



# Friday Post

Friday 20th January 2023

## Our School Value: Courage

*Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the 'Lord' your God is with you wherever you go'. Joshua 1.9*

Dear families,

Another wonderful week has flown by here at St Leonard's! Didn't our site look wonderful coated in snow?! Love it or hate it, the children had a brilliant time building snowmen and exploring the change in weather this week.

This week, we have included a poster about inspiring reading with our post. We hope this will support you in starting reading conversations at home. Our children love listening to and sharing stories in school! It is a key skill as they learn to read and write, and as they get older, the ability to read and tell stories helps children be both imaginative and creative.

We have been busy in school sorting out our school library which holds a rich collection of stories, poetry and information texts. Over the coming weeks, we will be opening this at the end of the school day for you to use with your children. Please keep your eyes peeled for further information.

Next week we will be sending out a link to a parent/carer survey about our school hours consultation. This will help inform important decisions about the length of the school day in September, so please make sure you give your views.

Have a wonderful weekend  
- keep warm!

*Miss Phillips*



***NO NUTS!***

Please note do not send children to school with any items containing nuts due to children who have allergies. Thank you

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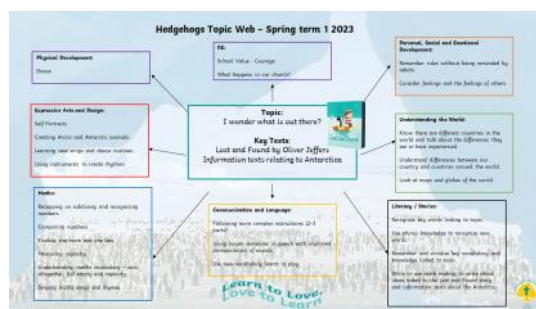
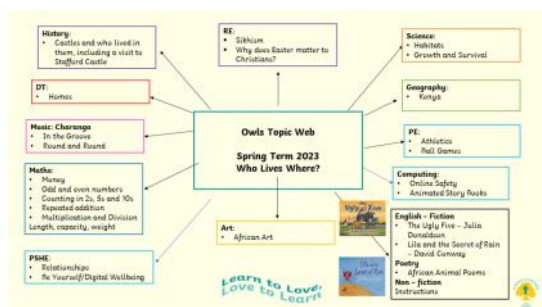
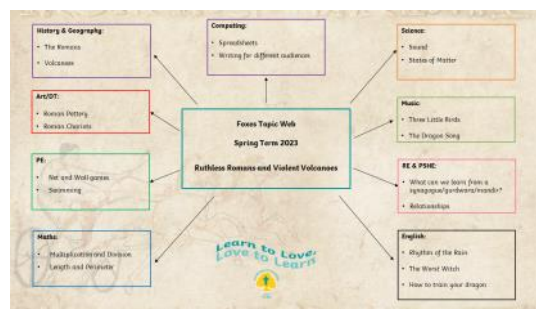
 **Staffordshire  
University  
Academies  
Trust**

## Topic Webs

You can find out what your class is learning this term by going to their Class Curriculum page on our website.

<https://www.st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk/>

Click on 'Curriculum' and choose your child's class.



Hedgehogs have been writing sentences about Antarctic animals, the children loved finding out about giant squids and made one with loose parts



## Before School Club

A reminder that Miss King runs our Before School Club from 8am until school starts. To use the club you must be in Reception to Year 4 arrive before 8:30am and there is a cost of £3:50 with siblings being £2:50 each, payment via ParentPay. There is no need to pre-book this facility just turn up - you must however remember to keep your ParentPay account topped up as invoices are not issued for these sessions.



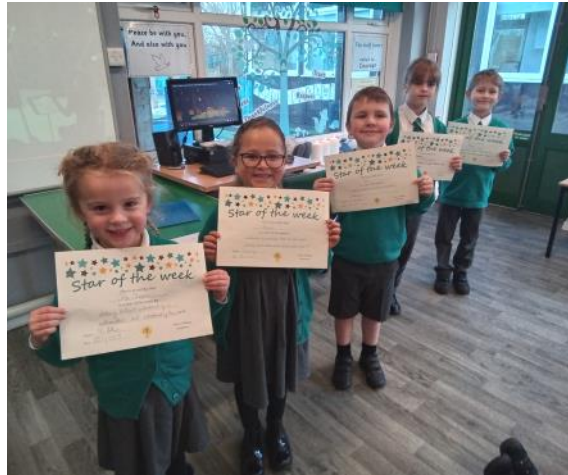


SNOW DAY





# Star of the week

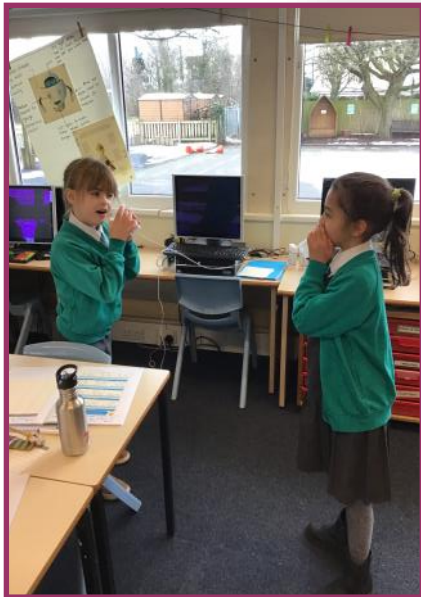


# Lunchtime Award





Over the last couple of weeks. We have been exploring different Roman Mosaic patterns. We have created our own tesserae designs and built these into small mosaics using different colours. We checked our designs carefully to make sure they were symmetrical.



This week in Science, we have been exploring different sounds in our environment. We explored the sounds they can hear and the materials that the sound had to pass through to reach their ears.



# Together, let's make it count



## Big Garden Birdwatch

27-29 January 2023

Join hundreds of thousands of others and take part in Big Garden Birdwatch - the UK's largest citizen science wildlife survey.

Sign up, connect with nature and make your birdwatch count.

Play your part at  
[rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](https://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)

The RSPB is a registered charity in England and Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654. Blue tit by Albany BCBW 23



## *Laches Wood - Class Foxes 2nd - 3rd May*

A reminder to parents in years 3 & 4 that payment for their over night residential visit to Laches Wood is now due, payment is via your ParentPay account.



**This week during worship we are  
learning:**

**'One more step along the world I go'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PXV3dwaeNU>

Please follow the link above to hear the music



**LET'S  
sing**



Y3  
Forest  
School



# Weekly House Point Tally



Sycamore

132

Holly

71

Oak

94

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 ~ 23/01/2023



**WEEK 1 MENU** W/C: 31/10 21/11 12/12 02/01 23/01 13/02 06/03 27/03

**AUTUMN/WINTER 2022**

	HOT SPECIALS...	DAILY FAVES...	PACKED LUNCH...	JACKET POTATOES...	PICK A PUDDING	
MONDAY	Macaroni Cheese Served with Two Vegetables	Vegetarian Sausage Served with Mashed Potato and Gravy	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Packed Lunch See below for details	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Vanilla Ice Cream with Fruit Slices
TUESDAY	Chicken Pie Served with Mashed Potato and Gravy	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Served with Potato Wedges	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Packed Lunch See below for details	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings, including Salmon Mayonnaise	Hot Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Custard and Fruit Slices
WEDNESDAY	Roast Turkey Served with Roast Potatoes, Two Vegetables and Gravy	Vegan Sausage Casserole Served with Two Vegetables	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Packed Lunch See below for details	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Oat Cookie served with Fruit Slices
THURSDAY	Beef Bolognese Served with Wholemeal Pasta and Two Vegetables	Chinese Vegetable Rice Served with Two Vegetables	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Packed Lunch See below for details	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Apple Crumble served with Custard
FRIDAY	Breaded Fish Served with Chips and Three Vegetables	Quorn Dippers Served with Chips and Three Vegetables	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade tomato and basil sauce with penne pasta	Packed Lunch See below for details	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of hot and cold fillings	Ice Cream Milkshake with Shortbread and Fruit Slices

**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!



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# Inspiring Reading

Children need support to develop the habit and love of reading. How can you be their inspiration?

1. Talk about the reader's interests and inclinations - find connected texts that tempt to explore and discuss together.
2. Think about why reading is good for them - focus on intrinsic motivation rather than external rewards.
3. Capitalise on opportunities to share reading thoughts and interests with others - encourage them to notice preference and choice.
4. Find regular opportunities to visit your local/ school library.
5. Make reading time relaxed and interactive - chat about pictures, characters, likes, dislikes and interesting facts.
6. Be a reading detective by investigating the different purposes for reading (e.g. adverts to persuade, news to inform, stories to entertain).
7. Recognise and celebrate diversity in texts - empower reading of magazines, comics and texts that reflect different realities..
8. Invite others into the reading space - share the love of reading together in your reading community!

In collaboration with Book Week NI 2022



For more inspiration, visit

<https://ourfp.org/>

 @OpenUni\_RfP



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TWITTER

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages (tweets) of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Since the entrepreneur Elon Musk acquired Twitter in October 2022 for \$44 billion, he has implemented several major changes to the platform.

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

## FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

## TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

## PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

## CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their 'policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach'. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

## HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning; an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

### FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

### ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

### EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

### PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges': little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

### BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**NOS**  
National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

## BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means. In terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Source: <https://blog.twitter.com/common-thread/en/topics/stories/2022/how-twitter-is-nudging-users-healthier-conversations> | [https://blog.twitter.com/en\\_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update](https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/product/2022/twitter-blue-update) | [https://blog.twitter.com/en\\_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-2-0-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation](https://blog.twitter.com/en_us/topics/company/2022/twitter-2-0-our-continued-commitment-to-the-public-conversation) | <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2131&context=etd>

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 8th February	Dress to Impress for Children's Mental Health week
Thursday 16th February - 9.30am	Church Service - <i>parents are welcome to join us</i>
<b>Friday 17th February</b>	<b>Inset Day - school closed to children</b>
<b>Monday 20th - Friday 24th February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Wednesday 1st March	World Book Day celebrations
Wednesday 8th March	Parents Evening - <i>more info to follow</i>
Thursday 9th March	Parents Evening - <i>more info to follow</i>
Wednesday 29th March	Owls - Class trip to Stafford Castle <i>more info to follow</i>
<b>Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
Monday 17th April	Reception & Middle School Places allocated
Tuesday 2nd - Wednesday 3rd May	Foxes at Laches Wood
<b>Monday 1st May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
<b>Monday 8th May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday - King Charles III coronation</b>
<b>Friday 26th May</b>	<b>Inset Day - school closed to children</b>
<b>Friday 7th July 2023</b>	<b>Inset Day - school closed to children</b>



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.

24/01/2023	Owls - Year 2
31/01/2023	Owls - Year 1
07/02/2023	Hedgehogs - Reception
14/07/2023	Hedgehogs - Nursery

## PE Timetable January 2023

Thursday - Owls & Foxes  
 Friday - Hedgehogs & Owls  
 Friday - Foxes will be swimming

