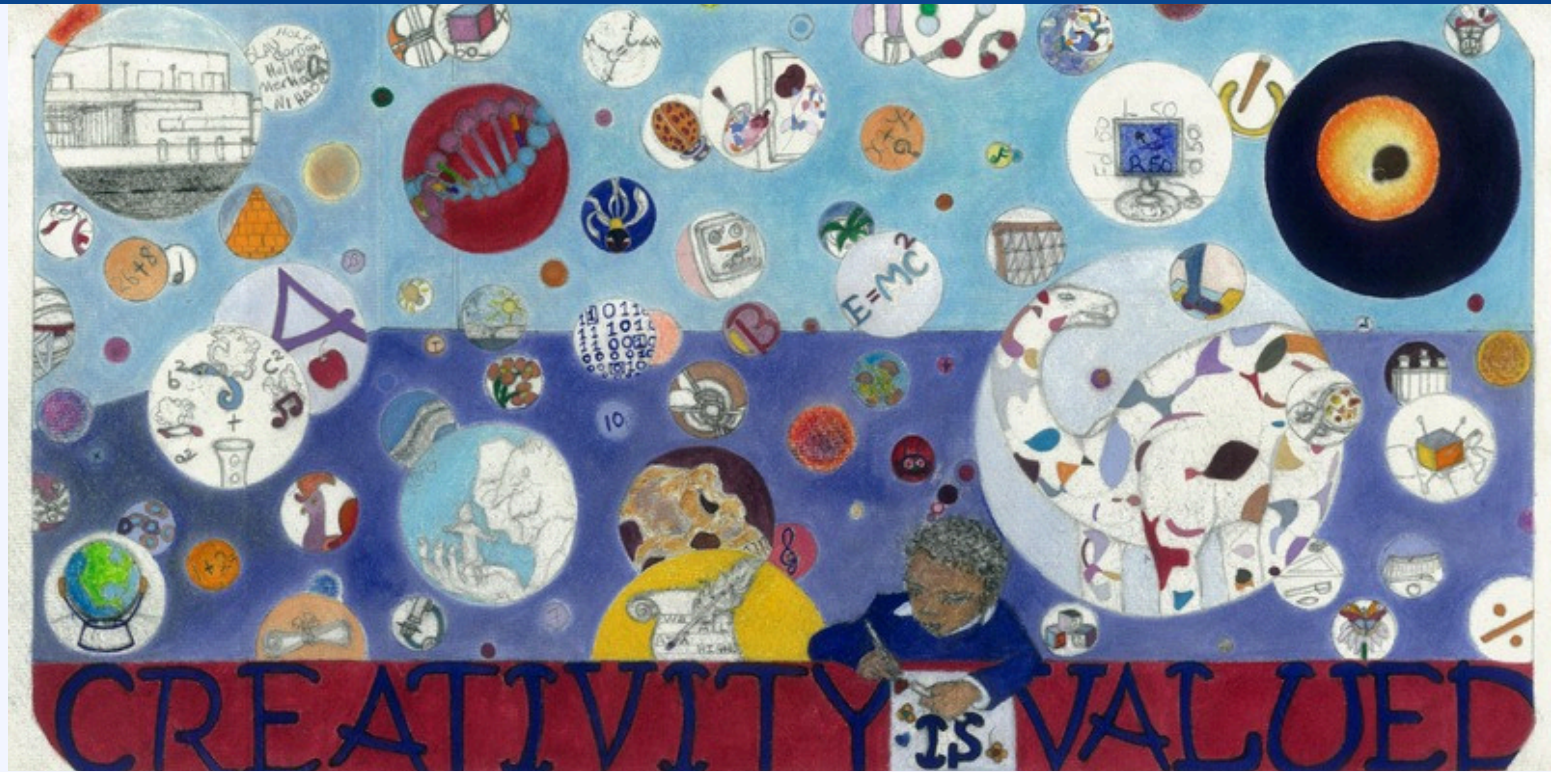


Lancasterian Lowdown

- we all aim high;
- everyone is included
- creativity is valued.



Welcome to this month's edition of our school newsletter. At Lancasterian Primary School, we are proud to be a safe, welcoming and inclusive learning community where every child is encouraged to aim high and reach their full potential.

Our school is at the heart of Tottenham, a vibrant and diverse part of London, and we are incredibly proud of the many cultures, languages and experiences that make up our school community. Each month, our newsletter is a chance to share some of the wonderful learning, achievements and events that take place across the school.

In this edition, you will see highlights from our classrooms, celebrations from around the school, and important updates for families. We hope this newsletter helps you feel connected to the exciting learning and experiences happening every day at Lancasterian.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us create a positive and inspiring environment for all our children.



Welcome from The Co-Head Teachers

Welcome back to a new school year

Welcome back to a new school year, and a special warm welcome to all our new children and families! We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

We would firstly like to thank families for all the warm wishes, thoughtful messages, cards and gifts we received at the end of last year. Gifts are never expected, but your kindness and words of appreciation meant a great deal to us and to the wider staff team.

Looking ahead to 2026/27, while Charlotte Clinton remains on maternity leave until the end of February, Julia Ryan – Assistant Head for Early Years – will continue to act as Interim Co-Head Teacher alongside Paul Murphy. During the same period, Holly Thompson, one of our Reception teachers, will act as Interim Early Years Leader. The remainder of the Senior Leadership Team structure remains unchanged.

We are delighted to be working together and are very excited about everything the year ahead will bring.



*Paul Murphy and Julia Ryan
Co-Head Teachers*

Each year, we agree a number of priorities to help us continue improving the education, care and opportunities we provide for every child. Our seven priorities for 2026/27 are to:

1. Continue developing our Additional Resource Base (ARB), including moving it into its newly refurbished learning environment with outdoor space, the appointment of a full-time teacher and strengthening links between the ARB and mainstream classes so that every child is fully included in school life and learning.
2. Further embed 'The Lancs Way', approach to teaching, ensuring that the effective methods we have agreed as a school are used consistently across all Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 classes and subjects.
3. Raise expectations for the presentation of children's work, including handwriting, neatness and care, while achieving the right balance between worksheets and opportunities for children to produce their own sustained and extended writing.
4. Build on our strong longer-term improvement at Key Stage 2 and ensure that our 2027 results return to above national levels in reading, writing and mathematics combined.
5. Continue improving attendance so that it reaches at least the national level, both across the school and for different groups of pupils, with timely and personalised support for children whose attendance is a concern.

6. Finalise and introduce our new Relationships and Behaviour Policy, ensuring that all staff apply it consistently and that it builds further on the positive behaviour and attitudes already seen throughout the school.
7. Develop a comprehensive Heatwave Plan, in consultation with staff, pupils and parents/carers, so that children can continue accessing their education safely and comfortably during periods of extreme heat.

Parents/carers can help us achieve these priorities in many simple but important ways:

- ensuring children attend school every day and arrive on time;
- supporting reading and home learning;
- encouraging children to take pride in their handwriting and presentation;
- reinforcing our expectations for respectful behaviour; and
- engaging with consultations, meetings and school events.

Most importantly, please continue to talk to us, share your views and work in partnership with staff so that together we can secure the best possible outcomes for every child.

There is already plenty to look forward to. Autumn term highlights include **our Bring-a-Parent Morning for National Poetry Day on 1 October, Black History Focus Week, our Halloween Dress-Up Day, the Fireworks Display on 6 November, parents/carers evenings on 10 and 12 November, and our Christmas performances, Christmas Dinner, Christmas Jumper Day and Winter Fayre in December.** Later in the year, families can look forward to events including STEM Week, Mother Tongue Language Day, World Book Day, our Eid celebration, Neurodiversity Week, Rainbow Day, Sports Day and the Summer Fayre. You can find the full list of dates on our school calendar at <https://www.lancasterianprimary.co.uk/calendar-and-news/calendar>

Finally, we are currently running tours for parents/carers who may be interested in reception places at the school starting in September 2027. If you know anyone who may wish to visit, please do send them our way (we know that word-of-mouth is our most successful marketing strategy!) and direct them to our school website for further information.

We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year and to seeing our children continue to learn, grow and flourish. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Paul Murphy and Julia Ryan
Co-Head Teachers



Welcome To Our NEW STAFF MEMBERS



We extend a very warm welcome to new staff joining our school this year



Pelin - Reception Teacher



Anastasia - ARB Teacher



Mumtaz - Nursery Teacher



**Maria -
Yr 3 Teaching Assistant**



**Princess - ARB
Teaching Assistant**



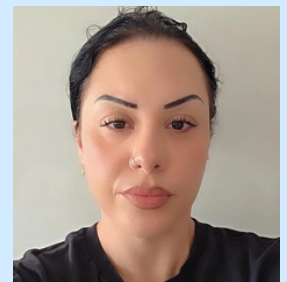
**Ellie - Reception Teaching
Assitant**



**Jessica -
Interim Pastoral Mentor**



**Sak - Assistant Site
Manager**



Tulay - SMSA

NEW VICE HOUSE CAPTAINS

Celebrating our new student leaders

Well done to all the Year 5 children who put themselves forward as Vice House Captain candidates this year, preparing and presenting their manifestos in assembly last week.

Cassius, Freddie, Hassan, Jamari, Kynel, Malcolm, Osman, Sophie, Suleiman and Zain all did an excellent job, confidently persuading the Key Stage 2 children, who then voted for them in a democratic process.



OPARDS



JAGUARS



AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Jamari • Kynel • Malcolm • Osman • Sophie



Congratulations to our new Vice House Captains!

The winners are shown above, with two candidates tying for Vice House Captain in Jaguars House – a first!

They will join our Year 6 House Captains – **Ayub, Freddie, Gabi and Phoenix** – to make up our 2026/27 House Captains Team.

Their first task will be an action-planning day before the end of this half term, where they will begin thinking about how they can make a positive difference across our school.



WELL DONE TO EVERYONE

A huge well done to all the children who put themselves forward. They are all winners in their own right, showing our school values of **lifelong learning, growth mindset and high aspirations**.

We are looking forward to seeing our new student leaders grow into their roles and make their voices heard throughout the year!

SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSFER

Information for Year 6 families

IMPORTANT DEADLINE



31 OCTOBER 2026

All applications must be submitted by this date. Applications received after this date will be classed as late and will not be considered until all on-time applications have been dealt with.

APPLYING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

Haringey School Admissions will be hosting online sessions covering the secondary transfer process, with a presentation and Q&A session.



ONLINE TALKS & OPEN EVENTS

[Secondary school open events and online talks about applying.](#)



SECONDARY SCHOOL BOOKLET

www.haringey.gov.uk/sc_hooladmissions



APPLY ONLINE HERE:

www.eadmissions.org.uk

Useful Information

Before applying, families should:

- Read the Secondary School Admissions booklet.
- Check the admission criteria for every school you wish to apply for.
- Check school websites before attending open events.
- Read the application carefully and provide any required evidence.

DISTANCE CALCULATOR

The Haringey distance calculator is available for Haringey residents who require home-to-school distance measurements for Haringey schools.

Out-of-borough residents:

For home-to-school distance measurements for Haringey schools, email:
schooladmissions@haringey.gov.uk

For schools outside Haringey, please contact the local authority where the school is located.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION?: ✉ schooladmissions@haringey.gov.uk

☎ 0208 489 1000

STARTING PRIMARY SCHOOL IN 2027

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS



IS YOUR CHILD STARTING RECEPTION?

If your child was born between **1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023**, you need to apply for a Reception school place for **September 2027**.

IMPORTANT DEADLINE



15 JANUARY 2027

Applications received after the deadline will be processed after those submitted on time. Families could potentially miss out on a place at their preferred school.

VISIT OUR SCHOOL

We are hosting school tours this term. If you are interested in finding out more about our school, please visit our website for available tour dates.

www.lancasterianprimary.co.uk/key-information/admissions

USEFUL INFORMATION

Haringey School Admissions

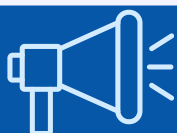
Booklet, application guidance and open-event information.

 **Distance Calculator**
For Haringey residents requiring home-to-school distance measurements for Haringey schools.

Apply Online

www.eadmissions.org.uk

 **Admissions Support**
schooladmissions@haringey.gov.uk



THINKING ABOUT RECEPTION?

Apply by 15 January 2027



Tax-Free Childcare

Information for Parents & Carers

Dear Parents/Carers,

The school accepts payments through the Tax-Free Childcare scheme. This government scheme can be used to help pay for registered childcare costs at our setting.



 Find out more on the government website.

gov.uk/tax-free-childcare

What can Tax-Free Childcare be used for?

Tax-Free Childcare payments can be used for:

- Nursery fees
- Wraparound childcare, such as before or after school care
- Holiday club childcare, where applicable
- Extended wraparound childcare sessions that include activities such as sports or music clubs

What is not covered?

Tax-Free Childcare cannot be used for items that are not directly related to childcare. This includes:

- Food or meal charges
- Trips or special events
- Late collection fees
- Other optional extras that are not part of the childcare provision

Please note: Any charges not covered by the scheme will need to be paid separately using another payment method.

Paying through Tax-Free Childcare?

If you plan to pay using Tax-Free Childcare, please ensure you make payments in good time and inform the school office of your reference number so we can allocate the payment correctly.

If you have any questions, please speak to the office team.

Thank you – School Office

SCHOOL FEES, BOOKINGS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Information for Families

SCOPAY & SCHOOL FEES

We hope all new families have successfully registered with our online payment system, **SCOPAY**.

Please note that fees for our provisions are generated daily. The balance shown on your child's account reflects charges up to and including the current day.

We welcome **Tax-Free Childcare payments** and kindly ask parents/carers to pay fees in advance whenever possible. This helps keep accounts up to date and supports the school in maintaining a consistent and sustainable financial position.

NURSERY FEES, FUNDED HOURS & TOP-UP CHARGES

The funded nursery place covers 8:45am–2:45pm. Additional hours outside these times are subject to the applicable top-up charges.

2-Year-Olds

15 funded hours extended to full-time: £34.00 per day

Full-time place without a funded place: £68.00 per day

3-Year-Olds

15 funded hours extended to full-time: £30.00 per day

School Trips & Contributions

We offer a range of educational trips and visits throughout the year, giving children valuable opportunities to learn outside the classroom and build confidence.

Where requested, please make trip contributions to help cover transport, admission fees and other costs.



IMPORTANT: BOOKING CHANGES

Any changes to your child's permanent **Breakfast Club** or **After-School Club** arrangements require:

- **One week's notice**
- **A new registration form**

Please remember:

Normal charges continue during the notice period.

- Charges still apply during illness or other absences.
- To cancel a provision, please give one week's written notice by emailing admin@lancs-pri.haringey.sch.uk.

Daily Extension

2:45pm–3:45pm: £30.00 fixed weekly charge

This also applies to nursery children attending **two or more After-School Club sessions per week**, covering the additional hour between the end of the funded nursery session and the start of After-School Club at 3:45pm.

For additional days or changes to your child's booking pattern, please speak with the **Nursery Team** and inform the **Office**.

Please ensure your funding codes are verified promptly to avoid disruption to your child's funded place.

Emails to the School Office

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL OFFICE



We know that parents/carers sometimes need to contact the school office with questions or queries. At this time of year, the volume of emails coming into our admin email address is particularly high as arrangements are being set up and settled for Breakfast Club, After-School Club, extracurricular clubs and school dinners.

RESPONSE TIMES



Please rest assured that emails will not be missed. Depending on the nature of the query, it may take us a **day or two** to get back to you. We really appreciate your patience and understanding while the office team works through the high volume of messages.

IS YOUR QUERY ABOUT YOUR CHILD?



If your query is specifically about your child's education, learning or progress in class, the preferred approach wherever possible is to speak directly with your child's class teacher, for example in the playground at the beginning or end of the school day.

CLASS TEACHER EMAIL ADDRESSES



Where this is not possible, parents/carers can also use the direct class teacher email addresses shared previously with guidance in the **Parents/Carer Teacher Emails Protocol 2026/27** via Parenthub.

School Meal Funding 2026/27

Information for Parents & Carers

KS1

Universal Free School Meals

KS2

Mayor of London Free School Meals

There is NO need to top up your child's school dinner account for their school meals.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY CHECK

We are carrying out a Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility check based on the information provided on your child's school registration form. We will contact you to confirm the outcome.

HAS YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION CHANGED?

If your financial circumstances change at any time, please let us know. We can carry out an FSM eligibility check at any point during the school year.

WHY APPLY FOR BENEFIT-TESTED FSM?

We strongly encourage eligible parents/carers to apply for benefit-tested Free School Meals, even if your child is already receiving Universal Free School Meals or Mayor of London Free School Meals.

Successful applications can attract additional funding for the school, helping us enhance educational opportunities, resources and provision for our children.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES

Children who are eligible for benefit-tested FSM, and their families, may be able to access free holiday provision places and food vouchers through the holiday support programme, subject to eligibility and Haringey Council approval.

We encourage eligible families to complete the FSM application so they can access any additional support available to them.



LANCASTERIAN

HALLOWEEN MOVIE NIGHT

23 | **£5** | **5:15**
OCT | **ENTRY** | **PM**

INCLUDING POPCORN & SOFT DRINK

DRESS UP, HAVE FUN, AND CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [Insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

£40
PER
DAY

HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEME

ACTIVITIES

SPORTS, CRAFTS
GAMES AND MORE!

26.10.26 - 30.10.26
FROM 8 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

THE MULBERRY
PARKHURST ROAD



office@mulberry.haringey.sch.uk

Moving to Secondary School Transition Hotline for Parents

SEND

Free support with the secondary
transfer process for September 2027

Need help choosing a secondary school
or understanding the application
process?

Request a call from the Haringey
Education Inclusion Team.

For parents/carers of Year 6 children
with SEND, including an autism
diagnosis and speech, language and
communication needs.



 17 19-23 October 2026

 Call-back appointments available
throughout the week

**Important: Secondary transfer
applications must be submitted by 31
October 2026.**

Request a call



Scan me


forms.cloud.microsoft/e/7Vq0BhkRwi

 last@haringey.gov.uk

Haringey
LONDON



SCOOTER & BIKE REMINDER

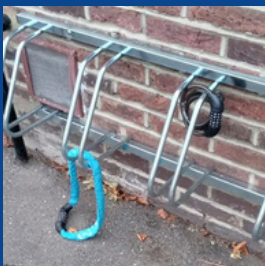


A gentle reminder to all parents and carers that **all bikes, scooters, bike locks and chains must be removed from the school premises at the end of each day.**

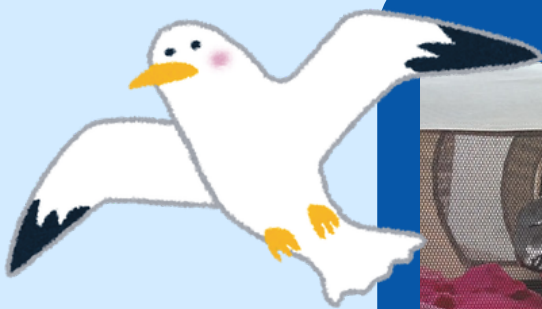
Nothing should be left overnight, including locks or chains attached to the bike and scooter racks.

Please note that leaving locks or chains attached to the racks overnight effectively reserves that space and prevents other children and families from being able to use it.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep the school site safe, secure and accessible for everyone.



★ Thank you for helping keep our school site safe and tidy.



On a Brighter Note...

We're pleased to share some good news about **Ellie the gull**, who flew into the KS2 fence and was thought to have a broken wing.

Ellie was rescued and found to have a badly swollen elbow. We're happy to report that she **is doing well and making a good recovery**

Attendance Reminder

Why Attendance Matters?

Regular attendance is vital for your child's learning progress and wellbeing. Pupils are expected to attend school every day for the full academic year unless there is an exceptional reason for absence.

The school is legally required to take the attendance register twice each day.

Morning Registration

- 8:30am – Year 6
- 8:50am – Reception
- 8:55am – KS1
- 9:00am – KS2

Afternoon Registration

- Taken during the afternoon session.

All absences are recorded using a specific attendance code depending on the reason provided.

Types of Absence:

✓ Authorised Absence

These absences are approved by the school when a valid reason is provided.

Examples include:

- Illness preventing attendance
- Medical or dental appointments (with evidence)
- Religious observance (with prior notice)
- Bereavement of a close family member

Religious absence requests should be submitted via the absence request form or by emailing: admin@lancs-pri.haringey.sch.uk

✗ Unauthorised Absence

These absences are not approved by the school.

Examples include:

- Parent or family member illness
- Inadequate clothing for school
- Transport problems
- Non-urgent medical treatment
- School refusal or truancy
- Birthdays, shopping trips or family holidays

The school may review and change an absence classification if new information becomes available.

Please Remember:

Legal Requirements

If a pupil is absent for 10 consecutive days without explanation:

- The Haringey Education Welfare Service will be notified.
- Children's Services may visit the last known address if contact cannot be made.

Please ensure the school always has up-to-date contact details.

Persistent Absence

The government defines persistent absence as attendance below 90% (missing 10% of the school year, approximately 3 weeks of learning).

★ Let's work together to ensure every child attends regularly and doesn't miss out on valuable learning opportunities.



Nursery Attendance Reminder

Funded Places (15 & 30 Hours)

We would like to remind parents that nursery places funded through the 15-hour or 30-hour Early Education entitlement are provided to support children who attend their allocated sessions regularly.

Why is it important?

Regular attendance is very important as it helps children:

- Settle into nursery routines
- Build friendships
- Benefit fully from their early learning experiences

Important Information

If a child with a funded place is regularly absent or does not attend their allocated sessions, the school may need to review the place.

In some circumstances, if attendance does not improve and we have not been informed of the reason for absence, the funded place may be withdrawn and offered to another child on the waiting list.

Let Us Know

If your child is unable to attend nursery for any reason, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

If you are experiencing any difficulties that are affecting attendance, please speak to us. We are always happy to offer support where we can.



Evidence for Illness & Medical Absences



GP Appointments

- Please ask your GP for an appointment card showing the date and time of the appointment.
- A letter addressed to the school is not required.
- If the practice initially says they cannot provide this, politely explain that the school requires confirmation to authorise the absence.



Hospital Appointments

- Please bring or email a copy of your hospital booking letter.
- The letter should clearly show the date and time of the appointment.



A&E Visits

- Please request an attendance card from A&E (these are usually provided).
- If this is not available, you may request:
- Discharge notes, or A copy of the letter sent to your GP.
- If you are unable to obtain this at the hospital, you may contact your GP a few days later and request a copy of the letter they received from A&E.



Should I Keep My Child Off School?

If your child is unable to attend school, please inform the school office as soon as possible.

- Phone: 0208 808 8088
- Email: admin@lancs-pri.haringey.sch.uk

This helps us ensure that all pupils are accounted for and that attendance records are accurate.

UK Health Security Agency **NHS**

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Childhood	at least 48h from the onset of the rash and until all lesions have crusted over
Diarrhoea and vomiting	at least 48h after their last episode
Cold and flu like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. See the national guidance for COVID-19 for more guidance
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they have started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the last time they appeared
Scarlet fever	5 days after the last time they appeared
Sore throat	24 hours after the last time they appeared
Whooping cough	at least 48h after their last coughing episode

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Head, run and cough	Stomach bugs
Head lice	measles
Headaches	strep throat

SCAN HERE

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or visit the NHS website or visit <https://www.nhs.uk>



48 Hour Rule

If your child has experienced vomiting or diarrhoea, they must remain at home for **48 hours** after the symptoms have stopped before returning to school.

This policy helps prevent illness from spreading and keeps our school community healthy.

Diarrhoea and vomiting in children

There's no specific cure for stomach bugs such as **Norovirus**. See tips to reduce the spread and ease symptoms.

Keep children home for at least for

48 HOURS

after symptoms have passed. This is enough time to let the virus pass its course.

If your child already has a serious illness, or symptoms last longer than a few days, see your GP to seek advice.

www.nhs.uk/norovirus

Washing hands frequently and thoroughly helps limit the spread of the virus.

25

different strains of Norovirus are known to affect humans. They're the most common cause of stomach bugs in the UK.

Home Treatment

Preventive use of loperamide can help reduce the spread of the virus.

One litre of water or oral rehydration solution per day.

3 litres of fluid daily for older children and adults.

Contact Us:

A safe and welcoming learning community where:

- we all aim high;
- everyone is included;
- creativity is valued.



Kings Road, Tottenham, N17 8NN
0208 808 8088



admin@lancs-pri.haringey.sch.uk



lancasterianprimary.co.uk



**LEARNING IN
TOTTENHAM
EDUCATION NETWORK**