

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

February 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

It has been a while since I last wrote to you and it will come as no surprise that there is much on which to update you. You will, I hope, notice our new letterhead, the format of which now links with our website. As usual, I encourage you to visit the 'Latest' section of our website for an ongoing summary of learning and life at Lawnswood School.

Parent governor election results

I am delighted to announce that, following the voting on Tuesday 2 February, Jez Willis was elected as our new parent governor. Jez is also chair of governors at a local primary school and will be a welcome addition to our governing body. Thank you very much to all those parents and carers who took the time to vote in this election.

New rewards and behaviour policy

You may be aware we have launched a new rewards and behaviour policy this half term. The full policy is available on our website and was explained to your child during assemblies before half term. Essentially we have improved our system for rewarding students' progress, effort and academic achievement and we are reinforcing our already established code of conduct (which can be found on page 11 of your child's planner) with a very clear and consistent approach to behaviour sanctions. We hope that you will notice our improved communication of rewards and that students will appreciate us all working together to improve their learning environments at school.

As part of the new behaviour policy, we will be ensuring that students are wearing full school uniform – full details of our uniform requirements are on page 13 of your child's planner and displayed on our website in the main school section under 'Our uniform'. Students who do not attend school with the correct uniform will be, where possible, sent home to change into the correct uniform or be out of circulation until they are wearing the correct uniform.

We will also be insisting students have the basic equipment, as listed in the essential equipment column for 'All subjects' in the table below. Again, details of this are in the student planner, on page 6. Specialist equipment for various subjects is detailed below and our PE kit is detailed on page 12 of your child's planner.

Subject	Essential equipment	Desirable equipment	Can I purchase this from school?
All subjects	2 x black or blue pens 2 x pencils 1 x eraser 1 x ruler 1 x pencil case Bag suitable for carrying A4 folders and books	Green pen Purple pen Pencil sharpener	Not at the moment

Subject	Essential equipment	Desirable equipment	Can I purchase this from school?
Maths	scientific calculator (we recommend Casio FX85GT) compass protractor		Yes Yes Yes
Art	sketchbook colouring pencils / felt tips	USB (memory) stick	Yes Yes No
Science	scientific calculator		Yes, from maths

To buy equipment from school, students should ask their subject teacher for an order form, which he/she will bring home for you to complete and return with the appropriate payment.

Recharge & Refuel (R&R@Lawnswood)

This summer's enrichment days will take place on **Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 June 2016** (Friday 1 July is a training day and therefore school will be closed to students). The aim of these days is that students engage in different activities, reflect upon past experiences and develop their teamwork skills.

We have changed the model for R&R this year and all students will have the opportunity to go on a trip and take part in a sports day. As in previous years, the trip will be subsidised by the school and funds raised by students, but there will also be a cost per student for the two day programme. We will be in touch with you later in the term with more details and to seek your financial contributions and permissions.

Non-uniform day – rearranged for Thursday 3 March 2016

Unfortunately, we had to close the school to students on Friday 12 February. It was a last resort to close the school but was necessary as we had no heating, hot water or ability to serve hot food to the students owing to a boiler failure. I have had absolute assurances from Carillion (our site contractors) that the problems have been fixed and we should not have any further issues. Please accept my apologies for the disruption and inconvenience caused.

We were due to have a non-uniform day on Friday 12 February to raise funds for the students R&R programme. To ensure students get the opportunity to wear non-uniform and we can raise funds, we have moved the **non-uniform day to Thursday 3 March**.

It is also World Book Day on this day and we would like to invite students to dress as their favourite fictional character, if they wish to, instead of wearing their usual casual clothes. Students will be required to **pay £1**, whether they wear their own clothes or dress up and this will be collected by their tutors.

Our written communication with you

With a view to making our communication with you more efficient and to minimise use of resources, we would like to start sending some of our correspondence to you by email instead of by external or student post. We do not intend to email all correspondence: for example, we will still send confidential correspondence on paper by external post as we do now.

In preparation for this change, we would like your permission to communicate by email instead of on paper, when appropriate. Also, we would like to ensure that the contact information we have for you is correct so that emails or texts are not misdirected.

To that end, I should be grateful if you would complete the enclosed contact details sheet and return it to Student Reception in school by Friday 18 March.

Spring Bank Primary School expansion consultation

Leeds City Council is consulting on a proposal to expand Spring Bank Primary School from a capacity of 210 to 420 pupils by permanently increasing the admission limit in reception from 30 to 60 pupils from September 2018.

The consultation period begins on Thursday 25 February 2016 and closes on Monday 14 March 2016 at 4pm. During this time, the Council will be having some drop-in sessions for parents, carers and residents to learn more about the proposal and ask any questions you may have. The format of the drop-in sessions is informal and you may attend the drop-in sessions at any point between the start and finish times.

Drop-in sessions at Spring Bank Primary School

- Friday 4 March 8.30am – 10.00am
- Friday 4 March 3.00pm – 4.30pm
- Wednesday 9 March 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Forthcoming events

Thursday 3 March: non-uniform day (R&R fundraising)

Thursday 3 March: World Book Day

w/c 7 March: Careers and Apprenticeship Week

w/c 14 March: Science and Engineering Week

w/c 14 March: Spanish exchange students visit to Lawnswood School

Thursday 17 March: Year 10 Parent Consultation Evening from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Friday 18 March: Sport Relief 2016

w/c 21 March: Year 7 Space Week

Wednesday 23 March: Key Stage 3 Speech Day

Friday 25 March and Monday 28 March: school closed for Easter bank holiday weekend

Wednesday 30 March: Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Friday 1 April: non-uniform day (R&R fundraising)

Monday 4 April to Friday 15 April: school closed for end of term holiday

Thursday 28 April: Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening from 5.00pm until 7.00pm

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. We are working hard to maintain our level of improvement and we appreciate your part in this. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy Easter and end of term holiday in April.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Bell
Headteacher