



# Friday Post

Friday 18th November 2022

## Our School Value: Trust

*You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26.3*

Dear Families,

Another busy week has passed, as always full of learning and fun! Thank you to everyone for making the effort to ensure children are arriving before the gates close at 8.55am - this makes a big difference to the start of the school day for all pupils.

This week we have enjoyed marking Children In Need! The cake sale yesterday was a huge success - thank you to our school council for hosting it so well. The children also looked fantastic today wearing spots to celebrate! Thank you for all your generous donations, we managed to raise **£107.20!!**

This week we also marked anti-bullying week. Miss Laing talked to the school about what bullying means, how to spot it and how to stop it. Our PSHE lessons have continued to look at bullying in more detail.

Christmas rehearsals have begun - as you will no doubt be aware! We are really looking forward to celebrating and sharing our performances with you at the end of term.

Have a wonderful weekend,  
Miss Phillips



Headteacher: Miss C Phillips,  
St Leonard's First School & Nursery,  
School Lane, Dunston, ST18 9AG  
Tel: 01785 712488  
E-mail: [office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk)

 **Staffordshire  
University  
Academies  
Trust**



Please see the timetable below. On your child's day, please send them to school dressed in old clothing they do not mind getting dirty. Please also ensure they have wellies to change into if they are not kept at school. Layers and waterproofs are advised because of the winter weather.

### Forest schools timetable

22.11.22	Owls Y1
29.11.22	Hedgehogs Reception
13.12.22	Hedgehogs Nursery

### *Advanced warning - School hours September 2023*

Please be aware that there will be a parent consultation after Christmas with reference to the Governments expectation that all state-funded mainstream schools should deliver a school week of at least 32.5 hours by September 2023.

## The Gigantic Star Whole school Nativity play



This year the whole school will be performing The Gigantic Star on the morning of Wednesday 14th December and the afternoon of Thursday 15th December (more information about tickets will follow)

**Hedgehogs** and **Owls** will be acting out the traditional nativity story and **Class Foxes** are already busy learning lots of songs for their role as choir.

**Owls** and **Hedgehogs** parents, please look out for information about lines and costumes in children's bags. **Nursery** children are welcome to join in with the play if it isn't their usual day of attendance and they will need a sheep costume - please let us know if your nursery child will be joining in.

**Class Foxes** will need to wear a casual outfit which includes a Christmas jumper. We would be grateful if these items could be brought into school in a **named bag** by **Friday 9th December** in time for the dress rehearsal the following Monday.



**£107.20**

raised at our cake sale!!  
Thank you!



# Free School Meals



Are you entitled?

We all need a little financial help right now and one thing to check is to see if your child could be entitled to Free School Meals.. Even if you don't want your child/ren to have the meals, claiming them helps our school. The more eligible parents who claim meals, the more funding the school receives. To check to see if your child is eligible please click on the link below <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

## Sickness



We seem to have quite a few coughs & colds and cases of sickness going around. Please click the link below to find some useful advice about childhood illnesses <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> as always please inform any absences to the school office before 8:45am by either calling 01785 712488 or emailing [office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk)

## Reception 2023



Do you have a child born between 1/09/2018 to 31/08/2019? If so you will be able to apply online for a place in our Reception class from Friday 1st November 2021 the closing date is 15th January 2023. Applications should be made directly at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

**Please note that an application must be made for EVERY child regardless of whether or not they are already in our Nursery class.**

## Extra Bank Holiday!



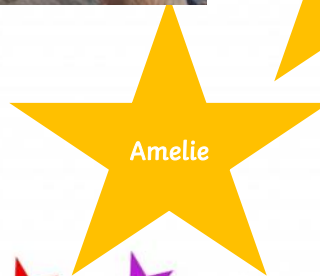
The Government has announced an additional bank holiday to mark the coronation of King Charles III next year.

School will be closed on Monday 8th May 2023.

Year 2 really enjoyed their Forest School session this week, they were spotting potential hazards in the forest school environment by marking them with string.



# stars of the week



# Lunchtime Award





This week we are launching our annual Eco Christmas tree decoration competition. Each child is invited to make an eco friendly Christmas tree decoration that they will place on our school Christmas tree which will be outside on the school playground for all visitors to school to see. Entries are £2 for each decoration to be paid to the PTFA. Entries will be judged and winners announced during our Christmas tree light switch on! There will be a winner for each year group. Please have all entries in by **1st December**.

We are still needing chocolate and wine donations for our tombola please, there is a box in the school entrance hall for you to leave them.

There will be hot drinks and cake available to purchase at the Christmas light switch on and real Christmas door wreaths you can purchase also so please bring spending money on 2nd December. More details to follow shortly.

Final request, does anybody know a Santa who would be willing to deliver a gift to the children at school on behalf of the PTFA? If so, please either speak to myself or call/ email the school office.

PTA Volunteers are still needed if you are interested please get in touch.

Many thanks,

Leisha Hatton, Chair



# Weekly House Point Tally



Holly

130

Oak

40

Sycamore

99

Each week the team with the most tokens gains 3 leaves on their tree, 2nd gets 2 leaves and 3rd gets 1 leaf. At the end of the term the team with the most leaves will earn a reward.

## Lunchtime Menu ~ 21/11/2022



WEEK 1 MENU		W/C: 31/10 21/11 12/12 02/01 23/01 13/02 06/03 27/03		Chartwells <small>So much more than a restaurant food</small>			
		HOT SPECIALS...	DAILY FAVES...	PACKED LUNCH...	JACKET POTATOES...	PICK A PUDI!	
AUTUMN/WINTER 2022	MONDAY	Macaroni Cheese <small>Served with Two Vegetables</small>	Vegetarian Sausage <small>Served with Mashed Potato and Gravy</small>	Tomato Pasta <small>Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta</small>	Packed Lunch <small>See below for details</small>	Jacket Potatoes <small>with a choice of hot and cold fillings</small>	Vanilla Ice Cream <small>with Fruit Slices</small>
	TUESDAY	Chicken Pie <small>Served with Mashed Potato and Gravy</small>	Cheese and Tomato Pizza <small>Served with Potato Wedges</small>	Tomato Pasta <small>Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta</small>	Packed Lunch <small>See below for details</small>	Jacket Potatoes <small>with a choice of hot and cold fillings, including Salmon Mayonnaise</small>	Hot Chocolate <small>Sponge with Chocolate Custard and Fruit Slices</small>
	WEDNESDAY	Roast Turkey <small>Served with Roast Potatoes, Two Vegetables and Gravy</small>	Vegan Sausage Casserole <small>Served with Two Vegetables</small>	Tomato Pasta <small>Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta</small>	Packed Lunch <small>See below for details</small>	Jacket Potatoes <small>with a choice of hot and cold fillings</small>	Oat Cookie served <small>with Fruit Slices</small>
	THURSDAY	Beef Bolognese <small>Served with Wholened Pasta and Two Vegetables</small>	Chinese Vegetable Rice <small>Served with Two Vegetables</small>	Tomato Pasta <small>Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta</small>	Packed Lunch <small>See below for details</small>	Jacket Potatoes <small>with a choice of hot and cold fillings</small>	Apple Crumble <small>served with Custard</small>
	FRIDAY	Breaded Fish <small>Served with Chips and Three Vegetables</small>	Quorn Dippers <small>Served with Chips and Three Vegetables</small>	Tomato Pasta <small>Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta</small>	Packed Lunch <small>See below for details</small>	Jacket Potatoes <small>with a choice of hot and cold fillings</small>	Ice Cream <small>Milkshake with Shortbread and Fruit Slices</small>

**PACKED LUNCH - AVAILABLE DAILY**  
HAM OR CHEESE SANDWICH OR DAILY SPECIAL, VEGETABLES, FRESH FRUIT AND DESSERT OF THE DAY

**AVAILABLE EVERY DAY**  
WATER, SALAD, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURT & FRESH FRUIT

**ALL MAIN MEALS SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES**

🌿 Vegetarian
🐟 Oily Fish
🌾 Wholegrain  
🍏 Fruity!
👩 Nutritionist's Choice
🍴 Halal Available

*No nuts please*



Please note due to children in school with allergies please do not send any products containing nuts into school for break or lunch times. Thank you for your co-operation.

Hedgehogs have been spotting circles & triangles in the school environment



We made an obstacle course!

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 2nd December	Christmas Tree switch on at 3pm
Tuesday 6th December	Amerton Farm Trip
Thursday 8th December	Christmas Jumper day
Friday 9th December	Nativity Costumes to be in school
Wednesday 14th December - 10am	Whole School Nativity - <i>ticket info to follow</i>
Thursday 15th December - 2pm	Whole School Nativity - <i>ticket info to follow</i>
Friday 16th December	<b>School closes at 1:30pm - no after school care</b>
Monday 19th December - Monday 2nd January	Christmas holidays
Tuesday 3rd January 2023	Inset Day - school closed to children
Friday 17th February	Inset Day - school closed to children
Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February	Half Term
Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 8th May	Bank Holiday



## Carols we are learning this festive season:

It was on a Starry Night - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeRrAzapOQ0>

Away in a Manger - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zi45JkZtUnM>

Little Donkey - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHLVM4MJgmo>

Please follow the links above to hear the music



## Free Safeguarding Awareness course for Parents & Carers



The FA is committed to safeguarding children across the game in England.

From ensuring best practice and recognising poor practice to understanding how to report concerns quickly and effectively, we believe that making football fun, enjoyable and safe is everyone's responsibility

Our Safeguarding Awareness for Parents & Carers' course is designed to help you to make an informed choice about the football setting you enrol your child in.

Upon completion of the course, you'll receive a safeguarding certificate that will appear on your FAN account. You can return to the course to refresh your knowledge at any time.

<https://learn.Englandfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

## A note of thanks for your kind Harvest donations

Rising Brook Community Church, Stafford, ST17 9LT. 26/10/22

Dear Staff and children,

This is to say a huge thank you for all the harvest gifts you donated to foodbank.

It was lovely to see such thoughtful and kind donations.

They have been super helpful during half term.

Wishing you all the very best as you look forward now to the Christmas season.

Thank you again, Liz Ripple (Foodbank manager)

# COMPETITION

## Christmas Card Competition



Theo Clarke, the Member of Parliament for Stafford, is again holding a local Christmas card competition for all Primary aged children. She would like to invite all Reception, Key Stage one and Key Stage two aged children in Stafford to take part and enter their design for her official 2022 Christmas card.

**The winning design will be printed and sent out across the Stafford constituency and beyond by Theo this Christmas. The winner's name and school will also be printed inside.**

Theo cannot wait to see what interesting and imaginative ideas you come up with.

Please make your entry on A4 paper and coloured in pencil, pen or paint (no glitter please).

Entrants must live in or attend a primary school in the Stafford constituency and must have been aged between 4 & 10 years old on 31<sup>st</sup> August this year. One entry per child please.

**Please send your design to Theo Clarke MP, 8 Pearl House, Anson Court, Staffordshire Technology Park, Beaconside, Stafford. ST18 0GB, with your name and school clearly marked on the back, as well as whether you are in Reception, Key Stage One or Key Stage Two. Please also provide an email address for your school or parent/carer. All entries must arrive by 21st November 2022.**

If you would like any further details about this competition, please email: [theo.clarke.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:theo.clarke.mp@parliament.uk)

No tax-payers money will be used in the production of this Christmas card.

Promoted by Ray Sutherland on behalf of Theo Clarke MP, and printed by Stafford Conservatives, all at 1-4 Castle Street, Stafford. ST16 2ED.

# IT'S BACK!



## Holiday Activities and Food

for children and young people aged  
5-16 who get free school meals\*

\*Eligible children and young people will be sent a letter via school to register

Registration opens: 4pm, Thursday 1st December 2022  
[staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities](https://staffordshire.gov.uk/holidayactivities)



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Department  
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 Staffordshire  
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HOLIDAY  
ACTIVITIES  
AND FOOD

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE II

The Call of Duty (CoD) series is a worldwide gaming phenomenon, with millions of copies sold every year. While 2021's release, Vanguard, wasn't quite as well received, this latest entry - Modern Warfare II - has so far proved a massive commercial success. A sequel to the recent Modern Warfare reboot (and not to be confused with the original Modern Warfare 2, from back in 2009), the game is an online shooter which features - unsurprisingly - extreme violence, rendered in realistic graphics. Amid the explosions and political nature of the plot, there's much for parents to be aware of.

AGE RATING  
PEGI  
18

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

Like most of its predecessors in the franchise, Modern Warfare II carries an 18 age rating from PEGI (the Pan-European Gaming Information system, which assesses games' content for suitability). This means players will encounter - according to PEGI's wording - depictions of "gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters".

### OFFENSIVE CHAT & MESSAGING

Most CoD players are likely to spend the majority of their time on Modern Warfare II in online multiplayer mode. This entails competing against - or cooperating with - strangers on the online battlefield. The fast-paced, cut-throat world of CoD means that communication through the game's voice chat and direct messages often turns heated and aggressive, which may upset younger players.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

Modern Warfare II follows the 'battle pass' model of games like Fortnite. For a fee - usually around £10 - each 'season' (every three months or so), players will be invited to complete extra challenges to earn new weapons and equipment. Different tiers of battle pass (costing more money) enable them to achieve this more quickly, while items can also be purchased from the in-game store.

### POLITICAL SENSITIVITY

Previous CoD games have been accused of attempting to "rewrite history"; failing to correctly attribute alleged war crimes to the US military, for example. The semi-fictional version of history presented on screen can cause players to misunderstand past conflicts and the real reasons they took place. This could lead to young people developing a distorted, inaccurate view of world politics.

### AN ADDICTIVE EXPERIENCE

Multplayer mode in Call of Duty titles revolves around levelling up your character to unlock new weapons, abilities and equipment. The process is designed so that it doesn't take too long to see an improvement, and the feeling of making meaningful progress can keep players hooked for hours. It's easy for gamers of all ages to lose track of time, but younger ones are especially susceptible.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### RESPECT THE AGE RATING

Based on accurately recreating combat situations, Call of Duty games are unflinching in their portrayal of war. Limbs are shot off and explosions send gore flying, while the previous Modern Warfare featured a lengthy interrogation and torture sequence. With Modern Warfare II offering the same style of brutal realism, it's worth reiterating that the PEGI 18 age rating is there for a reason.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

If your child is likely to be tempted by buying that 'must-have' weapon or item, consider removing your bank details from the console or computer to prevent indiscriminate spending - and an unwelcome bill. Pre-paid cards could be an option for in-game purchases, allowing you to control how much your child can spend in advance - and helping them learn the basics of budgeting.

### CLOSE OFF COMMUNICATION

Unless they're playing with their real-life friends, it may be worth closing communication channels if your child plays Modern Warfare II. There's less of a team focus than in many other online combat games and therefore no real need to interact with strangers. Call of Duty fans can be intensely competitive, so even a single action by your child could provoke a barrage of abuse from strangers.

### TRY OTHER MODES

If it seems that your child only ever plays Modern Warfare II in multiplayer, you could try out the Spec Ops mode with them - formulating strategies while enjoying each other's company. You could also play multiplayer together, taking it in turns to ensure regular breaks. Another alternative is the game's campaign mode, featuring bespoke missions and scenarios which follow an overarching plot.

### Meet Our Expert

Froya Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Decerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



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