

Friday Newsletter

Friday 6th September 2024

Principal's Messages:

A warm welcome back to all our families for the new academic year. It has been a great start to the year and the children have all come back well rested and motivated to learn which is lovely to see. There is a real buzz around school!

New Uniform

Thank you so much for being patient whilst the teething problems with our new uniform supplier has been sorted out. I have shared all the feedback you have given us and I am working to rectify any problems. Orders are being delivered daily and I hope to ensure that the back log of orders has been cleared by the end of next week.

Thank you for ensuring that pupils are wearing correct uniform where possible. We are particularly pleased that all pupils have the correct footwear and are wearing appropriate all-black shoes with their uniform. Please can parents ensure that this is maintained all year.

I would also like to remind parents of 3 things that have been picked up this week:

- all pupils are expected to have a tie once deliveries have arrived
- Pupils should be wearing a shirt and not a polo shirt
- Girls' skirts should be black pleated skirts and not fitted elasticated skirts

I would appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is wearing the correct items of uniform.

Mobile Phones in School

If pupils are walking to and from school on their own, they are permitted to bring their mobile phone to school for safety reasons. Phones must be switched off before entering the school gates and handed directly to the class teacher each morning where they will be stored securely and handed back to pupils at the end of the day. Phones **MUST NOT** be kept in bags or lockers or used during the school day. Please can I ask that parents support us in not allowing pupils to bring phones to school unless absolutely necessary.

Enjoy your weekend, let's hope the sunshine continues!

Mrs Thompson

Attendance Matters

Here are our attendance figures for this week

Our school target:	96%	
Overall school attendance this week:	93.93%	
Overall school attendance this year:	94.31%	
	2S – 100% ★	5F – 99.19%
	3J – 98.33%	5S – 90.63%
1J – 85.94%	3P – 97.58%	6E – 94.58%
1L – 96.35%	4S – 90.34%	6H – 99.14%
2P – 90%	4W – 94.38%	



For more information regarding attendance and punctuality; including term time absences and our policies, please see our webpage:

<http://www.leightonacademy.com>

Parent fines for missing school: what you need to know

Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. Evidence shows that pupils who have good attendance benefit from better wellbeing and school performance than those who don't. The school day is split into two sessions – one session counts as a morning or afternoon spent in school. There are only a few occasions where a child is allowed to miss school, such as illness or where the school has given permission because of an exceptional circumstance. However, if your child misses school without a good reason, the school can intervene and you may be issued a fine. The Department for Education has also introduced a national framework which will mean all councils have the same rules in place for when they need to consider a fine.



How much could I be fined if my child misses school?

In the majority of cases, we will try and provide support to help you improve your child's attendance first, but if this isn't effective or the absence is for unauthorised term time holiday, parents may face paying a fine. Under the national rules, all schools are required to consider a fine when a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons.

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. [None of this money goes back to the school.](#)

How can you be sure parent fines are fair?

Fines are a last resort, and parents will be offered support to help improve their child's attendance first. The vast majority of fines for unauthorised absence (89%) are issued for term time holidays. If your child is facing barriers to school attendance due to special education needs or disabilities (SEND), schools, local authorities and wider services are required to work together to provide the right support.

What if my child needs to miss school?

Your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- Your child is too ill to attend that day.
- You have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on that day due to exceptional circumstances.
- Your child cannot attend school on that day because it is a day you are taking part in religious observance.
- Your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it is not available on that day or has not been provided yet.
- You are a gypsy/traveller family with no fixed abode, and you are required to travel for work that day meaning your child cannot attend their usual school.

Why is attendance important?

For most pupils, the best place to be during term-time is in school, surrounded by the support of their friends and teachers.

This is important not just for your child's learning, but also for their overall wellbeing, wider development and their mental health. It's not just children who fail to attend school who miss out, but those around them too.

For further information, please visit:

<https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-attendance/action-when-children-miss-school.aspx>

Our attendance officer is Miss Lockitt who can be contacted via the school office if you require any support with attendance.



Publish date: 06/02/19

What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:

Universal, suitable for all ages	Parental Guidance required	Suitable for people aged 12 and over	Suitable for people aged 12 and over, anyone younger must be accompanied by an adult
Suitable for people aged 15 and over	Suitable for people aged 18 and over	Adult content only available in specially licenced cinemas and specialist retailers	

WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: www.bbfc.co.uk

RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:

www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info	www.pegi.info

PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: www.pegi.info

School Meals

If your child is not entitled to a free school meal, please log onto their Arbor account to pay for their meal in advance of their order.

School meals are £2.35 per day.



Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red Option	Macaroni Cheese	Chicken Curry with 50/50 Rice	Roast Chicken with Creamy Mash Potato & Gravy	Spaghetti Bolognese	Chicken Burger with Chips
Yellow Option	Sweet Potato & Chickpea Curry with 50/50 Rice	Quorn Lasagne with Garlic Bread	Quorn Pie with Creamy Mash Potato & Gravy	Vegetable Noodles	Vegetarian Burger with Chips
Green Option	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato
Orange Option	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection
Desserts	Marble Sponge	Oaty Biscuit	Shortbread	Fruit Sponge & Custard	Cheese & Crackers
	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt
Seasonal Vegetables and Salad Bar					

Please see below a reminder of the term dates for the academic year 2024/25 for your reference:

Holiday Dates 2024 / 2025		
TERM	DATE OF CLOSING	DATE OF RE-OPENING
AUTUMN TERM		Tuesday 3 rd September 2024
Half Term	Friday 25 th October 2024	Tuesday 5 th November 2024
Christmas Holiday	Friday 20 th December 2024	
SPRING TERM		Tuesday 7 th January 2025
Half Term	Friday 14 th February 2025	Monday 24 th February 2025
Spring Break	Friday 4 th April 2025	
SUMMER TERM		Tuesday 22 nd April 2025
May Bank Holiday	Friday 2 nd May 2025	Tuesday 6 th May 2025
Half Term	Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Monday 2 nd June 2025
Summer Holiday	Friday 18 th July 2025	Monday 1 st September 2025

In-service Training Days (school closed to pupils)

Monday 2nd September 2024

Friday 23rd May 2025

Monday 4th November 2024

Monday 21st July 2025

Monday 6th January 2025