

Friday 8th September 2023

# FRIDAY POST

## Our School Value: Thankfulness

*Give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus. Thesalonians 5.18*



What a fantastic first week back we have had!

It has been a joy to welcome the children back into school and to see them so excited to get through the gates in a morning. They have settled in brilliantly and are all making a very good impression on their teachers.

This week I have spent lots of time with Hedgehogs. They have quickly learnt the school routines and are enjoying exploring the school environment. We have buddied up our Reception children with one of our Year 4 children which we hope will help develop confidence and relationships between the different ages.

On Monday, we will be voting for our new Leaf Team Captains! If your child is in Year 4 and would like to put themselves forward, they will be asked to give a short speech to their team. Please talk to them about this over the weekend, it may be handy to have something prepared to share. We will also be nominating pupils to the school council and worship team, as well as looking at other ways we can encourage pupil leadership in school.

We have spent time this week, reminding ourselves of our school vision and values. Love is at the heart of St Leonard's and we have reflected on how the Bible tells us to do everything in love. Making the loving choice is not always easy but we are excited to be encouraging each other to show love in all we do!

Have a wonderful weekend,

Miss Phillips

Learn to Love, love to learn

St Leonard's First School & Nursery





## Contact Details

Don't forget if you have moved, changed your mobile phone number or email address over the summer to let the office know. It is important we can get in touch with you should your child become unwell.

Call us on 01785 712488 with any changes or email: [office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-leonards-dunston.staffs.sch.uk) Stafford.



## School Uniform

It has been lovely seeing all the children back at school looking so smart.

*Can we please remind parents that school ties are mandatory for children in year 1 and above.*

Our full uniform list can be found on our school website under the 'Parent tab'

All of our school uniform can be purchased from Crested Schoolwear in Stafford.



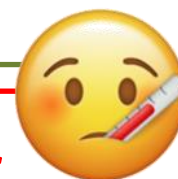
## Drinks Bottles

Please make sure your child has a drinks bottle at school every day. It is important that they are clearly marked with the child's name and that they can easily identify them so that they don't drink from the wrong bottle. As part of the schools healthy eating policy, **bottles should only contain water.**



## Medication

Don't forget if you took your child's medication home before summer you will need to return it to school. A form will need to be completed and medication should be handed over to the office staff. **Please do NOT leave any medication in a child's bag.** Thank you.



## Absence / Illness

If your child is unwell please notify the school office before 9am. A message can be left on the answer machine if the telephone isn't answered. It is part of our Safeguarding procedures to contact you if your child isn't in school by 9:15am and we haven't heard from you. If your child has a medical appointment during the day please bring your appointment card to the school office so we can mark the absence as 'authorised'

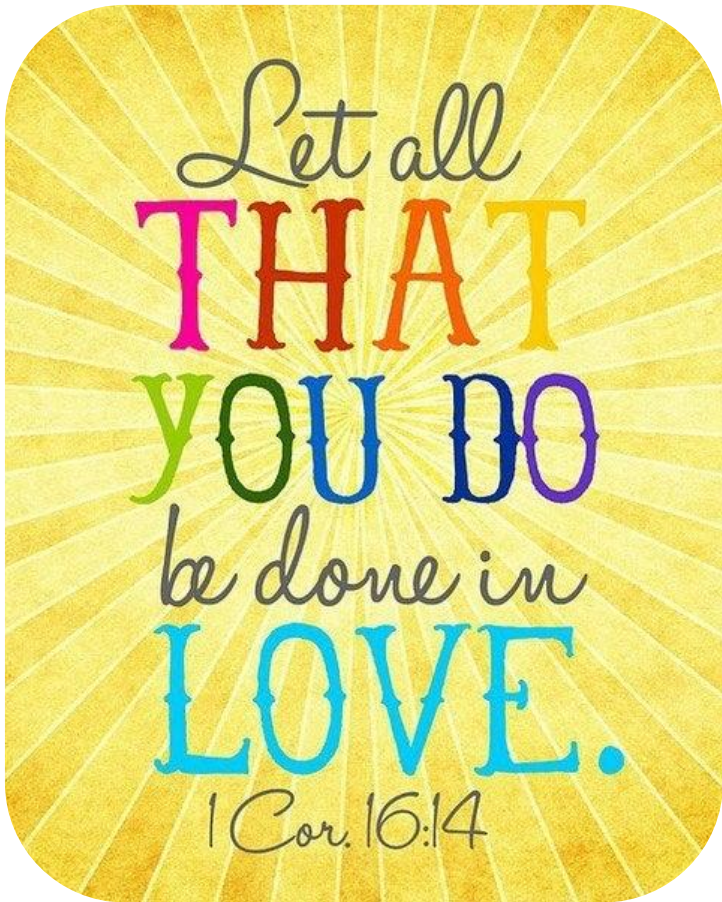


In Hedgehogs, we have been settling in to new routines, making friends and learning through play. It has been really hot but we have found time to find some shady spots to play in. We have been doing lots of activities based on The Tiger Who Came for Tea. The children have particularly enjoyed our new painting area, building with the loose parts and making tea for the tiger in the mud kitchen and role play area. The Reception children have also been introduced to their buddies in Foxes Class.



Joining in with our first PE session





*New to you rail!*

Please help yourself to any of the items on our rail which can be found either outside of school or in the entrance hall. If you child has outgrown any uniform and you would like to donate for others to use, please make sure you have removed any names and then place on the rail for others.

Thank you.



# Stars of the Week





Foxes are using Art to express feelings and emotions associated with World War 2.

### *Trips and workshops:*

As a school, we believe that going on trips can really help enhance children's learning. However, the cost of doing so is ever increasing and we are conscious of the pressure this may place on families.

Where children attend a day trip, we will aim to keep the cost below £20 - this may mean the trip has been subsidised by school budgets or our PTA.

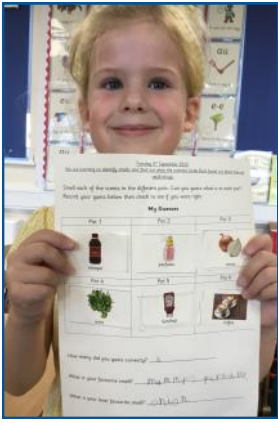
Where possible, we will also explore ways of bringing experiences into school. Working with the YouthNet and Wildlife Trust last year was a particularly effective way of doing this. We already have a number of visitors booked for assemblies this term - watch this space for more information!



HEALTHY FRUIT

### *Fruit*

Children in Nursery through to the end of Year 2 are supplied with 1 piece of fruit per day from the Government. Please could children in Foxes (Y3 & Y4) remember to bring a piece of fruit to eat at break time, no crisps or chocolates please.

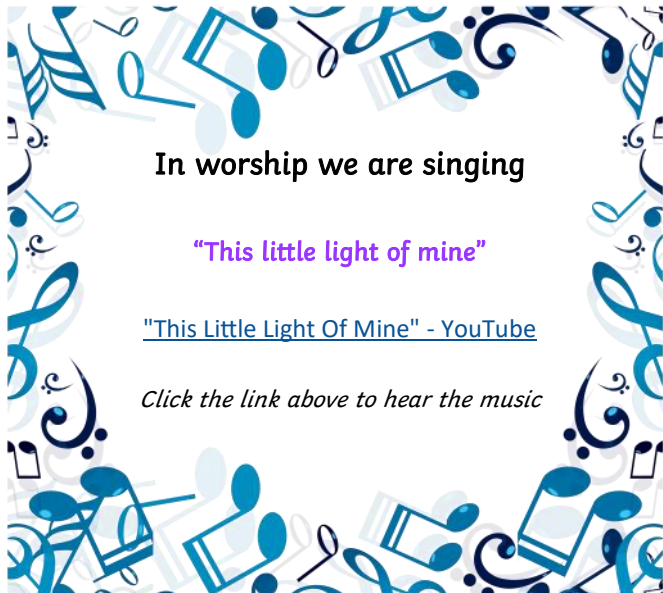


In Science, Owls are finding out about a range of scientists and their discoveries. This week we have found out about Linda Buck who discovered that we have hundreds of odour receptors in our noses which help us to identify different smells. We used our own noses to try to guess the contents of a range of pots. It was great fun and the children were brilliant at identifying the smells.



Sharing a book with friends in the school library





In worship we are singing

*"This little light of mine"*

["This Little Light Of Mine" - YouTube](#)

*Click the link above to hear the music*

## *Hedgehogs - reminder*



Class Hedgehogs, please could you provide your child with clearly wellies and waterproofs to be kept at school.

*Thank you*

# Attendance figures

## School Attendance 5th - 8th September

Hedgehogs 96%

Whole School 97.2%

Owls 100%

Foxes 96%

The National target for attendance, as set out in guidance from the DFE is 95%

## BIG QUESTION

What makes something fair?

To develop our philosophical thinking we will be asking a BIG question each week! As a family take time to discuss the following question! Miss Phillips will listen to the children's thoughts on this question during Worship on Friday.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 27th October	Inset Day
Monday 30th Oct - Fri 3rd Nov	Half Term
Friday 22nd December	Inset Day
Monday 8th January	Back to school
Friday 9th February	Inset Day
Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb	Half Term
Mon 25th Mar - Fri 5th April	Easter Holiday
Monday 6th May	Bank holiday school closed
Friday 24th May	Inset Day
Mon 27th - 31st May	Half Term
Friday 19th July	Last day of academic year
Monday 22nd July	Inset Day



On your child's forest school day, please send them to school dressed in old clothing you 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 wet weather.

19/09/2023

Year 4

26/09/2023

Year 3

3/10/2023

Year 2

10/10/2023

Year 1

17/10/2023

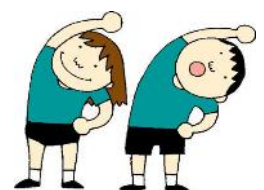
Reception

Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school. Thank you for your co-operation

## PE Timetable September 2023

Thursday - Owls & Foxes

Friday - Hedgehogs & Foxes







# AWESOME ANIMALS

A free, flexible, 4-week online family learning course

Starting Friday 15th September  
For families in Staffordshire, with children aged 3-8

Your family will receive a fantastic weekly email activity pack, full of themed ideas to try at times to suit you! From crafts, to cooking, to activities to support local wildlife, we will support you to adapt the activities for your family. Once enrolled on this course, you will receive an exclusive invitation to our live Autumn Family Event. Details TBC.

- Is your child animal mad?
- Are you looking for something flexible to do as a family around work and school?
- Would you like to support your child to develop a wide range of skills, as well as an early love of the natural world?

For more information and to reserve your place contact  
Rebecca on 07525 120117 or  
communityforestservices@gmail.com





# FOREST SCHOOLS FOR FAMILIES

Free, 8 week, online course starting Friday 6th October.  
For parents and carers with children aged 5-11.

Support your child's development in the core subjects and beyond, through fun, forest school activities. Inspire their curiosity, spark their joy for learning, nurture a love of nature. To reserve your place or for more info contact Rebecca on 07525 120117 / communityforestservices@gmail.com.

Each week we provide an email pack with ideas to try at times to suit you. We cover maths, science and literacy, the arts, and practical skills to raise confidence and build resilience. Families are also introduced to activities and resources to support mental health and wellbeing. Your family will also be invited to an exclusive Family Autumn Event - details TBC. This course is free for families in Staffordshire.




## AUTISM SUPPORT GROUP

For parents of children with ASD, come and chat with people that understand the difficulties and also adults with ASD, come and chat with others .

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
come and have a free cuppa or 2

on Monday afternoons  
from 1pm to 3pm  
at  
Castlechurch Community Hub  
Castlechurch Primary School

This newsletter is designed to raise awareness of the work of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and to bring news of our ongoing campaigns.

## World Suicide Prevention Day 10 September 2023

**#TALK  
SUICIDE**

Every year on 10th September, organisations and communities around the world come together to raise awareness of how we can create a world where fewer people die by suicide.

Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy, and sadly young people have died by suicide in Staffordshire.

**Suicide is preventable, it's not inevitable.**

"Creating hope through action" is the triennial theme for the World Suicide Prevention Day from 2021 - 2023. This theme is a reminder that there is an alternative to suicide and aims to inspire confidence and light in all of us.

We can signal to people experiencing suicidal thoughts that there is hope and that we care and want to support them.

### How to start a conversation with someone

Just being there to listen and showing you care can help. Here are some tips on how to open up a conversation with someone you're worried about.

- Choose a good time, and somewhere without distractions
- Use open questions that need more than a yes/no answer
- 'How are things, I've noticed you don't seem quite yourself?'
- Listen well. 'How's that making you feel?'
- Avoid giving your view of what's wrong, or what they should do



It's normal to feel anxious about asking someone if they're suicidal, but it could save someone's life. Try and avoid saying things like 'you're not thinking of doing something stupid are you?'. Being patient and showing you care builds trust and helps someone to open up.

You could ask:

- Have you thought about ending your life?
- Are you saying that you want to die?
- Are you thinking of ending your life because you want to be dead, or is it because you want the situation you're in or the way you feel to stop?

**For further information go to: [www.Samaritans.org](http://www.Samaritans.org) Open 24/7**

**#TALK  
SUICIDE**

Support for young people:

**YOUNGMINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental healthYoungminds.org.uk  
Offers confidential advice and support for young people struggling with suicidal thoughts.  
Youngminds.org.uk**PAPYRUS**  
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDEPapyrus-uk.org Offers 24/7 confidential advice and support for young people struggling with suicidal thoughts.  
[0800 068 4141](tel:08000684141)

#TalkSuicide page

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Doingourbit/Get-inspired/Health-and-wellbeing/TalkSuicide/Home.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Doingourbit/Get-inspired/Health-and-wellbeing/TalkSuicide/Home.aspx)

**On Sunday 10  
September  
2023 SOBS are  
holding a Suicide  
Bereavement  
Memorial Service  
at Lichfield  
Cathedral at 17:30**

**Please register if  
you would like to  
attend – details on  
the booking form**

**Survivors of  
Bereavement  
by Suicide****Are You Bereaved by Suicide?****Lichfield Cathedral Memorial Event**  
Sunday 10th September 5:30pm**Join us on World Suicide Prevention Day to  
remember those we have lost to suicide.**Speak their Name Quilt, Poems, Music,  
Survivor Stories, Sing their Name Choir  
Photo Montage, Refreshments

Booking Form:

<https://forms.uksobs.org/231732999314969>[www.uksobs.org](http://www.uksobs.org)