

# OLDHAM COUNCIL



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10/01/2025

Head teacher  
Mr M Roberts

## SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER ONE, 2025

Dear Parent/carer,

### Celebrating success at Limehurst!!!

School has now received 'validated' end of Key Stage 2 SATs (Y6 leavers, July 24) results for 2024. The numbers are very impressive!

Limehurst has outperformed both the Oldham average and National average in the MAIN 'headline' area for end of Key Stage 2 pupil attainment:

Assessment areas;	Limehurst	National	Oldham
% of pupils working at AGE expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics	71%	61%	55%
% of pupils working at age expected standard in Reading	79%	74%	70%
% of pupils working at age expected standard in Writing	71%	72%	66%
% of pupils working at age expected standard in Mathematics	79%	73%	70%
% of pupils working at age expected standard in Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	79%	72%	71%

Limehurst is ranked the 14th best performing school out of 84 primary schools in Oldham (information provide by the Oldham Times December 2024) based on the percentage of Year 6 pupils achieving AGE expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics combined in 2024.

Congratulations and well done to all involved!

### School Gateway

If you have not yet downloaded the 'School Gateway' communication app, we would advise you to download as soon as possible. You can download the app by searching 'School Gateway' in your smartphones App Store.



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## **Pupil Attendance: REMINDER**

If your child is absent from school, please inform the school office at the earliest possible opportunity. This will ensure our records are up-to-date and accurate. All evidence shows that pupils achieve better in school when they have good attendance.

From September, the DFE's 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' has become statutory guidance for all schools in England. The document can be accessed on the GOV.UK website, via the link below:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance) .

With effect from August 19th, 2024, the Government have introduced new rules and have increased fines for pupils missing school. These include:

There will be a single National Threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of any type of unauthorised absence - this means that once a child has 10 unauthorised sessions (5 days or more), within a 10-week period, they will be issued with a penalty notice.

With the above in mind, kindly be aware that if your child reaches stage 2 of our attendance monitoring process, they will be added to our attendance monitoring list and their attendance will be regularly monitored by the Local Authority Attendance Team. All pupils who reach stage 2 require medical evidence to authorise ANY absences. If you do not provide medical evidence for their absence, their non-attendance will be marked as unauthorised, even if you contact school to advise us of their reason for absence. Once your child has reached 10 missed sessions (5 days), a penalty notice will be issued by the Local Authority. Prior to your child reaching stage 2 absence monitoring, you will receive a notification letter from our school.

The fine for unauthorised school absences for 5 days or more across the country will be increasing to £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if paid within 28 days. This is a fine per parent, per child.

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. This is a fine per parent, per child.

For a third offence of 5 unauthorised days of absence within a 3-year period, parents will be taken to Magistrates' Court. Prosecution can lead to a criminal record and fines of up to £2,500 per parent, per child. If found guilty, this would appear on a DBS certificate for 'failure to safeguard a child's education.

The Government drive to improve pupil attendance means your child's attendance is more important than ever and we urge you to support our school and your child's education; by ensuring they attend school during term time.

Our goal is to support you and your child in developing good habits and ensuring they have the best opportunity to succeed in school. If you require any advice or support with your child's attendance please contact the school office, who can arrange an appointment with a member of our attendance team.

Please note that our school attendance policy can be found on our website.



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## Medical Update/ Information update

We remind parents and carers that school is only permitted to administer prescribed medicines.

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

Please speak with Miss Dowden or Mrs Wychrij at the school office to facilitate this. We urge parents/carers to attend school BEFORE the school office becomes busy (ideally before 8.35am). Specific details (pupil name, medication type, dose, and frequency) of any prescribed medication administered will need to be recorded. Parental consent (via signature) is also required BEFORE administration in school.

Both Miss Dowden and Mrs Wychrij have completed the necessary training to record and administer medication in school (Safe Handling and Administration of Medication, Level 2).

The full policy for Medicines in School is laid out in the School Medical Policy and available upon request.

## Asthma

Children who have been diagnosed as asthmatic MUST have a reliever/ inhaler in school. Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Please update school if your child's medical condition/ health changes over the course of the school year.

## School holiday pattern, 2025/26

The school holiday pattern, 2025/26, has been attached with this letter. Please remember that Limehurst's holiday pattern will differ from the Oldham Council school year plan (as advertised on their website) due to each maintained school being allowed to 'set' their own in-service training dates (INSET).

## End of the spring term one: Friday 14th February 2025

**Friday 14th February is the last pupil day of the autumn term. School will close on this day at our usual times.**

## Spring term 2 begins on: Monday 24th February 2025

**School will open for spring term 2 on this day, Monday 24th February, at our usual times.**

Thank you for your ongoing co-operation and best wishes for 2025!

Yours sincerely,

***M Roberts***

Mark Roberts  
Head teacher



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