



# St Laurence Church of England Primary School - Autumn 1 Newsletter 2024

'Learning with Love and Laughter. Growing in God's Grace'

[enquiries@st-laurence.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@st-laurence.derbyshire.sch.uk)

01159728469

[www.stlaurencecofeprimaryschool.com](http://www.stlaurencecofeprimaryschool.com)

Welcome back to a brand new school year! We hope your children are looking forward to lots of new and exciting learning this term. Please read on for some information on what is coming up in the next few weeks.

## **Photographs**

We are changing the way we seek consent for using photographs.

With digital media becoming the main form of communication in schools we are now operating an 'opt-out' system for the use of photographs. A letter will be sent out shortly outlining what you will need to do if you would like school not to use photographs of your child/children on platforms such as the newsletter, website and Class Dojo. We know that the majority of parents are extremely proud

when their child is chosen to showcase the amazing work that they do and we also understand that sometimes there are safeguarding reasons why photographs cannot be used.

Please be aware that consent will be assumed from **October 1st 2024** unless we are informed otherwise. Consent can still be withdrawn after this date. Thank you.

### ***Home/School Agreement***

*A new Home/School agreement will be sent home with your child this week. Please could you ensure that you have seen it and then log onto Class Dojo to acknowledge that you have received it. The letter outlines how we can work together to provide the best education and opportunities for you children in this coming year.*

### **Uniform**

It is lovely to see all the children in their smart school uniforms. Please could you contact the class teacher or the office if there are any questions about uniform, or if you are having difficulties sourcing any items (including PE kit) and we will do our best to help. Children who attend without uniform will have items provided by school where possible.

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **September**

- 4th INSET day
- 5th Children back in school
- 10th Y1/2 afterschool club starts
- 18th Year 4 swimming starts

### **October**

- 8th Cross Country competition at Wilsthorpe
- 11th Y5/6 football competition at Kirk Hallam
- 15th and 16th parents' evening (appointment booking link to be sent out)
- 21st Historic Workshop Y3 and 4
- 22nd DDAT 10 year anniversary event
- 23rd Autumn Crafternoon
- 25th Break up for half-term

### **November**

- 4th INSET day

*"The Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them." " Genesis 11:6*

## Attendance



Please note that the way holidays are fined is changing for this year:

*From August 2024, the fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 if paid within 28 days**. This rate is in line with inflation and is the first increase since 2012.*

*In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.*

*Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.*

*If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.*

*Money raised via fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.*

There is an expectation that any term time holiday is referred to the local authority for consideration of a fine. Any leave required must be applied for two weeks in advance and will only be authorised in accordance with government guidelines, which state that term-time holiday is not permitted.

Medical appointments should be arranged outside of school hours where possible. Any appointments within school hours will require evidence e.g. a letter or text confirming the appointment to be authorised.

Please see the following link for guidance on when your child may be too ill to attend school:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If your child is too ill to attend you must contact the office as soon as possible (before 9am) on each day of illness on 01159728469. If we do not receive notification the absence will be unauthorised and we may need to complete a home visit to confirm your child's whereabouts. If continued contact cannot be made, we may need to refer to outside agencies in order to determine your child's wellbeing. We recognise that having a poorly child can be demanding enough, without having staff knocking on your door to complete welfare checks.

Repeated absence - either authorised or unauthorised - will lead to follow up communication from school and other support offered e.g. an attendance support meeting, Early Help Services etc.

Lessons are taught in sequences, building on the knowledge and skills of the previous lessons. Even missing odd days will mean that your child will have gaps in their learning and will find it harder to catch up.

Penalty notices are always a last resort, however they are a statutory requirement in some circumstances. Please see our school website for the most up-to-date DDAT attendance policy.

## Contact Us

### **St Laurence Church of England Primary School**

Collingwood Road

Long Eaton

NG10 1DR

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