

Frequently Asked Questions

They say there are more questions than answers...

This is not a definitive list but should help if you have a query – for anything else, please contact the office: admin@lowdham.notts.sch.uk

What are school opening and closing times?

The school day begins at 08:55 and ends at 15:30. At present, due to the current situation, Classes Reception, 1, 2 and 3 all start at 08:45 and finish at 15:20. This is so we can stagger the timings and reduce congestion in and around school.

What do I do if my child is late to school?

If your child is late and the gates are locked, bring them to the front of school and they will enter via the main entrance. We have a digital sign-in system where you can log them in.

What do I do if I am going to be late in collecting my child?

Please call the office. If there is no response as we have had situations where there has been an accident and the team are dealing with other calls, you can send a message to the office team via Class Dojo. Depending on the age of the child, we will not let them leave the grounds if they are expecting to be picked up. In that situation, come to the main entrance as they will likely be in the foyer.

Can I send someone else to pick up my child?

Yes but only if you notify the office and class teacher. This is an important safeguarding element and we will not let a child go off with someone else without prior notice.

How do I report my child's absence from school?

Call the school. There are two options, one of them is to speak with someone and the other is to report an absence. It is helpful to let the class teacher know via Class Dojo but the office need to know first as they handle the registers and absences.

When are the school holidays?

You can see when the term dates are for Nottinghamshire schools on the website: <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-holidays-and-closures/school-holidays-and-term-dates/2020-2021>

We post our term dates, as well as INSET days on our website in the calendar section.

Can I take my child on holiday during term time?

No. Children are not permitted to have a leave of absence and any such removal of a child for a holiday will be treated as unauthorised. There may be extenuating circumstances as to why you might apply for a leave of absence and these will be assessed by the headteacher.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-discipline-and-exclusions/attendance-absence-truancy>

How will I be informed if there is an enforced school closure?

In the very rare event of a school closure, we aim to inform parents as soon as possible and through a variety of media: Class Dojo, text message, email and local radio.

How long do the children get to eat lunch?

The lunch break is one hour.

How much is a school dinner?

At present, a school lunch costs £2.30

What is the number for claiming Free School Meals?

0300 500 8080

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

If you need any assistance completing the form or have any questions, please ask the headteacher of the office. All applications and conversations are treated in absolute confidence.

Is drinking water available?

We do have sinks in some rooms and children are encouraged to bring their own named water bottles to school every day.

What should I put in my child's packed lunch?

Whatever your child likes to eat! We encourage healthy eating here at Lowdham and fruit is available (freely for infants and at a reasonable cost for juniors) every day. A balanced diet is needed in order for your children to grow and to give them energy for the day. Sandwiches, wraps, crackers with crisps, a small cake or chocolate bar and fruit is a perfect lunch. Some children bring a thermos or flask with pasta in too. If your child is a complex eater and has specific needs, please do contact us. The hot meals we provide are excellent and there is a varied meal rotation.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/nottinghamshire-school-meals>

It's my child birthday, can I send in sweets/treats?

We have just stopped this tradition due to the current situation but have replaced it with a better idea: if it is your child's birthday and they would like to offer something to the class, they can bring in a book. This can be a new one or a decent previously-loved copy (still in good condition). The child can write inside: **Donated to Class 4 on Joe's 9th birthday**. This helps encourage our passion for reading and keeps your children healthier!

Where can I buy branded school uniform from?

All of our uniform can be purchased from Big Fish Schoolwear.

<https://www.bigfishschoolwear.co.uk/>

Can my child wear jewellery in school?

If your child has pierced ears, that is acceptable. Only small studs, no hoops or dangly earrings. We have a uniform policy which includes hairstyles too on our website.

<https://lowdham-cofe-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/policies/>

What do I do if my child is prescribed medication?

Nottinghamshire policy is for schools to not administer medicine. This is because we cannot guarantee the temperature of the medicine and the timings. We do have a medical needs policy and will work with you on this if such an occasion arises.

What happens if my child has a medical/dental appointment?

These are fairly commonplace within schools, especially primary. Ideally, the appointments would take place at a time that has least impact on the day: first thing in the morning or at the end of the day. Please notify the office and the class teacher if your child has an appointment.

How long before my child can return to school after an illness?

If your child has a stomach upset (sickness and diarrhoea), then it is 48 hours until they can return to school. Depending on the nature of the illness, depends on when they can come back in. Please seek medical guidance if you are unsure. We have a page with relevant documents and links if it is regarding COVID-19.

<https://lowdham-cofe-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/school-closure/>

What happens if my child has an accident at school?

In the sad instant that your child has an accident, we have a team of trained staff to deal with it. Whether it's a grazed knee or a bumped head or broken arm. All of the staff have Emergency First Aid at Work training and we have several with Paediatric First Aid training too. If it is a grazed knee, the child will be treated, cleaned and a note or message home given to the parents. In the event of a more serious accident taking place, parents will be called and an ambulance if necessary.

What do I do if my child has headlice?

Treat them with specific shampoo and products. If we see them on a child in school, we will call you and ask you to treat them. We normally send letters/messages out across the school as a reminder – this is, of course, done discretely.

Can I park at the school?

Unfortunately not. There are limited spaces on Main Street and we strongly encourage you to park and ride. Parking is available at the Village Hall, opposite the library/doctors and in The Ship (public house) car park. Walking is important and gives you chance to talk with your child before/after their day.

Can my child cycle to school?

Yes, or scoot. We have a shelter in the front playground to leave your *wheeled transport*.

How much is after school club and how do I book it?

We run a breakfast and an after school club. BC is £4 a session and begins at 08:00. ASC is £7 a session and runs from 15:30 until 17:45 Monday to Thursday; Friday is £5 and finishes at 17:00. For further enquiries, contact Mrs Winter. **07729895496** or Email: outofschoolclub@lowdham.notts.sch.uk

What do I do if I need to see a teacher?

Our teachers are available to see parents by appointment. This can be done via Class Dojo on the message feature.

How can parents get involved?

In lots of ways! We have an active Parent Teacher Association called **Friends** who raise money for our school in different ways. All funds go into the school to develop and make sure that every child gets amazing opportunities. We have several events a year (although this looks

different at present) where you can be involved: either through attending the sports days, performances, school visits or parent/teacher meetings. The best way you can be involved is to encourage your child – talk with them about school and support them in their learning. Whether it's reading and listening to them read, practising times tables or helping them create a Roman Amphitheatre out of biscuits, we love to see and have your involvement.

How do you communicate with parents?

The Class Dojo is our greatest tool here – it is a closed group so only parents with an invite can see the content on there. We also have our website for the more formal documents and information. We send out a weekly newsletter on a Friday and updates and emails when needed.

Do you have a school council?

We do, two children from each class meet with the headteacher several times a term to decide and discuss school improvements, charitable work and suggestions for a swimming pool!

What should I do if I am worried about my child's progress?

First of all, the teacher will be your point of contact. All children make progress at different levels so don't compare your child to others. If the teacher is particularly concerned, they will contact you. We have two parent/teacher meetings a year and an annual report in the summer. We have several experienced staff members who run intervention groups for children if they need a boost in maths or English or some time to share their worries and concerns.

How is my child prepared for moving on to secondary school?

If your child is in Reception, you have a long way to go... We discuss the secondary transition with you and your children in Year 5 in preparation for your admissions application in the October of their 7th year with us (Y6). We feed predominantly into three secondary schools and have close links with them.

How can I protect my child when using new technology?

We run e-safety sessions all year and constantly remind children how to be as safe as they can whilst online. We run occasional workshops on this area and have a wealth of links and resources on our website.

<https://lowdham-cofe-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/e-safety/>

Where do I go to locate lost Property?

We have boxes in the foyer. The best way to avoid missing jumpers and coats is for you put your child's name in it.

What clubs are there?

We run a variety of clubs here in school, from sports to art, forest school to homework. Each term brings something new. We also have external teachers who teach the children drumming, piano and violin (there are costs to these).