



# St Lawrence Primary School

## St Lawrence Newsletter - 11th September

Dear parents and carers,

What a great first week back!

I have been delighted to see our school community buzzing with enthusiasm and positivity.

A special congratulations goes to Bibi in Year 2 for creating our inspiring new *"Be the Change"* certificate, which will help us celebrate the children who make a positive difference to our school each day. It has also been a pleasure to welcome our newest Reception children and their families through our Stay and Play sessions, which have provided a fantastic opportunity for everyone to begin building relationships and settling into school life. Meanwhile, our Year 5 pupils have already been demonstrating excellent leadership and responsibility as they work hard to improve our library area, helping to create an inviting space that will encourage a love of reading across the school.

Excitingly, you also will have heard from our pupils that we have chosen new class names! Read on to find out who our new classes are.

Thank you to everyone for making such a positive start to the new term.

Kind regards

Ms Majumdar

## Tea with Ms Majumdar

This week I had the pleasure of having tea with Joshua, Willow, Olivia, Leon and Scarlett.

Willow joined for always showing great learning behaviour including 'Give Me 5' and thoughtful contributions in lessons. A brilliant start to her time at St Lawrence. Joshua joined because he's always Giving 5, ready to learn and trying his best. Olivia has been an excellent Y6 role-model for her peers and our younger learners. She is always offering to help out and

always giving 100% to her learning. Leon joined for trying really hard this week on his learning and continuing to work on giving 5 every time. Scarlett has been working hard on focusing and her excellent French work demonstrated this!

Well done to everyone who came to tea this week and I look forward to welcoming more children next week!

## Celebration Assembly

A huge congratulations to our certificate winners this week!





## Attendance

*Being here, every day, on time matters*

Being in school affects so much more than what your child can achieve academically. Attendance is crucial to building friendships, wider interests and passions and importantly feeling fully a part of our school.

We would like to thank you in advance for all your support with helping get your children to school each day and supporting them to be the best they can possibly be.

**Congratulations to Duckling class with the highest attendance this week at 100%!**

| Class       | Year | wc 07.09.26 |
|-------------|------|-------------|
| Duckling    | YR   | 100%        |
| Puffin      | Y1   | 95.6%       |
| Hummingbird | Y2   | 96.4%       |
| Kingfisher  | Y3   | 95.8%       |
| Toucan      | Y4   | 94.6%       |
| Owl         | Y5   | 97.5%       |
| Eagle       | Y6   | 93.8%       |

**Studybugs and other absences**

The Study Bugs app is used to report an illness on the day.

**Please** download<sup>1</sup> **the free Studybugs app** or register via the Studybugs website<sup>2</sup>.

For other absence requests including -

- *Medical or dental treatment appointments*
- *Requesting an absence for your child for 1 day, or part of 1 day*
- *Requesting an absence for your child for 2 days or more during the school term*

Please use the forms on our website.

### **A Message from Our Education Welfare Officer**

Hello,

My name is Lauren Hawker, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the school's Education Welfare Officer (EWO).

I will be visiting the school fortnightly on a Tuesday, working closely with families and staff to support pupils' attendance and ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to thrive in school. You may see me around the school during my visits, including at the school gates at the beginning or end of the school day.

My role is to work alongside parents, carers and the school to help overcome any barriers that may be affecting attendance. I understand that every family is different, and I am here to offer support, guidance and advice where needed.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's attendance, or if there is anything you feel the school should be aware of that may impact their attendance, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Early communication is often the best way to ensure that the right support is in place.

I look forward to meeting you and becoming part of the school community.

Kind regards,

Lauren Hawker

Education Welfare Officer (EWO)

---

<sup>1</sup><https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

<sup>2</sup><https://studybugs.com/about/parents>



**Lauren Hawker**  
Education Welfare Officer

## Dates for the Diary

### **Class coffee mornings:**

Y4 - Monday 14th Sept 8.30am in the hall

Y3 - Tuesday 15th Sept 8.30am in the hall

Y2 - Wednesday 16th Sept 8.30am in the hall

Y5 - Friday 18th Sept 8.30am in the hall

Y1 - Thursday 17th Sept 8.30am in the hall

Y6 - Monday 21st Sept 8.30am in the hall

Click here for important dates for your diary<sup>3</sup>

Term Dates can be found here<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup><https://www.stlawrence-primary.org/Calendar/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.stlawrence-primary.org/Our-School/Term-Dates/>

## PE and Forest School Dates

| Year group | PE Days              | Forest school days    |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| R          | Monday & Thursday    | Every Friday          |
| 1          | Monday & Thursday    | Friday 11th September |
| 2          | Monday & Wednesday   | Friday 18th September |
| 3          | Wednesday & Thursday | Friday 25th September |
| 4          | Tuesday & Friday     | Friday 2nd October    |
| 5          | Thursday & Friday    | Friday 9th October    |
| 6          | Tuesday & Wednesday  | Friday 16th October   |

## Class Names



*1 - Our classes discussed and voted for their new class names this week. These are the results - welcome to our new flock!*

## Parent Workshops and Tea and Talks

This term, we are hosting two parent workshops: **Helping Your Child Get Ready for School** and **Supporting Your Child to Talk About Feelings**. These sessions are designed to give parents practical tools to help children thrive both academically and emotionally.

Each workshop will be followed by **Tea & Talks** in the playground, offering a chance for parents and carers to meet, share experiences, ask questions, and connect with staff over a complimentary tea or coffee. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Parent workshops (Hall) 8.30-9am:*

Tuesday 28th September - Getting ready for school

Tuesday 5th October - Talking about feelings

*Tea and Talk (playground) 8.30-9am:*

Wednesday 30th September - Getting ready for school

Friday 2nd October - Getting ready for school

Wednesday 7th October - Talking about feelings

Friday 9th October - Talking about feelings

## A reminder about parking

We thank you in advance for your careful and considerate parking in the local area during drop off and collection.

We kindly request that all members of our community park with courtesy whether in the neighbouring roads, or at the local church or pub.

We kindly request that should you make use of the parking at the local pub, 'The Plough', you respect the following:

AM - Both carpark (red and yellow) can be used, for the yellow carpark - only use the numbered bays as the rest are for staff/deliveries.

PM - Yellow carpark only within the numbered bays (the pub will be open and need carpark yellow for customers).

Please see the image below for further guidance



# Safeguarding

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

**AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 7**

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

### ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

### ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

### MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

### SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

### PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

### TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

### Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGible.

**#WakeUpWednesday**

**The National College**

[@wake\\_up\\_weds](https://twitter.com/wake_up_weds) [www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com) [@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday) [@wake.up.weds](https://www.tiktok.com/@wake.up.weds)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.04.2025

## Our Safeguarding Team

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                |                                                                 |
| <p><b>DSL: Matthew Barnard</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:dsl@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk">dsl@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk</a><br/> <a href="mailto:Matthew.barnard@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk">Matthew.barnard@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk</a></p> | <p><b>Principal/<br/>Deputy DSL: Libby Majumdar</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:Libby.majumdar@Stlawrence.thpt.org.uk">Libby.majumdar@Stlawrence.thpt.org.uk</a></p> | <p><b>Deputy DSL: Suzan Kern</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:Suzan.kern@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk">Suzan.kern@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk</a></p>              |
|                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                |                                                                 |
| <p><b>Deputy DSL: Jacqui Batchelor</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:Jacqui.Batchelor@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk">Jacqui.Batchelor@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk</a></p>                                                                       | <p><b>Deputy DSL: Debbie Taggart</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:Deborah.Taggart@Stlawrence.thpt.org.uk">Deborah.Taggart@Stlawrence.thpt.org.uk</a></p>              | <p><b>Deputy DSL: Andi Robinson</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:Andrea.Robinson@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk">Andrea.Robinson@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk</a></p> |



## **Changes to Fixed Penalty Notices (Fines) From September 2024**

At St Lawrence School our aim is to ensure that all students have excellent attendance. Excellent attendance means a student never misses a day of school with a very good reason and the school has authorised the absence. Our aim is to work with students and their families to ensure excellent attendance for all. In some cases, it may be necessary to take legal action to help achieve excellent attendance. These processes are described below.

### **When can legal action be taken for absences from school?**

An unauthorised leave of absence for 10 or more continuous sessions\* / 5 days

10 or more sessions\* of unauthorised absence in 10 weeks.

\*A school day counts as 2 sessions.

### **First Instance**

Outcome: A fine of £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

### **Second Instance (within 3 years)**

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued

Outcome: A fine of £160 per parent/ per child if paid within 28 days. No reduced rate for early payment.

### **Third and further offences (within 3 years)**

A penalty notice will not be issued, the case will be heard in the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates can issue fines up to £2500 per parent per child.

Cases found guilty in the Magistrates' Court may show on a parents' future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

### **FAQs**

#### **Which absence codes relate to unauthorised absence?**

G code – An unauthorised leave of absence such as a holiday

O code – no reason is given for the absence, or the reason given is not satisfactory

U code – Late after the registers have closed

#### **How can I get support to improve my child's attendance?**

We will always do our best to work with you to help improve your child's attendance. Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. Other staff who can support attendance are Debbie Taggart, Pastoral Lead and Mrs Batchelor, Office Manager

#### **Where can I find out more about school attendance?**

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence/legal-action-to-enforce-school-attendance>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### **Key Staff**

SLT Attendance Lead: Ms Majumdar

SLT Attendance Admin: Mrs Jemma Harber

## Smartphone Free Childhood - a pact

A parent recently shared the *Smartphone Free Childhood* movement, which aims to bring families and communities together to encourage healthier, happier childhoods by delaying smartphone and social media use for children.

The initiative is not about banning technology, but about giving young people more time for real-world connection, play, learning and wellbeing, while helping parents navigate these challenges collectively rather than alone. We encourage families interested in this growing conversation to explore the organisation's mission and resources here:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/about-us/our-mission>

## Local Notices

# GIRLS GOLF COACHING TASTER

**COME ALONG, MEET COACH MOLLY & EXPERIENCE OUR NEW GIRLS GOLF ACADEMY!**

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- ✓ Expert coaching & skill development.
- ✓ Games, challenges & competitions.
- ✓ Confidence & leadership activities.
- ✓ Coaching for all abilities.
- ✓ Friendly, girls only class.

 **SATURDAY**  
12 SEPTEMBER 2026

 **DRIFT GOLF CLUB**

 **7-11 YEARS - 2PM-3PM**  
**12-16 YEARS - 3PM-4PM**

**CONTACT MOLLY TO GET INVOLVED!**  
**MMGOLFCOACHING@GMAIL.COM    07554264554**



## Leatherhead Fire Station Open Day

**Sunday 20th September 2026**  
**11am - 3pm**

Additional Needs and Disability Hour  
from 10am - 11am

## Surrey Fire and Rescue Service



New and exciting classes coming to Bookham!

# FREE TRIAL CLASSES!

Come and try our exciting classes for free!  
Everyone welcome - no experience needed!

Ages 4 - 7 years  
Tuesdays  
8th & 15th September 2026  
4 - 5 pm

Ages 8 - 11 years  
Tuesdays  
8th & 15th September 2026  
5 - 6.30 pm

DANCE  
PERFORM  
MAKE  
FRIENDS  
BE YOU!







Ballet   Modern   Tap   Jazz   Musical Theatre  
Street Styles   Contemporary   Acrobatic Arts

New Branch – Opening September 2026

Classes held at Eastwick Road Church  
Eastwick Rd, Great Bookham, Leatherhead KT23 4BE    Ages Toddlers - 18 years

 @grayes\_official
 www.grayes.co.uk
 L-athomson@grayes.co.uk
 07957 380389

