



## Lord Wilson School

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[www.lordwilson.hants.sch.uk](http://www.lordwilson.hants.sch.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust that your plans for Christmas are coming along well, here at LWS the tree and decorations are being put up. Staff are putting in plenty of planning ahead of the activity week before Christmas break, including ice skating, group trips, activities in school and of course Christmas lunch.

As you are very much aware this time of year is a challenge for all parents with excitement levels high and the poor weather. For young people with behavioural, emotional, social and mental health needs the challenge is even greater. Recently we have seen an increase in students leaving the school site without permission. We are working hard with some parents/carers to resolve this poor decision making by certain groups of students, however the time being spent by staff on following and/or location of these absconders is impacting on the learning opportunities of others and it cannot continue. We also need to consider that the risk is too great to tolerate when students are not within our school boundaries (recent Police reports issued to us have raised concerns of suspicious vehicles and characters being spotted near Hampshire schools).

**LWS has decided to exclude students who persistently abscond during the school day – if a student leaves the school site without permission for longer than 10mins they risk being excluded from school for the remainder of the day and/or the following day. I appreciate that this will be a challenge but will expect your support with this action. A contributing factor to students leaving the site is the amount of money some are bringing to school, please prevent money being brought to school.** Dinner money can be paid in a variety of ways if you are concerned. We hope that you pledge your support to this action and consider that we must ensure that our students are safe and that the disruption to learning is kept at a minimum.

**Can I please remind you that we must have a reliable method of contacting you during the school day,** especially at this time of year when you may be out and about more. We are frequently unable to contact groups of parents/carers during the school day, this is especially important if there is an emergency. On a more positive note we are promoting student achievement of 24 learning points or more by texting parents/carers the good news, please show your support of this and congratulate your son if you receive a positive text. Finally can I remind you of the VIVO reward system that we use at the school, which turns the students engagement points into rewards for them. This is a system that you can use as well to support school targets and your own that you may set – please contact us if you would like support or training to do this. Some students use the system to buy presents for family and friends at this time of year!

If you would like any further information or have queries about school policy please call or check out our website. Finally, on behalf of the whole team at LWS, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours Sincerely

Stuart Parker-Tyreman, Head Teacher