

OLDHAM COUNCIL



Limehurst Community Primary School
Whitebank Road
Oldham
OL8 3JQ
Telephone: 0161 770 3140
Mobile No: 07494403422
info@limehurst.oldham.sch.uk
www.limehurst.oldham.sch.uk
12/01/2023

Head teacher
Mr M Roberts

Dear Parent/carer,

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER ONE, 2023

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 naturally want to know if there is a concern so 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. In addition, a **senior member of staff** will be available at the main school doors from 9.05am until 9.25am for any other enquiry.

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 (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 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. This letter provides parents/carers with an update on school procedures. Please let us know if you think we may be able improve our provision in any way. 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) and Mrs J Hirst (Deputy Head teacher).

Governors with responsibility for Safeguarding; Mr G Shuttleworth (Local Authority Governor and Vice Chair of Governors) 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 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.

Attendance reminder

Leave of absence including holidays in term time

Pupil attendance is mandatory. School has been instructed to 'follow up' on any and every pupil absence. The Local Authority (in liaison with school) will once again be issuing warning notices and fixed penalty fines where applicable, as directed by the Department for Education.

All evidence shows that pupils achieve better in school when they have good attendance. This is the reason that we encourage the maximum possible learning time in school. We ask parents to apply six weeks in advance for a leave of absence, including a holiday in term-time. Parents should fill in a leave of absence request form; this is available from the school's reception. Parents will be informed as soon as possible if a request can be authorised.



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Careful consideration will be given to each request for a leave of absence. However, government legislation means that it is unlikely that any leave of absence, including term-time holidays, can be authorised by school. School works closely with the local authority who will issue penalty notice fines for unauthorised absences, including unauthorised term-time holidays.

Penalty Notice Fines are £120 per parent/carer per child when paid within 28 days or reduced to £60 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. If the fine is not paid, the parent/carer will be prosecuted. If your child is absent from school, please inform the school office at the earliest possible opportunity to ensure our records up-to-date and accurate.

School opening/ start times.

The gate to the rear school yard will be open at 8.10am each day. The school office is open at 8.15am each day.

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

Year Group	Arrival (Start) time	Collection (finish) time
Nursery	8.45am	2.45pm
Reception	8.50am	2.50pm

Year Group	Arrival (Start) time	Collection (finish) time
Year 1 & 2	8.55am	2.55pm
Year 3 & 4	8.55am	3.00pm
Year 5 & 6	8.50am	3.05pm

Please note that the school opening (lessons begin) time and closing (finish) time will be changing from ***Monday 17th April 2023**. This is a directive from the Department for Education (DfE) which states that ALL schools (with children of a statutory school age) MUST be OPEN to pupils for a total of 32 hours and 30 minutes per week (likely to be 6 hours and 30 minutes per day), to commence in 2023.

You will shortly receive information that details new *proposed* school opening and closing times that will satisfy this directive.

I stress, this change will be necessary to meet the DfE directive. How this change will 'look' is still at the planning stage, but I must forewarn parents and carers alike, it will inevitably lead to greater traffic congestion at the busy time of pupil drop-off and pupil collection.

End of the half term (spring term one)- Friday 10th February 2023

This will be the last day of spring term one. School will close on this day at the times stated above.

Beginning of the half term (spring term two)- Monday 20th 2023

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

And finally, please see overleaf for details of our September 2023 Nursery offer. At present, we still have a small number of places available for September, but these will not be available for long.

Let's work together.

Yours sincerely,

M Roberts

Mark Roberts

Head teacher

*Amended from Monday 20th February 2023



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Hello and welcome to our nursery provision here 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 2019 and 31st August 2020, they will be eligible for a fully funded Nursery place at our school, starting September 2023.

Our offer of provision for 2023-24 is based over FOUR FULL DAYS:

Monday: Full day (start and finish time to be confirmed but the day will be over 6 hours in duration)
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 7703140 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 23/24 nursery place to children born between the dates above.



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