



May Newsletter 2025

Latest News

May is always an important time in Primary Schools. During the second week in May, children in Year 6 will take their SAT tests, the official tests to show how well the school has helped prepare them for high school.

Children in the other year groups will take their assessments in June, including Year 1 children taking their Phonic Screening Check and Year 4 children taking their Multiplication (times tables) Check. so May is a really important month for them too, as teachers help the children to lock in key facts they have learnt this year.

As ever, we will be writing to all parents and carers at the start of July with the children's end-of-year report to let you know how they have done.

Attendance in School

With key assessments coming up this term, it is more important than ever to be in school on time, every day. We know that it might be tempting to book a holiday when the kids are at school as the prices are so different, but the rules around term-time holidays have been tightened up and the fines are now much higher. The poster below explains the changes. If you went on term-time holiday last year or the year before, your fine will be at least £160 per child, and if this would be your third holiday the fine could be up to £2,500 per child.

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

1

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2

SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

The following changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines issued after **19th August 2024**.

3

THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future DBS certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.



Parking around school at drop-off and pick-up

Residents of Sandon Mount have again asked me to remind you that they need access to their driveways before and after school. They need to set off for work or to take their elderly parents to the hospital, and they would appreciate it if you didn't park your car over their driveways to drop off and pick up your children.

School Grid

From next week, we will be using School Grid to allow children to choose their school meals at home with you. This will mean that the cooks will know how many meals they should prepare and cook, saving time and money on wasted meals. If you have not already created your profile on the website and need support, please get in touch with the school office, who will be more than happy to help.

School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a free school meal. **This is not linked to benefits or how much you earn and could save you up to £420.** During these difficult financial times, it could make a big difference. Let the office know if you want your child to start school meals.

Families eligible for Free School Meals in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

We have identified 60 children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who could get free school meals, but their families have not applied. This might be because their children are fussy eaters and will only eat a packed lunch, or because they didn't know they could apply. We have contacted these families and are happy to help them apply. The school will also get an extra £1500 for each child who gets the funding, so it could be worth up to £90,000 if all the children successfully applied.

Here is essential information about upcoming events:

Monday, 5th May – Bank Holiday

The school will be closed.

Monday, 12th May to Thursday, 15th May – Year 6 SAT Tests

We are providing a breakfast grab bag every morning during SAT week to ensure the children are in school and ready to take the tests. The tests will start around 9:15 a.m. every day, so it is important that the children are in school and on time.

Thursday, 15th May – Summer Census in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

The Government will use the number of meals we serve on this day to determine how much money it will pay us for school meals in the summer term. To ensure we get as much money as possible, we plan to give every child in Rec, Year 1, and Year 2 a meal. This won't cost you anything but will help us. If you think your child won't eat a school meal, you can always send them with their packed lunch.

Friday, 23rd May – Break up for Half-term

We will break up for half-term on **Friday, 23rd May at 3.20 p.m.** and return on **Monday, 2nd June.**

Twitter

For more information and to see photos from these events, follow us on Twitter @HCPSLeeds or our Facebook page.

Questions and Information

If you have any questions or need further information about items in this newsletter, please ask your class teacher or me. We will be happy to help.

Kind Regards Mr Martin Lumb



Governors' News

It is that time of the year when Mr Lumb and the school leaders meet with Leeds City Council to find out how much money they have been given to provide the children with everything they need for the year ahead.

This year, that meeting is on Wednesday, 30th April, and we hope we are given the money we need to continue providing vital support to the children and families.

Some of the fantastic things that we currently provide are:

- Free Residential Trips for all the children in Years 6, 5, 4 and 3 in September.
- Rainbow Room provision – an amazing resource for a group of children on the autistic spectrum who would find it very difficult in a large classroom.
- Restorative Learning – a wonderful space for 6 children who find it difficult to concentrate in a large Year 5 or 6 classroom.
- Impact North – trained therapists who come into school on two days each week to help children and their parents/carers with their mental health.
- Speech and Language Therapy – a trained therapist from the NHS who works in school two days a week to help children with communication difficulties.
- Food and clothes parcels – times are tough, and school have a bank of food and clothes that we can give to families who need it.

I know whatever funding we are given, Mr Lumb and his team will do everything they can to make sure that you and your children get the best possible start in life.

Chair of Governors Sarah Gardner

School Council News

We have exciting news! We have managed to book the Houses of Parliament tour on Friday, June 27th. Last year, it was action-packed, and everyone loved it, especially the bit where we went to Hamley's toy store! We are looking forward to going again, especially if we go to Pizza Express again... please, Mr Lumb!

We are starting to talk to the Year 5 school councillors about standing for Head Boy and Girl and what it will be like to make a speech in front of the whole school. We know they will be great!

On Monday, 12th May, Ryan and I will start to take our SATs in Spelling and Grammar, Reading and Maths, with the other Year 6 children. We have all been working hard to revise and prepare. We would like to wish all of Year 6 the best of luck, and I am sure we will all do well.

Thank you for reading,
Ella and Ryan – Head Girl and Boy.