quality nursery education for children aged between 3 and 4 years old.

We provide a 'good' Early Years education with a highly qualified, early years trained teacher and a team of experienced support staff. We plan activities to help your child's learning journey through the Early Years Foundation Stage, towards all their early learning goals. With a bright and stimulating learning environment, your child can learn through their play, both indoors and outdoors.

We focus on the 3 prime areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage, which support your child's Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development to give your child the best start in their education and also to get school ready!

Ofsted said:

- ***Leadership in the Early Years is good. The senior leader with this responsibility has a clear and well-informed view of achievement and the quality of education. She ensures that the curriculum is appropriate and is planned to build on children's previous experiences and meet their interests.***
- ***Indoor and outdoor provision is both safe and secure. The outdoor area is well developed and provides the children with a range of high-quality learning opportunities, meeting their needs in all areas of learning.***
- ***Indoor learning opportunities are engaging and exciting. They ensure the children develop their communication and language skills and their personal, social, and emotional skills rapidly.***
- ***Children are safe and secure, relationships are warm and encouraging, and welfare requirements are well met. Children from a range of backgrounds play together in a calm and encouraging atmosphere and enjoy developing together with support.***

If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, they will be eligible for a fully funded Nursery place at our school, starting September 2024.

Our offer of provision for 2024-25 is based over FOUR FULL DAYS:

Monday: Full day (8.55am-3.10pm)

Tuesday: Full day (as above)

Wednesday: Full day (as above)

Thursday: Full day (as above)

If you are interested in a nursery place in our 'good' early years' environment, please call into the school office and collect an admissions form (your child's birth certificate will be required as part of this process). For further information or to arrange an informal visit, please contact school on 0161 7707220 or email info@limehurst.oldham.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting you!

The Early Years Team.

Please note, at present we only offer a 24/25 nursery place to children born between the dates above.



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