



St Lawrence Primary School

St Lawrence Newsletter - 18th September

Dear parents and carers,

As we begin our second full week of the new school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has already been a fantastic start to the term.

It has been wonderful to see our children settling so quickly into their learning and embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm and positivity. A huge thank you to The Friends for organising the Back to School BBQ last week, which was a brilliant opportunity for families to come together and celebrate the start of another successful year.

Our house captains, sports crew and school council have been elected and so the new era of pupil leadership has begun this week. It is a delight to see our pupils being empowered to be the change they want to see within their school community and learning how to navigate this responsibility. This afternoon, we are also proud to have so many children representing the school in our first cross-country event of the year. We wish every runner the very best of luck and thank them for demonstrating such commitment, determination and school spirit.

I look forward to seeing many of you cheering them on this evening!

Kind regards

Ms Majumdar

Tea with Ms Majumdar

This week I had the pleasure of having tea with Cece, Will, Darcy, Dilan and Oscar

Cece came to tea because she is always giving 100% in everything she does. She challenges herself to improve, listen carefully, act on feedback and is rightly proud of the work she produces. Will has been working incredibly hard in Maths and Reading, showing aspiration in his learning this week. Darcy came to tea for giving 100% in lessons. Work is completed to

the best of her ability and she makes great contributions to class discussions! Dilan has had a great attitude to learning this week and has got stuck in with all the tasks as well as showing he is ready to learn. Oscar came to tea for being proactive and bringing in his own D&T resources!

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

Communication and Concerns

We greatly value the positive relationships we have with our parents and carers and believe that open, respectful communication is essential to supporting every child's success at school.

We understand that, from time to time, parents may have questions, concerns or require clarification about an aspect of school life. In these situations, we kindly ask that concerns are raised directly with the school so that we can listen, investigate where necessary, and work together to find a resolution. The most effective way to address any issue is through direct communication with the appropriate member of staff, who will be best placed to help.

Whilst social media platforms and WhatsApp groups can be useful for sharing general information between families, they are not appropriate forums for discussing individual students, staff members, or school matters. Conversations in these groups can sometimes lead to misunderstandings or the sharing of incomplete information, making it more difficult to resolve concerns constructively.

If you have any questions or worries, however small they may seem, please contact the school in the first instance. By working together and maintaining open lines of communication, we can ensure that concerns are addressed accurately, fairly and in the best interests of all members of our school community.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Uniform Review Update

Thank you to everyone who has already shared their views as part of our ongoing uniform review. We have received valuable feedback from parents, carers, students and staff, which is helping to shape our plans moving forward.

We expect to provide a further update on the proposed changes after the October half term, with any new uniform arrangements due to come into effect from **January**. We are committed to ensuring that families have plenty of notice and clear guidance ahead of any changes being introduced.

Before then, we are keen to hear from even more parents and carers. We are therefore inviting additional families to join our parent focus group and contribute to the discussion. If you would like to be involved, please complete our [Expression of Interest - Parent Focus Group](#) form. The deadline for expressions of interest is **next Friday, 25 September**. We look forward to hearing from families who would like to help shape this important aspect of school life.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Allergy Update: Sesame and Nut Awareness

We have recently been informed that a child in school has an allergy to sesame.

To help us maintain a safe environment for all pupils, we kindly ask parents and carers to be especially mindful when preparing snacks and packed lunches. Please ensure that any snacks brought into school **do not contain nuts or sesame**, including products that *may contain* these ingredients or traces of them.

As sesame can be found in a wide range of foods, such as bread products, crackers, cereal bars, hummus and some snack foods, we would appreciate your careful checking of ingredient labels before sending items into school.

Thank you for your support and understanding in helping us keep all members of our school community safe.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding food allergies, please contact the school office.

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 14.09.26
Duckling	YR	100%
Puffin	Y1	98.6%
Hummingbird	Y2	90.4%
Kingfisher	Y3	94.2%
Toucan	Y4	95.7%
Owl	Y5	89.0%
Eagle	Y6	92.9%

Studybugs and other absences

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

Please [download](#) the free Studybugs app or register via the [Studybugs website](#).

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)



Lauren Hawker
Education Welfare Officer

Dates for the Diary

[Click here for important dates for your diary](#)

[Term Dates can be found here](#)

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 GAMINGbible.

[#WakeUpWednesday](#)

The National College

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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

		
DSL: Matthew Barnard dsl@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk Matthew.barnard@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk	Principal/ Deputy DSL: Libby Majumdar Libby.majumdar@Stlawrence.thpt.org.uk	Deputy DSL: Suzan Kern Suzan.kern@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk

		
Deputy DSL: Jacqui Batchelor Jacqui.Batchelor@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk	Deputy DSL: Debbie Taggart Deborah.Taggart@Stlawrence.thpt.org.uk	Deputy DSL: Andi Robinson Andrea.Robinson@stlawrence.thpt.org.uk



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

 "SO GOOD YOU COULD BE IN LONDON" - A 7 YEAR OLD

THE SMALLEST SARDINE OF THE SEVEN SEAS

A VERY LONG NAME FOR A VERY SMALL FISH



A MINI MUSICAL

The Stoke Pub Function Room
Saturday 19th September, 2pm

Tickets from £8: GuildfordFringeFestival.com

 guildford fringe festival

 **Bus Stop Forest School** Explore Learn Connect

Stay and Play Sessions

Join us for Stay and Play sessions in our beautiful woodland setting.

 **Term Time Dates**

Friday 18th Sept
25th Sept
13th Nov
20th Nov
27th Nov
4th Dec

 9.45am to 11.45am

 Suitable for 1yrs to 4yrs

 Come and go, no need to book.

 For prices for our term time and holiday sessions please visit our website www.bustoppreschool.co.uk



October Half Term Halloween Themed Sessions

We will be running three Halloween themed sessions in the October half term.

 **Halloween Craft Session**

 Thursday 29th Oct

 10am to 12pm

 Ages 1yrs to 10yrs

 **Teenage Session**

 Thursday 29th Oct

 1.30pm to 3.30pm

 Ages 10yrs to 16yrs

 **SEND Session**

 Friday 30th Oct

 10am to 12pm

 All ages welcome

 Booking is required for the October half term sessions.

 Polesden Lacey Estate, Bookham, Surrey, RH5 6BD

 For prices for our term time and holiday sessions please visit our website www.bustoppreschool.co.uk

 @bustopforest
Bus Stop Pre-School & Forest School



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









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 Toddling - 18 years

♥ DANCE PERFORM MAKE FRIENDS BE YOU! ♥

♥ TASTER IN ALL GENRES! ♥

 @grayes_official
  www.grayes.co.uk
  L-athomson@grayes.co.uk
  07957 380389